

TO: Post Commanders & Unit Presidents
FROM: Cliff Newman, Oratorical Chairman
SUBJECT: 2021 High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

Enclosed is the 2021 High School Oratorical Contest Minnesota Rules brochure to be used in presenting the contest to your local schools and programs. This information is for any student (**grades 9-12**) wishing to participate in this annual program, and for educators and coaches for promotional purposes.

Please take time to read the brochure – especially the section under Scholarship Awards and the assigned topics for the 2021 contest. The District Oratorical Chairpersons are listed in the brochure as well, and you are strongly encouraged to contact them with any questions.

Additionally, all materials pertaining to the State High School Oratorical Contest may be found on the National American Legion site: www.legion.org/oratorical. On that site the participant and their parents/sponsors will find everything they need to understand the program.

The Oratorical Contests are held in two posts. Semi-final competition will be held at Osseo Post 172 and Anoka Post 102 on the morning of Saturday, February 27, with the final competition at Anoka Post 102 in the afternoon of that day. A lunch will be served Saturday, February 27 at 12:00 noon at Anoka Post 102 – just prior to the final competition, which will begin between 1:00 and 1:30 P.M.

Please check with your District Oratorical Chairperson to find out when they plan to hold their District competition. Following your Post contest, please certify your winner to your District, to include the name, address, telephone and email address, as well as the name, address, and email of the Post point of contact. This information will be needed to follow up with the post regarding time and place of the semi-final competition. **All Districts must have their certification into Department no later than February 17, 2021.**

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 contact your local High School Guidance Office and Speech and Debate Coaches regarding this contest. Provide them with a Post point of contact, and ensure the competitors are aware of District competition! All expenses beyond the District competition are paid by both the Department of Minnesota and National American Legion.**

You may reproduce the enclosed Minnesota Rules as needed and provide to the kids, their parents and/or coaches, and school districts. Make the information available to those kids who are home schooled as well. **For more brochures that can be easily reproduced, please follow the link to the National site:** <https://www.legion.org/publications/160901/oratorical-contest-rules>.

The American Legion is proud to further the future of our children!

If you have questions 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.

enclosure