

2016-2017 Moose International Karaoke Competition

General Guidelines and Competition Rules

General Rules

1. Participants must hold active membership in the Loyal Order of Moose or Women of the Moose. Each individual member is permitted to have one entry in the competition.
2. Individuals who hold multiple memberships must decide under which Lodge or Chapter membership they will be competing. Contestants cannot compete in a Lodge that they do not hold a membership; membership will be verified at Moose International.
3. There is no charge for participating in this competition.

Eligibility

All active members with a valid Moose membership card are eligible to participate, including all winners from previous years' contests. All participants must present a valid Moose membership card to contest organizers prior to participating at each level of the competition: at lodges, districts, associations, and for the final culminating International competition. This does *not* include receipts of recent membership renewal transactions, but rather, a valid, active membership card. Contest organizers reserve the right to ask for credible identification (i.e. a drivers' license) to confirm that the name on the membership card is, in fact, the person competing.

Rationale for rule change: The consensus among members of the International Activities Committee is that this rule change will involve more of our musically inclined members, increase member satisfaction and retention, attract more *new* members, draw more spectators to the lodges, and will be much easier for contest organizers to manage.

Lodge / Chapter Participation

4. Participation by a Lodge or Chapter is strongly encouraged, but is not mandatory. Lodges should make every effort to deliver this fun experience to their members for increased member satisfaction and retention.
5. If a Lodge chooses *not* to participate, it is up to the members to voice their opinions to the Lodge's Board of Officers in an attempt to persuade them to host the event.

Lodge Competition

6. Competition at the Lodge level is open to members of that particular Lodge and its affiliated Chapter.
7. A Lodge that does not occupy physical property should coordinate with a neighboring Lodge to use their Lodge home for competition. If the neighboring Lodge home is not available, the Lodge may seek another venue.

2016-2017 Moose International Karaoke Competition

General Guidelines and Competition Rules

8. Members of stand-alone Chapters (Chapters whose affiliated Lodges have closed) may compete at neighboring Lodge competitions. Members will only compete against members from the same Chapter.
9. Lodges are responsible for securing professional karaoke services for competition, as well as paying all related fees for such services. Lodges are also responsible for securing qualified individuals to serve as judges for competition. Recommendations for selecting judges are defined later in this document.
10. The number of weeks of Lodge competition should be based on the number of registered participants. A lower number of registrants allows for a format of individuals performing multiple songs and should allow the Lodge competition to be completed in a minimal number of weeks. A higher number of registrants likely allows for one song per person over a period of several weeks, with a certain number of participants being eliminated each week. A high number of participants will also require more time, and the format utilized should allow the entire competition to be completed in the prescribed time period.
11. It is anticipated that approximately six minutes will be devoted to each participant, including introduction of the performer, performance of the selected song, judges' comments and scores, and the change to the next performer. Using this time frame, Lodges with a high number of registrants would require three hours to complete 30 performers singing one song each.

Event Promotion

12. The dates and times (and locations, where applicable) of Lodge competition should be advertised to members well in advance. Information could be posted in the Lodge home, distributed in Lodge newsletters, posted to Lodge websites or Moose Pages sites, sent via email to Lodge and affiliated Chapter members, or sent via regular mail to those for whom there is no email address on file.
13. There should be a clearly indicated deadline date by which participants must register for competition. The deadline should be enforced.
14. Moose International will solicit competition information from the lodges relating to when they plan to hold their competitions. Once information is received a schedule of Lodge competitions will be posted in the Activities Department portion of the Moose International website.

Judges

15. It is recommended that the individuals selected to serve as judges are knowledgeable about music, and it is preferred that they work in the field of music. Great choices are: music teachers from the local school district, radio or television personalities, and/or local music professionals.
16. To prevent conflicts of interest, all efforts should be made to ensure that the judges are not biased. Ideally, the judges should not be Moose members or family members of the contestants. When this is unavoidable, it is recommended that the Moose member is from another Lodge or Chapter.

2016-2017 Moose International Karaoke Competition

General Guidelines and Competition Rules

17. Ideally, those individuals who agree to serve as judges should be willing to make a multi-week commitment. This will ultimately be determined by the number of weeks that Lodge competition will run, which will be based on the number of participants.
18. Judges should not be served alcohol while competition is taking place. There have been cases in other similar contests where judges were continually served complimentary beverages as “compensation” for judging, and their effectiveness was compromised.

Scoring

19. The following is the recommended scoring system for competition. For each of the 15 items, judges award 0, ½ point or one point. Associations may choose to use or develop their own scoring system for Lodge, District and Association competitions, but the scoring system outlined below is the system that will be used during the International competition finals at the 2015 International Convention in Nashville:

Vocal Performance (maximum 6 points)

- Was the singer on pitch?
- Did the singer hit high notes without sounding weak or straining?
- Did the singer choose a song suited to his/her ability?
- Did the singer stay in time with the track/music?
- Was the singer able to sustain notes and phrases without losing his/her breath?
- Did the singer show knowledge/mastery of the song?

Song Interpretation (maximum 4 points)

- Was the singer’s phrasing well done (ex. – no breathing at inappropriate times)?
- Did the singer have his/her own style, or did he/she mimic the original well (either is fine)?
- Did the singer use loud and/or soft dynamics to make the song come alive?
- Was the singer’s vocal rendition suited to the song?

Stage Presence (maximum 5 points)

- Did the singer perform the song in an entertaining manner?
- Did the singer draw the crowd and you as a judge into the performance?
- Was the singer enthusiastic/emotionally in sync with the song?
- Was the singer confident on stage?
- Did the singer show unusual talent, range or skill?

A perfect score would be 15 points. Judges will be provided blank score sheets for each competitor. Each judge will circle the appropriate point value for each of the 15 criteria on the score sheet.

District Competition

2016-2017 Moose International Karaoke Competition

General Guidelines and Competition Rules

20. Due to the number of Lodges in some Associations, the Association Executive Board may determine that District competition is necessary in order to narrow the number of participants for Association competition to a figure that will ensure Association competition can be completed during the Mid-Year Conference.
21. If an Association chooses to hold District competitions, Lodge competitions will have to be completed earlier so that District competitions are completed no later than four weeks prior to the Mid-Year Conference. The Association will need to communicate its intent to the Lodges in a timely manner so that Lodges can schedule Lodge competition accordingly, and District competition dates and venues can be secured.
22. Because Districts are part of the Association, it shall be the responsibility of the Association Executive Board to communicate the date by which District competitions are to be completed to the officers of each District within the Association.
23. Each District Executive Board is responsible for determining the date, time and location for District competition. The format for District competition should allow of competition to be completed in one day. The District should communicate with the winners from the Lodges or Chapters within the District to assure they are aware of District competition and the need to participate if they are to have a chance to advance to Association competition.

Association Competition

24. In order to allow proper preparation time for Association competition at the Mid-Year Conference, each State/Provincial Moose Association will determine the date by which all Lodge competitions must be completed and names of winners submitted to the designated person within the Association (ex. – Association Secretary, Associations Liaison, Association Activities Committee Chairman).
25. Associations will need to communicate to all Lodges when Lodge competitions need to be completed. It is recommended that Lodge competitions be completed no later than four weeks prior to the Association Mid-Year Conference to allow competitors to make necessary travel arrangements.
26. Each Association will be responsible for securing space for Association competition at the Mid-Year Conference, including details on any food or beverage that will be available. The Association is also responsible for securing professional karaoke services for Association competition and paying all associated fees.
27. **JUDGES** - Association is responsible for securing the judges for Association competition. It will be up to the Association to determine whether or not lodging will be provided for judges. As with Lodge competition, it is recommended that the individuals selected to serve as judges are music teachers from the local school district, radio or television personalities, or local music professionals. Also, judges should not be served alcohol while competition is taking place.

2016-2017 Moose International Karaoke Competition

General Guidelines and Competition Rules

28. Associations should send their winning member's information to the contest supervisor, Cherie Mondrella, along with name of Association. Send the following to cmondrella@mooseintl.org:
- Member ID #** (Please verify the member is an active member in good standing)
 - Member First & Last Name** (as it appears on their membership card)
 - Member's email address**
 - Member's phone number**

International Competition

29. Following the conclusion of Association competitions, all 43 Association winners will be asked to forward digital/MP4 recordings of themselves performing two songs to the Moose International Activities Department. Video recordings are strongly encouraged. Recordings can also be posted to YouTube, with the link forwarded via email to cmondrella@mooseintl.org. These recordings will be compiled onto DVD discs and provided to a panel of judges, which will be comprised of experienced and credible media contacts and music professionals. If, for whatever reason, the submitted format is not transferrable to the DVD for the judges, Moose International may ask the contestant to provide a copy of their performances on another medium.
30. The panel of judges will narrow the field from 43 to 12, and those 12 finalists will be invited to the 2017 International Convention in Tampa, Florida, to participate in our competition finals for cash prizes.
31. Each finalist will also receive round-trip airfare (*or equivalent*) and two nights lodging. If a contestant opts to drive to the contest, and the mileage costs exceed the standard airfare available for the same trip, the contestant will receive the value of the airfare *instead*. Additionally, *reasonable* ground transportation costs will be reimbursed to contestants who provide timely and appropriate supportive documentation, along with a completed expense form, provided by Moose International.
32. The top three winners in the International competition will win \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. Winners must submit W-9 forms to Moose International to be compensated prize money.

For further clarification on any of the Moose International karaoke contest rules and/or guidelines, please email the contest supervisor, Cherie Mondrella, at cmondrella@mooseintl.org.