

## Don Keating

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**From:** Rita Wissman <ritawiss@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 15:21  
**To:** 'Don Keating'  
**Subject:** Thank you Letter  
**Attachments:** Jacob Homan Letter.pdf

Don,  
Attached is a Letter from our student that won the District Oratorical in 2015. I thought maybe you could publish it somewhere.  
Thanks,  
Rita Wissman  
South Strand Optimist  
22421

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Jacob Homan

Waccamaw High School

2412 Kings River Road

Pawleys Island, SC 29585

May 6, 2016

Dear Dr. Plesha and members of the Optimists club;

I would like to give you my full appreciation and a warm thank you for hosting such a wonderful contest once a year. I have competed in this contest twice in my high school career; my freshman and sophomore year. I'm sure you know who I am considering I came out on top in the 2015 state Optimist Club Oratorical contest as the state champion. It was an amazing experience and I will never forget the taste of victory. It not only helped my resume look good, but it also made me a better writer, speaker, and a better person. I wasn't even excited about the thrill of being a state champion, but being able to be a part of it and hear and learn from the other speakers was a tremendous experience. That 2,500 scholarship sure will come in handy!

Since I won the contest last year I'm not able to compete ever again. So, this year instead of being on stage and doing all the talking, I was able to sit back and watch my classmates give it a try. It's so cool to see all these wonderful speakers and even after winning the state contest I was able to still learn from others! This organization gave me the opportunity to express my personal experiences, beliefs, and goals. Even though from time to time I may be pessimistic this contest really taught me the importance of being optimistic. I know that some days can be a struggle but from this opportunity I'm able to put a smile on my face and really look at the bright side of things.

Again, I can't thank you enough for this opportunity that I was so luckily given. This contest even gave me the experience to know how to win in an oratorical contest. Just recently, I competed in the Sons of American Revolution contest and once again came out on top as the state champion. I will be competing in the national contest on July 9 in Boston. This was such a

wonderful opportunity for me and I am so grateful that I could be a part of it. It has taught me to always be optimistic and it made me become a better person. This is an outstanding organization and I hope for the best in your future contests. I can never thank you enough and I will always appreciate your help. Thank you so much!

Jacob Homan

Waccamaw High School

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacob Homan". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.