

High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

★ 2024 ★
MINNESOTA CONTEST RULES

Sponsored by
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
20 West 12th St., Room 300A
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

THE AMERICAN LEGION
National Americanism Commission
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206



Approved by
**The National Association of
Secondary-School Principals**
Since 1943

EIGHTY-SEVENTH
HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL
CONTEST

The purpose of The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of High School Students, and to win Scholarship money. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

THE STATE SEMI-FINALS WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024, AT THE OSSEO AND ANOKA AMERICAN LEGION POSTS IN THE MORNING. THE FINALS WILL BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON AT THE ANOKA AMERICAN LEGION POST. All District Contestants SHOULD be certified to Department Headquarters no later than February 16, 2024.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The four finalists in the American Legion Department of Minnesota Contest receive scholarships which may be used to attend any post-secondary educational institution in the United States. Winners receive \$1,500; Runner-Up receives \$1,000; 3rd place \$700; 4th place \$500.

NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION

The 2024 National Oratorical Contest will be held at Hillsdale College May 17–19, 2024, in Hillsdale, Michigan. Quarter-final and semi-finals are scheduled for Saturday, May 18, with the Championship round on Sunday, May 19. May 17th will be a travel day for contestants.

Scholarship awards in the amount of 1st place - \$25,000; 2nd place - \$22,500; 3rd place - \$20,000 are presented to the three finalists in the Final Round. Each Department (State) winner who participates in the first round of the National Contest will receive a \$2,000 Scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the Final Round, will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship.

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA CONTESTS **ALL CONTESTS TO CONFORM TO NATIONAL CONTEST RULES** **EXCEPT AS LISTED BELOW:**

POST: Local Post contests should be held prior to December 31, 2023. Notes and prompting is permitted at the Post level if all are treated in a like manner. **The extemporaneous (assigned topic) is not required at the local contest.** Each Post is encouraged to send a Post winner to the District level competition. If you have more than 1 competitor, you will need to hold a local contest to determine your winner who will advance to the District competition. **DISTRICT:** Each District Chairperson will notify the Posts within their District of the site, date and time of their District contest, **preferably before February 16th.** This contest will be conducted using the National rules, and will include the extemporaneous (assigned topic) feature. Winner must be certified in writing, and your winner information must be on the **2024 District Winner Form.**

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants in the American Legion Oratorical Contest shall be citizens and or residents of the United States, and a bona fide student herein described as any student under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the National Finals Contest and who are presently enrolled in a high school (public, parochial, military, private or registered home school) in which the curriculum of said high school is considered to be of high school level commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating with grade twelve (12). Students must be enrolled in high school during the time of participation at any level of **The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. The three finalists of a National Finals Contest will be ineligible for further participation at any level.**

Assigned Topics for 2024 Oratorical Contest

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment XXIII

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the State, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

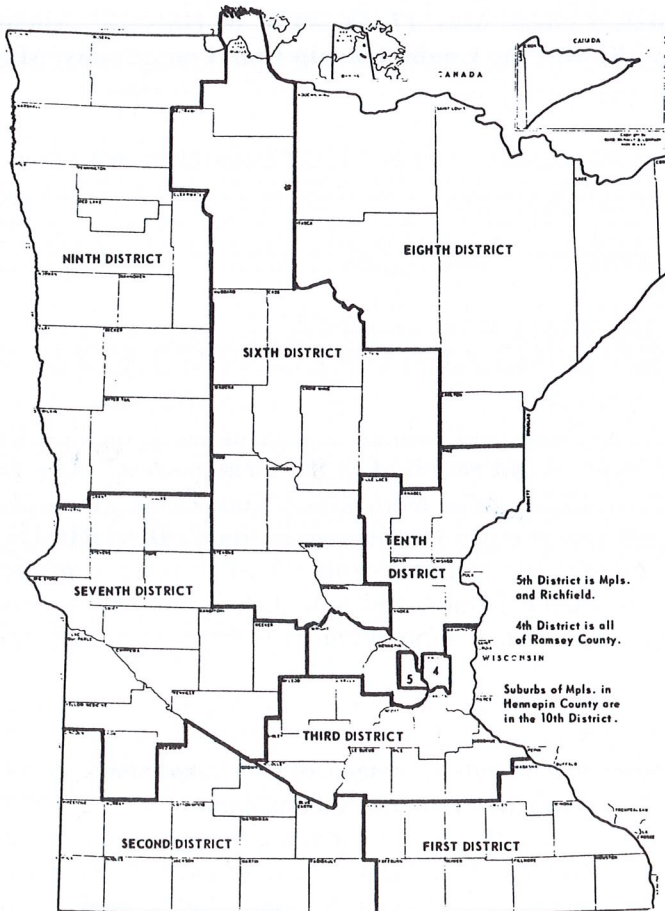
Amendment XXV, Section 3

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, not be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

The 10 Districts American Legion Department of Minnesota



DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTEST CHAIRPERSONS

First	Sylvan Fix	507-313-3376	papafixone@gmail.com
Second	Roxanne Zoet	507-621-8542	roxzoet@gmail.com
Third	Diane Jankowski	612-227-6506	diane@onehawk.com
Fourth	Joe Jansen	651-307-6767	joemjansen@gmail.com
Fifth	Dick Ward	612-437-3568	rgward49@gmail.com
Sixth	Jim Lucas	218-536-0318	ravjim1957@gmail.com
Seventh	Rueben Nathe	320-593-8654	ruebenn@hutchtel.net
Eighth	Jennifer Havlick	218-206-5796	jennifer.havlick@outlook.com
Ninth	Eric Wilkens	218-234-7315	eswilkens@msn.com
Tenth	Cliff Newman	612-298-7259	cancnewman226@gmail.com

Other

State Chair	Jamie Woods	317-666-1702	jamiewoods79@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Amanda Oehrlein	612-269-0275	a.s.England86@gmail.com
Dept Office	Jennifer Kelley	651-291-1800	jkelly@mnlegion.org

Provisions are made for the contestants to be accompanied by a chaperon at the Department, and National Contest Finals. One or both parents may chaperon the contestant. Meals, lodging and transportation costs are paid for both the contestant and chaperon at the Department and the National levels of competition.

**If you need any further assistance
please contact one of the following:**

- 1 - District Chairman (names listed above)
- 2 - Jamie Woods: 317-666-1702 • jamiewoods79@gmail.com or Jennifer Kelley: 651-291-1800 • jkelly@mnlegion.org