



*Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.*

Rho Sigma Lambda Chapter  
P.O. Box 3011  
McDonough, Georgia 30253  
<http://www.RSL1906.org>

October 12, 2015

*Re: Third Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest (2015)*

Dear Students, Friends, and Community Partners:

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.<sup>1</sup>, Rho Sigma Lambda Chapter (“Rho Sigma Lambda”) and the Shiloh Baptist Church Toastmaster Club proudly present the Third Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest (“Oratorical Contest”). The Oratorical Contest will be **Saturday, December 19, 2015** at **10:00 a.m.** at Shiloh Baptist Church, which is located at 262 Macon Street, McDonough, Georgia 30253.

All 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who attend an accredited high school in Butts, Clayton, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, or Spalding County are eligible to participate. The winner of the Oratorical Contest will win a **\$1,000.00 scholarship** (“Scholarship Award”) from Rho Sigma Lambda.<sup>2</sup>

The theme of this year’s Oratorical Contest is, “**How can today’s youth protect liberties earned by the Civil Rights Movement?**” Contestants must submit an original speech that is no less than 750 words and no more than 1,000 words. The speech can be no less than 4 minutes and 30 seconds in length when spoken or more than 7 minutes and 30 seconds when spoken. All speeches must address the above theme and may discuss what actions the speaker is doing or what he/she believes today’s youth can do to protect civil liberties.

The deadline for entering the Oratorical Contest is **Sunday, November 8, 2015** at 11:59 p.m. Please see the enclosed Contest Guidelines and Entry Form for rules and dates to remember. Please submit all required materials at [RSLAlphas@yahoo.com](mailto:RSLAlphas@yahoo.com) or P.O. Box 3011, McDonough, Georgia 30253. Please visit <http://www.RSL1906.org> for additional information.

Sincerely,

Santana T. Flanigan  
Rho Sigma Lambda Chapter  
Oratorical Chair

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<sup>1</sup> Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is the first Black, intercollegiate Greek-lettered fraternity. It was founded on December 4, 1906 and its mission is to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities.

<sup>2</sup> The winner must show proof to Rho Sigma Lambda that he/she has enrolled into an accredited college or university prior to Rho Sigma Lambda delivering the Scholarship Award to the winner. If the winner fails to enroll into an accredited college or university by the start of the spring 2017 academic year, Rho Sigma Lambda reserves the right not to present the winner with the Scholarship Award.

*Third Annual Bro. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest (2015)*

Contest Guidelines

Theme

- The theme of the Third Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest is “*How can today’s youth protect liberties earned by the Civil Rights Movement?*” Each Contestant must discuss this theme or Rho Sigma Lambda reserves the right to disqualify the Contestant from the Contest.

Eligibility

- A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student attending an accredited high school in Butts, Clayton, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, or Spalding County.

Speech Organization

- The speech shall be prepared by the Contestant and shall be original.
- The speech shall be typewritten, double-spaced, using standard college English and shall be no less than 750 words and no more than 1,000 words.
- The speech shall be logical, correct in form, and the Contestant must address the theme.
- The speech must show a command of vocabulary and comply with English grammar and punctuation rules.
- The Contestant must be comfortable delivering their speech orally, with an emphasis on enunciation/pronunciation, vocal control, eye contact, and memorization.

Preliminary Evaluation and Mandatory speech development workshop

- Contestants must submit their completed Entry Form and a preliminary draft of their speech to the Oratorical Chair by Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. Please send applications to [RSLAlphas@yahoo.com](mailto:RSLAlphas@yahoo.com).
- Contestants must attend a mandatory speech development workshop on Saturday, November 21, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church in McDonough, Georgia. Members of Rho Sigma Lambda and the Shiloh Baptist Church Toastmaster Club will lead a discussion on keys to drafting a winning speech. In addition, Contestants will have an opportunity to practice their public speaking through fun and interactive games.
- Contestants must submit their final speech to the Oratorical Chair by Friday, December 4, 2015 for review. Three finalists<sup>3</sup> will be selected to compete in the Oratorical Contest on Saturday, December 17, 2015 at Shiloh Baptist Church in McDonough, Georgia.

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<sup>3</sup> Rho Sigma Lambda reserves the right to increase the number of finalist at its sole discretion.

