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.

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:
 dissipansgbv  The National Association of Secondary School Principals
 dissipansgbv  Illinois Department of Education
 dissipansgbv  The Illinois High School Association

YOUR LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION CONTACT:

Name:_________________________________________
Phone:________________________________________
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 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

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.

CONTESTANT 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 $150 for each contestant must be sent to the respective Division Americanism Chairman no later than January 17, 2020.

It is highly recommended that either the Post, County, or District host a contest. The Division level 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.

CONTESTANT 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.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS 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
ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2020
By action of the National Americanism Commission, the Assigned Topics shall be used in ALL 2020 contests. They are as follows.

Amendment XII — Electoral College

Amendment XXIV — Citizens right to vote shall not be denied by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Amendment XXVII — No law, varying the compensation for the services of Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.

Amendment XX — terms of President and Vice President. When Congress shall assemble. Articles of Presidential succession.

For more information on each of the Amendments GO TO THE LINK BELOW
https://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics

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.
The American Legion Department of Illinois
High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

The 2019 American Legion Dept. of Illinois Oratorical Scholarship Finalist, Caleb Maue, finished 2nd and was awarded a $16,000 scholarship at the National Oratorical Contest held in Indianapolis.

Sponsored By
Joliet American Legion Post 1080
11th District * 2nd Division

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 Kohler, 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*
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 Ramlar, 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 Schuhiemen, Naperville
2011 Athena Saldanha, Schaumburg
2012 ATHENA SALDANHA, SCHUÄMBURG*
2013 Jacob Custer, Buffalo Grove
2014 Sarvasva Raghuvanshi, Naperville
2015 ROWAN MACWAN, NAPERVILLE*
2016 Thomas Kilcullen, Lindenhurst
2017 Ryan Park, Naperville
2018 Patrick Kilcullen, Grayslake
2019 Caleb Maue*

* NATIONAL SEMI FINAL OR FINALS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS