

TO: MN High School Guidance Counselors and Speech Departments

FROM: Cliff Newman, Oratorical Chairman

SUBJECT: 2021 High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

Each year The American Legion sponsors the National High School Oratorical Contest, “A Constitutional Speech Contest”, for high school students in grades 9-12, including those home-schooled in your school districts. Enclosed is a brochure outlining the program as to rules and requirements for participation. It also contains the information on scholarships offered and how they are awarded.

The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, is divided into 10 Districts. Each District will conduct an Oratorical Contest. The Districts are outlined on the back of the enclosed brochure to assist you. Please contact your local American Legion Post, or the District Chairperson in your area to find out when and where your Post and District contests will be held. The District Chairman’s name, address and phone numbers are also provided in the Minnesota Rules brochure.

The winners from each District will compete in the State contest. The State Champion will move up to the National level competition.

The Department (State) Oratorical Contests are held in two posts. Semi-final competition will be held at **Anoka Post 102 and Osseo Post 172 on the morning of Saturday, February 27, 2021, with the final competition at Anoka Post 102 in the afternoon of that day.** A lunch will be served Saturday, February 27th at 12:00 P.M. at Anoka Post 102 – just prior to the final competition, which will begin between 1:00 and 1:30 P.M. Because of Minnesota’s unpredictable weather in the winter, a hotel/motel room will be provided for each candidate and his/her chaperone for Friday, February 26, 2021.

The four finalists in the State competition will receive scholarships, which may be used to attend any post-secondary educational institution in the United States. Award amounts are as follows: 1st place - \$1,500; 2nd place - \$1,000; 3rd place - \$700; 4th place - \$500.

The National Oratorical Contest will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana April 9-11, 2021. Travel and expenses will be provided for each contestant and their chaperone. The three finalists in the National Contest are awarded (1st) \$25,000, (2nd) \$22,500 and, (3rd) \$20,000 respectively, and each State level winner that competes at the National level will receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

The High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest is one of the best programs offered by The American Legion, and affords opportunities for High School students to win valuable scholarships for their future education. Please ensure this information is disseminated to your student body accordingly. If you are not contacted by your local American Legion Post, please contact the Post Commander and/or Adjutant for assistance. You may also contact the District representative listed on the brochure. The link to the National site is: <https://www.legion.org/publications/160901/oratorical-contest-rules>.

You may reproduce the enclosed Minnesota Rules as needed and provide to the kids, their parents and/or sponsors, and school districts. Make the information available to those kids who are home schooled as well. The American Legion is proud to further the future of our children!

If you are unable to reach your Post or District representatives regarding the Oratorical Program, please contact me, Cliff Newman, at 612-298-7259 or cancnewman226@gmail.com or Department at 651-291-1800 or jkelly@mnlegion.org.

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