



# DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS



## The American Legion

### High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

### ~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

### \$13,075 in Scholarships



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#### FOREWORD

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.

#### PROGRAM FACTS

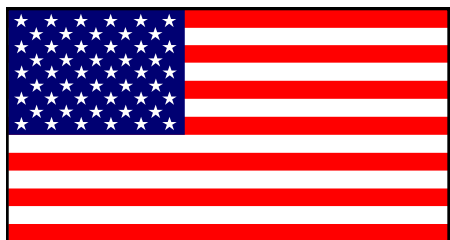
The American Legion National High School Oratorical Program, following successful Department Competition, was first conducted as a National Contest in 1938 with eleven Departments competing. In recent years approximately 30,000 contestants have participated each year, representing fifty-two Departments 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.



Illinois Department of Education  
The Illinois High School Association

A Department of Illinois  
and  
National Americanism Activity  
of  
THE AMERICAN LEGION

APPROVED BY  
The National Association  
of  
Secondary School Principals

AMERICAN LEGION CONTACT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# RULES 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.

## 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 (4) four Alternates. Division Chairmen are encouraged to determine their 6 contestants. The Oratorical Application, Communication Agreement and a sponsor check in the amount of \$125 for each contestant must be sent to the respective Division Americanism Chairman **no later than January 24, 2015.** **It is highly recommended that either the Post, County, or District, most importantly Division level host a CONTEST and ORIENTATION with contestants ensuring they are prepared for the next level of competition.**

## 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.

## AWARDS

### DEPARTMENT 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](http://WWW.ILLEGION.ORG)**

# **78th Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program**

By action of the National Americanism Commission,  
the Assigned Topics to be used in 2015 contests are as follows.

## **ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2015**

### **Amendment 5**

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 offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

### **Amendment 8**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

### **Amendment 6**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

### **Amendment 19**

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## **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.



**Sarvasva "Savvy" Raghuvanshi  
Naperville, IL**

## The American Legion Department of Illinois

### High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

~ A Constitutional Speech Contest ~

2014

## AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS ORATORICAL HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FINALIST

### DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

1938	Thomas McEllin, Aurora	1977	MARK R. THOMPSON, GLENN ELLYN*
1939	Fleetwood McCoy, Chicago	1978	Jon Kastelic, Granite City
1940	Kenneth Anderson, Chicago	1979	Sarah Tsiang, Wheaton
1941	Jane Croessmann, DuQuoin	1980	Douglas F. Curtis, Wheaton
1942	David Smothers, Wheaton	1981	Kenneth Rice, Des Plaines
1943	BURTON BERNARD, GRANITE CITY*	1982	WILLIAM KEPHART, JR., CHILLICOTHE*
1944	Melvin Cornfield, Chicago	1983	Cathy Sarnecke, Wheaton
1945	David Gray, DeKalb	1984	Julie Theriot, Wheaton
1946	William North, Park Ridge	1985	Steven William Brandy, Danville
1947	James Werner, DuQuoin	1986	Kent Ramler, Downers Grove
1948	Philip Angeloff, Granite City	1987	Brent Damrow, Frankfort
1949	Donald Pulliam, Danville	1988	Stephen Osunsami, Peoria
1950	Ralph Billeter, Maywood	1989	Shawn Chen, Glen Ellyn
1951	Barbara Miller, E. St. Louis	1990	Jane Park, Chicago
1952	Gerald Goldman, Chicago	1991	Brian Baker, