



Department of Illinois



The American Legion

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

\$13,075 in Scholarships

FOREWORD

The purpose of this contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of The United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The scholarships awarded by the Department of Illinois, The American Legion, to the Department winners may be used to attend any College, University, Junior College, or Vocational Educational Institution, within the United States and within four (4) years after graduation from high school unless interrupted by service in the Armed Forces. Funds for the scholarships awarded by the Department of Illinois are provided by membership dues to the Department.

PROGRAM FACTS

The American Legion National High School Oratorical Program, following successful Department Competition, was first conducted as a National Contest in 1938 with eleven Departments competing. In recent years approximately 30,000 contestants have participated each year, representing fifty-two Departments of The American Legion.

Besides providing excellent experience for thousands of students participating in the program, the program

affords a vast audience of The American public the opportunity to better understand the meaning of the United States Constitution.

The Department of Illinois awards \$13,075 in scholarships each year to Department Finalists.

The National Organization provides \$128,000 in scholarships to the National Finalists, Semi-Finalists and winners to the National Finals.

A Department of Illinois
and
National Americanism Activity
of
THE AMERICAN LEGION

APPROVED BY:

- ◆ The National Association of Secondary School Principals
- ◆ Illinois Department of Education
- ◆ The Illinois High School Association

YOUR LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION CONTACT:

Name: _____

Phone: _____



Scan here to visit our American Legion
Department of Illinois website

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR CONTESTANTS

SUBJECT TO BE USED FOR PREPARED ORATION

The subject to be used for the prepared oration in the Oratorical Contest must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations to our government. The same subject and oration used in the department Contest must be used in the national Contest.

The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take up less than eight (8) or more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. The penalty for plagiarism will be disqualification. It must bear a title which is to be announced by the contest Moderator when he or she introduces the contestant; i.e.: "Contestant No. 1, the title of their oration is", etc.

In the prepared oration and/or assigned topic, quotations must always be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally. It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases in a foreign language to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. It should be understood that the vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must still be delivered in English. Singing is not permitted and will result in immediate disqualification. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song(s) provided proper attribution is made. A raised platform is not mandatory; however, it is strongly recommended. The use of notes, amplification, lectern or speaker's stand or any manner of prompting is not permitted. Props are not permitted.

For a full review of Oratorical Contest Rules and Regulations go to: <http://www.legion.org/oratorical/rules>

THE ASSIGNED-TOPICS

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

The full text for the assigned topic, will be made known to each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the U.S. Constitution, selected from Articles and Sections as listed under assigned topics for this year's contest in this brochure.

CERTIFICATION

Each of the (5) five Divisions may have up to six (6)* contestants compete at the Department of Illinois Oratorical Contest that is scheduled on the first Saturday in March. *Divisions may have and are limited to NOT MORE than (6) six Alternates. Division Chairmen shall determine their 6 contestants. The Oratorical Application, Communication Agreement and a sponsor check in the amount of \$125 for each contestant must be sent to the respective Division Americanism Chairman **no later than January 19, 2018**. It is highly recommended that either the Post, County, or District host a contest. ***At the Division level it is required to host a CONTEST or at minimum a detailed contest ORIENTATION with contestants ensuring they are prepared for the next level of competition.***

ELIGIBILITY

All contestants must be Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States of America and bona fide students in secondary schools (Public, Parochial, Military, Private and Home Schools) under the age of 20 years on the date of the National Finals Program whose academic curriculum is of Public High School level, and enrolled in classes equivalent to the regular 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades on January 1 of the year when such National Programs are conducted.

AWARDS

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Contestants will compete in five groups of six (6) in the semi-finals.

1st Place Advances to the finals
2nd Place Receives \$450 scholarship
3rd Place Receives \$350 scholarship
4th Place Receives \$250 scholarship
5th Place Receives \$125 scholarship
6th Place Receives \$100 scholarship

Finals

1st Place Receives a \$2000 scholarship
2nd Place Receives a \$1500 scholarship
3rd Place Receives a \$1200 scholarship
4th Place Receives a \$1000 scholarship
5th Place Receives a \$1000 scholarship

ALL Department scholarship awards are payable to accredited Universities or Colleges in the United States.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

1st Place.....\$18,000.00
2nd Place.....\$16,000.00
3rd Place.....\$14,000.00

First Round Contestants will receive a **\$1,500.00 scholarship**, and each Second Round Contestant who does not proceed to the National Finals will receive a **\$1,500.00 scholarship**.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION and DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS FORMS PLEASE GO TO: WWW.ILLEGION.ORG

81st Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

By action of the National Americanism Commission, the Assigned Topics shall be used in all 2018 contests. They are as follows.

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2018

Amendment 2

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment 3

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment 15

Section 1.
The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2.
The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

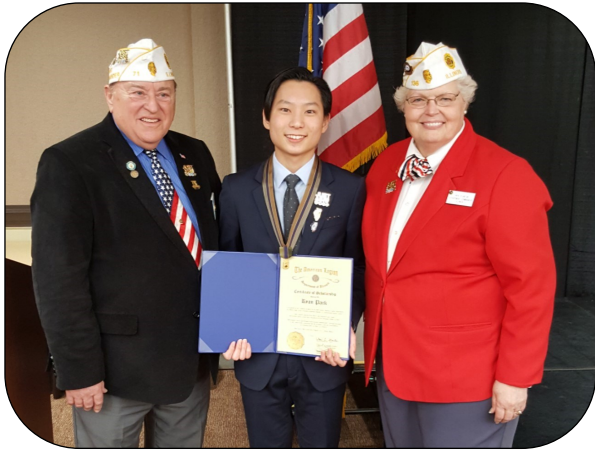
Article 2 Section 4

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

ATTENTION: POST AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

THIS PROGRAM CAN BE SUCCESSFUL ONLY IF YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, SPEECH TEACHER OR OTHER PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPEECH CONTESTS IN THE SCHOOL HAVE RECEIVED THIS BROCHURE, AND ARE AWARE OF THIS PROGRAM. CHECK WITH THEM TODAY.

