



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.

## 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.

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>*

## 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 20, 2017.** 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](http://WWW.ILLEGION.ORG)**

# 80th Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

By action of the National Americanism Commission, the Assigned Topics shall be used in all 2017 contests. They are as follows.

## ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2017

### **Amendment 7**

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

### **Amendment 10**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

### **Amendment 16**

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

### **Amendment 17**

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution

## 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.



**Thomas Kilcullen  
Lindenhurst, IL  
Senior, Grayslake North HS**

**Sponsored By Grayslake American Legion Post 659, Dist. 10, Div. 2.**

## **The American Legion Department of Illinois**

### **High School Oratorical Scholarship Program**

**~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~**

## **2016 AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS ORATORICAL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FINALIST**

### **DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

1938 Thomas McEllin, Aurora  
1939 Fleetwood McCoy, Chicago  
1940 Kenneth Anderson, Chicago  
1941 Jane Croessmann, DuQuoin  
1942 David Smothers, Wheaton  
1943 BURTON BERNARD, GRANITE CITY\*  
1944 Melvin Cornfield, Chicago  
1945 David Gray, DeKalb  
1946 William North, Park Ridge  
1947 James Werner, DuQuoin  
1948 Philip Angeloff, Granite City  
1949 Donald Pulliam, Danville  
1950 Ralph Billeter, Maywood  
1951 Barbara Miller, E. St. Louis  
1952 Gerald Goldman, Chicago  
1953 Herbert Lassiter, Chicago  
1954 Robert B. Rosenberg, Chicago  
1955 David G. Sills, Peoria Heights  
1956 Kenneth Schurter, Chicago  
1957 David Cohler, Chicago  
1958 Paul V. Black, Lansing  
1959 ROGER R. MAJAK, LANSING\*  
1960 Douglas Grandgeorge, Somonauk  
1961 James Edward Bond, Peoria  
1962 Robert I. Gordon, Highland Park  
1963 William (Bill) Thieman, Peoria  
1964 Frederick McDowell, Aurora  
1965 Thomas J. Santefort, South Holland  
1966 Michael Duncheon, Danville  
1967 David Lenny, Collinsville  
1968 David Lenny, Collinsville  
1969 Kathy Best, Peoria  
1970 Richard Prigge, Western Springs  
1971 Joel Richard Levin, Morton Grove  
1972 Roger Jones, Chicago  
1973 JOHN WESLEY FROST, PEORIA\*  
1974 Joseph Arthur Bates, Winnetka  
1975 GRETCHEN WINTER, CHICAGO\*  
1976 Dale J. Trela, Evergreen Park  
1977 MARK R. THOMPSON, GLENN ELLYN\*  
1978 Jon Kastelic, Granite City

1979 Sarah Tsiang, Wheaton  
1980 Douglas F. Curtis, Wheaton  
1981 Kenneth Rice, Des Plaines  
1982 WILLIAM KEPHART, JR., CHILLICOTHE\*  
1983 Cathy Sarnecke, Wheaton  
1984 Julie Theriot, Wheaton  
1985 Steven William Brandy, Danville  
1986 Kent Ramler, Downers Grove  
1987 Brent Damrow, Frankfort  
1988 Stephen Osunsami, Peoria  
1989 Shawn Chen, Glen Ellyn  
1990 Jane Park, Chicago  
1991 Brian Baker, Glenview  
1992 Brian Baker, Glenview  
1993 Richard Janor, Harwood Heights  
1994 Adam Smith, Northbrook  
1995 Richard Janor, Harwood Heights  
1996 Jamie Aussieker, Highland  
1997 Michael Masters, Winnetka  
1998 Julia Barrett, Oak Park  
1999 Julia Barrett, Oak Park  
2000 Robert Goedert, Oak Park  
2001 April Kusper, Oak Park  
2002 MEGAN WYKES, PLANO\*  
2003 Lucas Mette, Teutopolis  
2004 JACQUELINE KEIDEL, BERWYN\*  
2005 JOSHUA WILSON, GRIDLEY\*  
2006 Casey Verkamp, Lisle  
2007 JARED CANFIELD, NAPERVILLE\*  
2008 Heidi Erbsen, Pearl City  
2009 HEIDI ERBSEN, PEARL CITY\*  
2010 Matthew Schuhriemen, Naperville  
2011 Athena Saldanha, Schaumburg  
2012 ATHENA SALDANHA, SCHUAMBURG\*  
2013 Jacob Custer, Buffalo Grove  
2014 Sarvasva Raghuvanshi, Naperville  
2015 ROWAN MACWAN, NAPERVILLE\*  
2016 Thomas Kilcullen, Lindenhurst

