



2004 outgoing national queens at our pajama party on Friday night.

Elegance in America



FROM LEFT: Beth Lawrence, Ms. Imperial American Elegance 2003; Lottie Ferguson, Ms. American Elegance 2003; Julie Smith, Ms. American Elegance Woman 2003; Dawn Frison, Ms. Plus American Elegance 2003.

The 2005 Ms. American Elegance Pageant.

Beautiful, accomplished and intelligent women from all across the United States came to Alsip, Illinois to compete in the sixth annual national finals of the American Elegance Pageant. The American Elegance Pageant is a system designed for women of all backgrounds, shapes and sizes.

On Friday night, October 22, the delegates spent time registering and getting to know one another better at the pajama party. The ladies were also given a presentation by one of the pageant's sponsors, Dudley Products Cosmetics. The company had two representatives which presented health and beauty tips, and treated willing delegates to a spa pedicure.

Saturday morning began with the all-important Interview competition, worth 50% of the delegate's total score. Each delegate had the opportunity to speak one on one with the pageant's five judges for five minutes each. Before competing in the national finals, each delegate is required to have a platform, or issue of advocacy, that she will continue to promote once she is the national titleholder. The contestants were judged on intelligence, communication skills, personality, community service, achievement and in-depth knowledge of her platform.

The Personal Expression competition was held on Saturday afternoon counting for 10% of the delegate's total score. The unique area of competition gives delegates the opportunity to show another side of their personalities and demonstrate their ability to effectively communicate. The ladies were outstanding making the judge's jobs that much more difficult. On Saturday evening, delegates attended the queen's gift exchange and a brief rehearsal afterward in preparation for Sunday's opening number and onstage competition.

The delegates had their final rehearsal Sunday morning with national stage manager and

choreographer Lottie Ferguson, Ms. American Elegance 2003, and the pageant's national emcee, Dawn M. Frison, Ms. Plus American Elegance 2003. Sunday afternoon started the on-stage portion of the pageant's competition with Casual Wear and Evening Gown. Each on-stage category of competition was worth 20% of the total score. After an intermission, the visiting queens were introduced and the final question was held on-stage. The categories of competition were finally over!

Soon, all of the delegates returned onstage for the awards ceremony followed by the retiring national queens Hysha Robinson, Le Doan, Billye Fietz, and Sara Hayes saying their final farewells. Each of the outgoing queens were given gifts onstage and were bestowed the new titles of Elegance International Ambassadors.

The year 2005 brings the seventh annual national American Elegance Pageant – with new divisions, new look and an expanded panel-style interview competition. With all of these exciting changes, yet staying true to the American Elegance's core, we know that "the best is yet to come!"

special awards

Personal Expression – Tamberla Perry
Casual Wear – Danielle cone
Evening Gown – Catherine Jackson
Photogenic – Charity Warren
Congeniality – Danielle Cone
Director's Award – Tisa Holman
Nedra Steward Community Service Award – Catherine Jackson
People's Choice – Catherine Jackson
American Elegance Cover Model – Tisa Holman
Supermodel with Style – Catherine Jackson

national competition

MS. DIVISION

Ms. American Elegance 2005 – Catherine Jackson
1st Runner-up – Danielle Cone
2nd Runner-up – Tisa Holman
3rd Runner -up – Tamberla Perry
4th Runner-up – Sherrie Davis
Ms. American Elegance Woman 2005 – Mary Ellen Hyde

MS. IMPERIAL DIVISION

Ms. Imperial American Elegance 2005 – Yvonne Burkart
1st Runner-up – Jane Giordano
2nd Runner-up – Kathy Atkinson

MS. PLUS DIVISION

Ms. Plus American Elegance 2005 – DJ Peck
1st Runner-up – Karen Hauck
2nd Runner-up – Tami Bremer