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SA & NT Rostrum
presents
our
annual

Albert Apponyi Impromptu Speaking Contest

Council of Freemen

The Albert Apponyi Impromptu Speaking Contest

A History

The annual Albert Apponyi Impromptu Speaking Contest was originally organised by Club 5/6 in memory of their esteemed past member, Freeman Albert Apponyi.

This event was made possible because of a bequest given in trust to Club 6 by Lisbeth Apponyi to commemorate the contribution made to Rostrum by her late husband.

Following the death of Lisbeth and the aging membership of Club 5/6, management of the event passed to the Council of Freeman on behalf of the South Australian Rostrum Dais.

Albert was born 15 March 1923 in Esztergom, Hungary. He could speak seven languages. At the end of WW2, he went to Germany and then emigrated to Australia in 1951.



He joined Rostrum Club 6 in 1953 and soon demonstrated his proficiency when speaking English — a language that was not his native tongue. Albert was the Club 6 Dais Representative from 1967–1977. He was an outstanding Critic during the sixties and was elevated to Freeman in 1973.

He was Vice-President of Dais from 1974–1977 and his son Silvio was also a member. Sadly, Albert died suddenly on 18 May 1981.

Albert was a strong visual thinker. He recommended that the easiest way to prepare a speech is to imagine a sequence of three or four detailed pictures. The speaker then presents the speech by carefully and colourfully describing each picture. Using this technique there is no need to use notes.

The first Freeman Albert Apponyi Memorial Impromptu Public Speaking Contest (as it was then designated) was held at a twilight meeting at 6 pm on Wednesday 2 December 1981.

Venue

We will gather in the garden south of St John's Anglican Church, 379 Halifax Street, Adelaide, prior to 5:50 pm for a 6:00 pm start. If the church is open, you are welcome to explore this beautiful building. Members of the congregation may be available to show you around. There is a detailed description of special items listed on the church web site.

Should you need a toilet, you will find a series of signs that start in the small covered passageway between the two main buildings shown below with a white 'T' on a red square.



Please be aware that this event is being held on property belonging to the Anglican Church and the main building is a place of worship. Any form of disrespect for any form of worship or associated deity has no place in our formal speeches or in casual conversation.

Procedure

Members, and their guests, will assemble in the grounds of St John's Anglican Church, 379 Halifax Street Adelaide prior to 5:50 pm on the competition day.

The Council of Freemen will provide the following officials: Chairperson, Timekeeper, and a Speech Marshall, while the Coaches' Council will supply the three Adjudicators.

From 5.50 pm and as soon as they arrive, the Speech Marshall will ask participants to add their name to the lists of speakers.

It is expected that a member of the Apponyi Family will present the trophy and prize.

Timing

The first contestant will take a card with **3 speech titles** from a container at 6:00 pm. The contestant will have **7 minutes to prepare a three-minute speech** to their chosen title. The contestant will underline the speech title they have chosen. After 7 minutes, the contestant will hand their card to the Chairperson and wait for the Chairperson to introduce them. They will speak for three minutes. There will be a warning bell at two minutes.

At 6:05 pm, the list of speakers will be finalised, and no further names will be added to the list. The Speech Marshall will then hand one copy of the list to the adjudicators and one to the Chairperson.

At 6:06 pm the Chairperson will call the meeting to order, introduce dignitaries, outline the purpose of the meeting, and ask that all phones and pagers be switched off. The first speaker will be introduced immediately before 6:08 pm.

This year, there will be no amplification and so the speakers will need to be prepared to project their voices.

Subsequent contestants will follow the same process at four-minute intervals. Thus, by the time contestants are speaking, two other people will be preparing their speeches. As each speaker starts speaking, the person two down on the list draws speech titles as described above.

The timing is more easily understood if the reader refers to the attached Running Sheet.

Rules

The Contest is open to anyone who is a financial member of a Rostrum Club or Provisional Rostrum Club in the SA/NT Zone.

Suitable speech titles will be prepared in advance by the organisers.

The timing of each speech begins on the minute specified by the running sheet. A variation in the duration of a speech is acceptable if it does not exceed thirty seconds either side of three minutes.

The adjudicators may choose to deduct marks for speeches shorter than two minutes and thirty seconds. The Chairperson will interrupt speeches exceeding three minutes and thirty seconds.

For each speech there will be one warning bell at 2 minutes and two bells at 3 minutes. If still speaking at three and a half minutes, the speaker will be asked to cease speaking immediately and to sit down

Contestants may not use any additional reference material, their device, books, prepared notes, or laptops etc. Speakers may make their own notes during their preparation time. Pens, paper, and speech cards will be available.

The official prize is provided by Dais. This amount is usually supplemented by a small memento by sculptor Silvio Apponyi that is of far greater value.

The organisers will arrange for the perpetual trophy to be suitably inscribed and the trophy will be presented at the winning speaker's home club during a subsequent meeting.

Adjudication Criteria

Each speech will be judged as a whole using the following criteria.

Impact on the Intellect: possible 50 percent

The ability of the speaker to achieve a perceived purpose by developing a theme logically and sequentially.

Impact on the Emotions: possible 50 percent

The ability of the speaker to present the material so as to affect the audience.

Adjudication

The Chair of the three adjudicators will meet with the other two and together, will decide who is the winner. It is expected that the Chair will be their Spokesperson.

Each adjudicator will independently rank the speakers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6 etc. and will otherwise proceed as for other Rostrum competitions.

The ultimate placing of each competitor is based on the aggregate of the rankings awarded by the adjudicators for that contestant.

After all the speakers have competed, the adjudicators will convene and then their Spokesperson will announce the winner. The adjudicators' decision is final, and no feedback will be provided.

Running Sheet

Number	Name	Club	Choose Speeches	Start Speaking
1			6:00	6:08
2			6:04	6:12
3			6:08	6:16
4			6:12	6:20
5			6:16	6:24
6			6:20	6:28
7			6:24	6:32
8			6:28	6:36
9			6:32	6:40
10			6:36	6:44
11			6:40	6:48
12			6:44	6:52
13			6:48	6:56
14			6:52	7:00
15			6:56	7:04

And so on ...