### Scoring Criteria – Written Presentation of Speech

Criteria	Possible Points
<i><b>Intellectual Quality of Content</b></i> – The issue is addressed with creative solutions, insights and a fresh perspective.	20
<i><b>Logic Flow</b></i> – The arguments made in the opening are supported with related facts, ideas, examples and research throughout the body of the speech, and the conclusions drawn are based upon these supported arguments.	15
<i><b>Grammar</b></i> – Structure of sentences and choice of vocabulary allows for issues to be identified precisely and arguments to be explained concisely.	15
<i><b>Total Score for Written Speech</b></i>	50

### Scoring Criteria – Oral Presentation of Speech

Criteria	Possible Points
<i><b>Vocalization &amp; Memorization</b></i> – Speaking volume varies to enhance emotional quality. Full pitch and variations in speaking rate adds to the impact of the speech.	15
<i><b>Non-Verbal Communication</b></i> – Eye Contact with varying sections of audience. Posture, facial expressions, & hand movement are aligned with content and add value to presentation.	15
<i><b>Grammar &amp; Diction</b></i> – Structure of sentences and choice of vocabulary allows for issues to be identified precisely and arguments to be explained concisely.	15
<i><b>Audience Engagement &amp; Response</b></i> – Delivery of speech peaks audience attention and interests. Reaction of audience following the completion of the speech.	5
<i><b>Total Score for Oral Presentation of Speech</b></i>	50

### Timing (Final Competition)

For those Contestants selected to compete in the final round of the Oratorical Competition, the following rules and guidelines will apply:

- A speaker will be disqualified from the Oratorical Competition if he/she speaks less than 4 minutes and 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes and 30 seconds.
- The timers shall be seated in such a position that warning signals will be clearly visible to the speakers. The green and amber-warning signals will remain up for one (1) minute.
- Speakers should not start their speech until completion of introductory applause. Timing shall begin with the first word the contestant speaks.
- Timers shall warn the speaker with a green sign after he/she has spoken for five (5) minutes. An amber sign will be turned on after six (6) minutes and the red sign will be after seven (7) minutes and will remain on until the conclusion of the speech.

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*“How can today’s youth protect liberties earned by the Civil Rights Movement?”*

Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular Activities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) / Guardians (s) Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant’s Pledge:

I will participate in all required training workshops, the Oratorical Contest Date, and if I am the Winner of the Oratorical Contest, I will deliver my speech at the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Luncheon on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at the Merle Manders Conference Center, located at 111 N. Davis Drive, Stockbridge, Georgia. My written speech will be original. If I include the words or expressions of others, I will reference them properly. If I am selected as a finalist, I will work diligently to invite family and friends to attend the contest and luncheon to support me. I further consent to have my name, image, voice, likeness, speech, and biographical information (“Likeness”) captured by photograph, videotape, and/or otherwise recorded by Rho Sigma Lambda (or its agents). I grant Rho Sigma Lambda the right to use my Likeness for any purpose, commercial or non-commercial, as it may see fit. This grant of permission is made on a royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive basis, and will apply in any media now known or later invented, and with the express understanding that I will not be given a right of approval or advance notice of any particular use of my Likeness.

Contestant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature (Required if under 18 years of age) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Deadlines and Important Dates to Remember

Deadline	Activity
Monday, October 12, 2015	Initial Oratorical Contest communication will go out to high schools, churches, and community partners.
Sunday, November 8, 2015	Contestants have until Sunday, November 8, 2015 to submit their completed Entry Form and preliminary speech draft to the Oratorical Chair. Contestants may submit the material via email at <a href="mailto:RSLAlphas@yahoo.com">RSLAlphas@yahoo.com</a> .
Saturday, November 21, 2015	Contestants <i>must</i> attend the mandatory speech development workshop at Shiloh Baptist Church in McDonough, Georgia. The workshop will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Contestants may be excused from the workshop with prior written approval.
Friday, December 4, 2015	Contestants have until Friday, December 4, 2015 to submit their final speech to the Oratorical Chair. Contestants may submit the final speech via email at <a href="mailto:RSLAlphas@yahoo.com">RSLAlphas@yahoo.com</a> .
Friday, December 11, 2015	The Oratorical Committee will select three finalists to compete in the Oratorical Contest. The Oratorical Chair will send Oratorical Contest materials to the three finalist.
Saturday, December 19, 2015	Oratorical Contest at Shiloh Baptist Church.
Saturday, January 16, 2016	Winner of the Oratorical Contest will deliver their winning speech at the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon at the Merle Manders Conference Center in Stockbridge, Georgia.