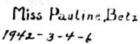
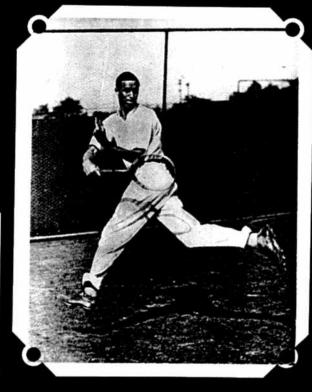
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The USPTA seminar contest: a win-win situation

by Michael Kernodle, Ph.D. National Seminar Contest Chairman

o you want to win money? Do you want a chance to speak at the USPTA World Conference? Do you want to earn points toward your Master Professional rating? Would you like a free night at the conference plus free registration? Do you want the opportunity to speak in front of your peers and express your views and new ideas?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," you should become a seminar contestant at your divisional meeting and compete for a chance to speak at the national level.

Let's get down to specifics. Is there really any money? Ask Don Hazledine from the Intermountain Division about the \$1,200 he got for winning this year's seminar contest. Congratulations Don. Great job!

By the way, congratulations to all of the contestants. The quality of the presentations this year was terrific and the ranking of the contestants was very difficult.

Back to money. Amy Bradley of the Southern Division won \$750 for second place, Mark Frampton of Southwest, \$400, Pat Hanssen of the Mid-Atlantic, \$200, and Lyn Delaney of Missouri Valley, \$100. As you can see, the dispersal of money goes all the way down to fifth place. In addition, some divisions provide funds to their division winners to help defray travel expenses.

Keep in mind that the national winner is given a one-hour slot to speak at the World Conference the following

year. This means that the registration fee for the convention is gratis and your room the night before you speak is free.

Are there other benefits? As previously mentioned, you get points toward your Master Pro certification by attending the divisional and international conference. And, if you win the international seminar contest, you get points the next year for speaking at the World

Conference. By participating you get a chance to express your ideas and work on your speaking skills.

I would strongly encourage everyone to get involved. If you don't want to actually participate, go to hear the speakers. I learn something new every year and really enjoy the influx of new

ideas and/or new
ways of rearranging old ideas.
The seminar
contest is truly a win-win
situation. If you

want to get involved, contact your divisional officers and they will have the information you need. You can also contact Thelma Holmes at the national office in Houston or me at Appalachian State University. In closing I would like to say that of the four years I have been involved, this year's contest was the best organized with the highest overall level of quality. I would like to thank Thelma Holmes of the national office and my two judges, Tom Cascarano and Lefty Wilner for their help and insight. I hope to see your name as a presenter in the near future. 🥯