\* NATIONAL SEMI FINAL OR FINALS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

# THE AMERICAN LEGION ~ DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

All contestants must complete this form and give to their respective District Americanism Chairman who will then forward to their respective Division Americanism Chairman. The Division Americanism Chairman shall mail it to: Oratorical Contest Coordinator—The American Legion, Department of Illinois P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, IL 61702 by the contest deadline—January 27, 2017.

***\*Communication between the contestant and the Oratorical Contest Coordinator shall primarily be through email. Failure to communicate via email may result in the disqualification of the contestant. Please respond promptly!***

The 2017 American Legion, Department of Illinois High School Oratorical Scholarship Semi-Final/Finals is March 3-4, 2017 in Peoria, IL at the Peoria Civic Center. All contestants and chaperones will arrive Friday of the contest weekend. All contestants and chaperones will stay at the official contest hotel. A mandatory pre-contest orientation for all contestants will take place Friday evening of the contest weekend. The Department of Illinois winner must be available for the 2017 National Finals April 21-23 in Indianapolis, IN at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. *(Information and instructions will be provided to the Department of IL winner)*

The contestant shall have ready a (8-10) minute prepared oration on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizens to our government. The contestant must also be prepared to present a (3-5) minute oration on any one of the (4) four assigned topics. *(see Oratorical brochure for copy of Assigned Topics)*

## **STUDENT INFORMATION:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print legibly)*

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Current grade in school: \_\_\_\_\_ 9th \_\_\_\_\_ 10th \_\_\_\_\_ 11th \_\_\_\_\_ 12th *(check one)*

Contestant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PARENT INFORMATION:**

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print legibly)*

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **POST (Sponsor\*) INFORMATION:**

Post #: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Officer name: *(printed)* \_\_\_\_\_

Post Officer signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Sponsor must send the \$125 fee, Oratorical Application, and signed Communication Agreement to their respective Division Americanism Chairman **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 20, 2017**. Checks payable to: American Legion Department of Illinois.

*(after the January 27, 2017 deadline for the fee is non-refundable)*





P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2910  
2720 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington, Illinois 61704-6010

## CONTEST EMAIL COMMUNICATION UNDERSTANDING & AGREEMENT

As a condition of my participation in the Department Semi-Final & Finals of The American Legion High School Oratorical Program—"A Constitutional Speech Contest", I, the contestant, understand and agree to abide by the contest email communication requirements.

Communications between the contestant and the Department Oratorical Contest Coordinator shall primarily be through email. It shall be the contestants responsibility to read all material emailed, and to respond promptly to all email communications from the Department Contest Coordinator.

The contestant will receive an informational email within 5 days after the application certification deadline—January 27, 2017. Emails will provide the contestant with detailed information concerning the 2017 Department Semi-Finals & Final of The American Legion High School Oratorical Program.

Contestant (*please print*) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Contestant \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print legibly)

Parent or Legal Guardian (*please print*) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print legibly)

*The 2017 American Legion Department of Illinois Semi-Finals & Final American Legion High School Oratorical Program is March 3-4, 2017 in Peoria, IL at the Peoria Civic Center. All contestants and chaperones shall arrive Friday of the contest weekend. All contestants and chaperones shall stay at the official contest hotel. A mandatory pre-contest orientation session for all contestants will take place Friday evening of the contest weekend. In addition, a pizza party honoring all contestants will be Friday evening following the pre-contest orientation.*

Telephone: (309) 663-0361  
Web: <http://www.illegion.org>

Fax: (309) 663-5783  
E-mail: [hdqs@illegion.org](mailto:hdqs@illegion.org)