



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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JACL ANNOUNCES THE MINORU YASUI ORATORICAL COMPETITION

The procedures and guidelines for the 2010 JACL Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition are being distributed to JACL district council governors and chapter presidents to attract participants for the competition that will culminate at the national convention in Chicago.

JACL chapters are being asked to identify high school students, age 16 years or older, or full time undergraduate college students who will compete at a JACL district council competition with the winner advancing to the finals at the national convention, which will be held on July 2.

The Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition has been a highlight of the national convention where each of the district council finalists present their 3-5 minute presentation in front of an audience of convention delegates and attendees. The topic of this year's competition is "*Our 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, inspired and motivated a nation with a simple word, 'change.' As our nation still faces economic turmoil, wars abroad, as well as damaged health care and immigration systems, 'change' has never been more welcome. What can the Asian Pacific American community and the JACL do to inspire and create change to meet the needs of America's current socio-political landscape?*"

JACL district councils are being asked to submit the name of their finalist to the national JACL by May 15, 2010.

The oratorical competition is named in memory of Yasui, an attorney and civil rights activist. Prior to the internment, Yasui tested the constitutionality of the curfew orders imposed against Japanese Americans. During the 1980s, Yasui served as an articulate voice for the JACL's successful campaign for Redress.

The oratorical competition was established to encourage and reinforce verbal communication skills among young JACL members. Finalists will be given roundtrip airfare to Chicago, two nights lodging and attendance at the Youth Luncheon where the winner will be announced.

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