SPONSOR A CONTESTANT THEY ARE OUR FUTURE.



**Ryan Park ~ Naperville, IL
Junior, Naperville Central HS**

Sponsored By Naperville American Legion Post 43, Dist.11, Div. 2

**The American Legion
Department of Illinois**

**High School Oratorical
Scholarship Program**

~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

**2017
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
ORATORICAL HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
FINALIST**

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| 1938 | Thomas McEllin, Aurora | 1979 | Sarah Tsiang, Wheaton |
| 1939 | Fleetwood McCoy, Chicago | 1980 | Douglas F. Curtis, Wheaton |
| 1940 | Kenneth Anderson, Chicago | 1981 | Kenneth Rice, Des Plaines |
| 1941 | Jane Croessmann, DuQuoin | 1982 | WILLIAM KEPHART, JR., CHILLICOTHE* |
| 1942 | David Smothers, Wheaton | 1983 | Cathy Sarnecke, Wheaton |
| 1943 | BURTON BERNARD, GRANITE CITY* | 1984 | Julie Theriot, Wheaton |
| 1944 | Melvin Cornfield, Chicago | 1985 | Steven William Brandy, Danville |
| 1945 | David Gray, DeKalb | 1986 | Kent Ramler, Downers Grove |
| 1946 | William North, Park Ridge | 1987 | Brent Damrow, Frankfort |
| 1947 | James Werner, DuQuoin | 1988 | Stephen Osunsami, Peoria |
| 1948 | Philip Angeloff, Granite City | 1989 | Shawn Chen, Glen Ellyn |
| 1949 | Donald Pulliam, Danville | 1990 | Jane Park, Chicago |
| 1950 | Ralph Billeter, Maywood | 1991 | Brian Baker, Glenview |
| 1951 | Barbara Miller, E. St. Louis | 1992 | Brian Baker, Glenview |
| 1952 | Gerald Goldman, Chicago | 1993 | Richard Janor, Harwood Heights |
| 1953 | Herbert Lassiter, Chicago | 1994 | Adam Smith, Northbrook |
| 1954 | Robert B. Rosenberg, Chicago | 1995 | Richard Janor, Harwood Heights |
| 1955 | David G. Sills, Peoria Heights | 1996 | Jamie Aussieker, Highland |
| 1956 | Kenneth Schurter, Chicago | 1997 | Michael Masters, Winnetka |
| 1957 | David Cohler, Chicago | 1998 | Julia Barrett, Oak Park |
| 1958 | Paul V. Black, Lansing | 1999 | Julia Barrett, Oak Park |
| 1959 | ROGER R. MAJAK, LANSING* | 2000 | Robert Goedert, Oak Park |
| 1960 | Douglas Grandgeorge, Somonauk | 2001 | April Kusper, Oak Park |
| 1961 | James Edward Bond, Peoria | 2002 | MEGAN WYKES, PLANO* |
| 1962 | Robert I. Gordon, Highland Park | 2003 | Lucas Mette, Teutopolis |
| 1963 | William (Bill) Thieman, Peoria | 2004 | JACQUELINE KEIDEL, BERWYN* |
| 1964 | Frederick McDowell, Aurora | 2005 | JOSHUA WILSON, GRIDLEY* |
| 1965 | Thomas J. Santefort, South Holland | 2006 | Casey Verkamp, Lisle |
| 1966 | Michael Duncheon, Danville | 2007 | JARED CANFIELD, NAPERVILLE* |
| 1967 | David Lenny, Collinsville | 2008 | Heidi Erbsen, Pearl City |
| 1968 | David Lenny, Collinsville | 2009 | HEIDI ERBSEN, PEARL CITY* |
| 1969 | Kathy Best, Peoria | 2010 | Matthew Schuhriemen, Naperville |
| 1970 | Richard Prigge, Western Springs | 2011 | Athena Saldanha, Schaumburg |
| 1971 | Joel Richard Levin, Morton Grove | 2012 | ATHENA SALDANHA, SCHUAMBURG* |
| 1972 | Roger Jones, Chicago | 2013 | Jacob Custer, Buffalo Grove |
| 1973 | JOHN WESLEY FROST, PEORIA* | 2014 | Sarvasva Raghuvanshi, Naperville |
| 1974 | Joseph Arthur Bates, Winnetka | 2015 | ROWAN MACWAN, NAPERVILLE* |
| 1975 | GRETCHEN WINTER, CHICAGO* | 2016 | Thomas Kilcullen, Lindenhurst |
| 1976 | Dale J. Trela, Evergreen Park | 2017 | Ryan Park, Naperville |
| 1977 | MARK R. THOMPSON, GLENN ELLYN* | | |
| 1978 | Jon Kastelic, Granite City | | |

* NATIONAL SEMI FINAL OR FINALS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS