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| **Ruth Don Award – Forum Speaking Award Grand Champion**  **Jessie Groom Award – Members’ Choice**  **Rules of Competition 2019** | **C:\Users\David\Documents\Joy's\Forum\Management Committee\Connect&Grow_Jan19.png** |

1. All Forums are invited to nominate one speaker to deliver a prepared speech at Conference. Entry is voluntary. Each Forum will decide whether to participate or not. The nominated speaker should aim to deliver a ‘quality’ presentation.
2. Only members who have been nominated by their Forum and are active, financial members, shall be eligible to compete.
3. The immediate past winners in the prepared / impromptu speeches are exempt from speaking in the same competition for one Conference only. They are eligible to enter a section not won at last Conference.
4. Speeches could be the same speech done within the Forum or could be a new speech. No matter what the choice, the speaker must be well practiced.
5. Each Forum is encouraged to select a session winner and then have a “play-off” of all four session winners – or more contestants if a session produces two excellent speeches. This “play-off” meeting could be promoted to attract visitors and to encourage all members to be there to hear the speech and therefore vote for the best one.
6. Speeches to be 8 – 10 minutes with speakers nominating their time and title. Naturally there is an expectation that speakers keep to their nominated time.
7. Use of a microphone is mandatory. The use of the microphone enhances the qualities of the voice and allows all members of the audience to hear the speaker.
8. There will be a lectern available. The use of a lectern is optional.
9. A voting form will list pertinent points to assist judging. This would list points on construction, presentation and overall impact.
10. **Ruth Don Award - Forum Speaking Award Grand Champion** for a prepared speech will be decided by a panel of Assessors at Conference. The panel of Assessors will be appointed by the Chief Assessor.
11. **Jessie Groom Award – Members’ Choice** for a prepared speech will be decided by members present at Conference.
12. All winners will receive a perpetual and a keepsake trophy.

**Please Note**

This is a state level competition, therefore the standard of speaking and the speeches should be excellent.

**These are prestigious awards.** Please use the Forum Approved Speech Assessors in your Forum to determine that the work of the nominated speaker is excellent. If you are without an assessor in your Forum, invite one along to assist you.