

Department of Illinois

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program ~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

\$13,075 in Scholarships Awarded



FOREWORD

*T*he 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

*T*he 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>**

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**

83RD Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

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.

*Caleb Maue of Homer Glen, Illinois
a Homeschooled Junior*



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

*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*

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*	2018	Patrick Kilcullen, Grayslake
1978	Jon Kastelic, Granite City	2019	Caleb Maue*

* NATIONAL SEMI FINAL OR FINALS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS