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MS. NEW JERSEY SENIOR AMERICA PAGEANT 2026

"The Age of Elegance"

Dear Contestant,

Welcome! The forms for entering the *Ms. New Jersey Senior America Pageant* are included. Our Application Fee is **\$300.00**, and your payment includes:

- *New Jersey Cameo Club* dues for the balance of 2026
- One (1) copy of the souvenir Program Journal
- One (1) breakfast and Two (2) lunches at Harrah's.

Once we receive your check, *payable to Ms. New Jersey Senior America, Inc.*, along with proof of age and residence you are well on your way to becoming a contestant in the 2026 *Ms. New Jersey Senior America Pageant*. Your application and payment will secure your position, and you will be assigned a *mentor* to guide you through the preparation process. We will be here to support you every step of the way. Remember, the application must be returned by March 30, 2026!

In addition to the application fee, each contestant must sell at least \$200 in advertisements for the pageant journal. These advertisements will appear in your keepsake program book! We will provide you with instructions on selling the ads. Tickets for the Pageant will also be available for advance sale.

The Pageant will be held during the week following Memorial Day at *Harrah's Resort and Casino in Atlantic City, NJ!* You will be notified once the date is confirmed. Rehearsals will take place the day before.

The Pageant consists of four (4) categories:

Interview—counts for 30% of your score. It consists of five minutes (5:00) with five (5) distinguished judges and is conducted on the morning of the Pageant. The interview is based partially on your application, which the Judges will receive *before* the Pageant. We ask the Judges not to ask political, religious, or current controversial questions.

Talent counts for 30% of your score. You have two minutes and forty-five seconds (2:45) to showcase your talent. Please note that if this time is exceeded, the timer will assess a penalty of -3 points.

Evening Gown—counts for 20% of your score.

Philosophy of Life (recited)—counts for 20% of your score. It lasts a maximum of thirty-five seconds (0:35). If a contestant exceeds the time limit of 35 seconds, the timer will assess a penalty of -2 points.

The ranking includes the titles: **Queen** (*Winner*), **1st Runner-up**, **2nd Runner-up**, **3rd Runner-up**.

After turning in this initial part of the application along with your fee of \$300, you will be invited to a meeting with our Board of Directors to complete the remaining part of your application. The meeting will take place (to be determined) and date to be announced. In April you will be invited to our Contestant's Luncheon and Orientation at the *Clarion Hotel* on Route 37 in Toms River. You will receive an invitation in March. At that time, you will receive information for the days leading up to the Pageant and be able to ask any questions you might have!

The **prize** for the Ms. New Jersey Senior America Queen includes the Registration Fee for the National Pageant, **Ms. Senior America**, to be held at *Tropicana Hotel & Casino* in October. There is also a *cash prize for the winner and her court*. The winner (*Queen*) also appears in many parades and events and is the highlight of all our events. She and her Court must comply with the appearance requirements of our New Jersey Cameo Club Showcases. The winner (*Queen*) is encouraged to seek out appearances and get board approval, so to encourage women sixty or more to enter to following year.

Our *Ms. New Jersey Senior America Pageant* is one of the best in the country, and we have representatives from various states who attend. Many New Jersey Queens have placed in the top 10 in the national *Ms. Senior America Pageant* in recent years, which is a great accomplishment. In 2017, our Carolyn Slade Harden won *Ms. New Jersey Senior America* and went on to win the title of *Ms. Senior America 2017*.

Everyone is a *winner* in our organization! Once you compete in the Pageant, you are invited to continue performing throughout the State in diverse venues as a member of our fabulous *New Jersey Cameo Club*, the service wing of *Ms. New Jersey Senior America*. We are one of the country's most active and progressive *Cameo Clubs*.

For more information, visit our website and our Blog at:

<http://www.newjerseysenioramerica.org/> www.msnewjerseysenioramerica.blogspot.com.

Welcome to the New Jersey Senior America family!!

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at any time!

Sincerely,

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