

Proposal: Recognize the service of members who contributed to establishment and development of ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian by naming prizes in their honor:

George Morris Award For outstanding performance at regional Olympiada and dedication to study of Russian by a “regular” (non-native, non-heritage) contestant in regional Olympiada. Award consists of book prize, letter of recognition from Dan Davidson, and photograph in ACTR Newsletter. Selected by Olympiada regional chair(s) in consultation with judges and teachers bringing students to the competition.

Halina Danchenko Award For outstanding performance at regional Olympiada and dedication to study of Russian by a heritage speaker of Russian contestant in regional Olympiada. Award consists of book prize, letter of recognition from Dan Davidson, and photograph in ACTR Newsletter. Selected by Olympiada regional chair(s) in consultation with judges and teachers bringing students to the competition.

Each regional Olympiada will present at least one George Morris (hereafter GM) Award and, where heritage speakers compete, one Halina Danchenko (hereafter HD) Award annually. Winners should be competing at Level 3 or higher; however, if a regional Olympiada has no contestants at Level 3 or higher, the award will go to a contestant at the highest level represented at the competition. Regions with large numbers of regular contestants at Level 3 may present more than one GM Award as follows:

0-20 Level 3 or above Regular contestants	1 GM Award
21-40 Level 3 or above Regular contestants	2 GM Awards
41-60 Level 3 or above Regular contestants	3 GM Awards
61-80 Level 3 or above Regular contestants	4 GM Awards

Only one HD Award per regional competition will be presented, regardless of total numbers at Level 3 or higher.

Both the GM Award and the HD Award are to be made without regard to age or citizenship of prospective awardee.

Both awards are once-in-a-lifetime honors—once awarded, a contestant cannot receive the award in a subsequent year.

Claire Walker Award Presented to regional Olympiada contestants selected and funded for participation in international Olympiada (held in Moscow every 4 years).

In years when international Olympiada is being held, regions with regular contestants at Level 3 or higher may nominate such regular (ONLY!) contestants to be considered for the CW award. Selection

will be made by regional chair(s) in consultation with judges and teachers bringing students to the competition. Number of nominees per region will be as follows:

0-20 Level 3 or above Regular contestants	1 nominee
21-40 Level 3 or above Regular contestants	2 nominee
41-60 Level 3 or above Regular contestants	3 nominee
61-80 Level 3 or above Regular contestants	4 nominee

Nominees must meet any applicable criteria with respect to citizenship, age, and other matters (at recent international Olympiadas only US citizens between ages of 16 and 18 have been allowed to compete). Nominee applications are reviewed by an independent committee (drawn up by American Councils) which will specify application materials (essays, phone interviews, recommendations, etc.) and select the winners.

Rationale: 1) Heretofore the designation “top finalist” has been employed for students who meet the criteria for GM and HD Awards, and those students have been recognized in the same manner (book prize, photograph in newsletter, letter from Dan Davidson). In international Olympiada years, there tends to be much confusion when it comes to distinguishing “top finalist” from “nominee for consideration for international Olympiada.” Chairs and teachers often treat them as identical honors, despite the difference in criteria for selection (age, citizenship, level, heritage vs regular). Designating the awards in this manner will serve to differentiate them more effectively. 2) The term “top finalist” is misleading: it is a once-in-a-lifetime award, but a previous winner can also be the top performing contestant at an Olympiada and thus the *de facto* top finalist, despite ineligibility for the award. The suggested designations do away with that inconsistency. 3) The suggested designations pay tribute to the contributions of Claire Walker, who founded the ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian and accompanied the US delegation to Moscow on a number of occasions, George Morris, who served for many years as national co-chair of the ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian (among multiple additional offices), and Halina Danchenko, a heritage speaker of Russian who also served for many years as national co-chair of ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian.

Respectfully submitted by:

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