



DRCJ Report
2026 Fall HOD

District Representative of Contest and Judging Report

This is my first convention as your District Representative of Contest and Judging, and I'll admit—it's been quite a learning experience! There are a lot of moving pieces that go into making a contest successful.

Thankfully, I've had a lot of great people helping along the way. With their help, I feel really good about where we are heading into this weekend, and I'm confident we're set up for a successful convention and competition.

Looking ahead, our next five convention and contest weekends have been penciled in so the Society can better forecast judging availability. They're also limiting the number of districts sharing a contest weekend to no more than five, because it's simply becoming impossible to fully staff contests when too many districts are competing at once.

We'll also be one of the first districts to beta test electronic, or paperless, scoring. There's still some work to figure out, and everything will also be manually submitted during the testing to ensure accuracy.

And finally, the 2028 International Convention and Competition is coming to Chicago. We don't have many details yet, but it's going to take a village of volunteers to pull off an event of that size. When we know more, you'll know more!

I'm grateful for everyone who has helped me navigate my first year in this role, and I'm looking forward to a great weekend of competition.

Ben Dirks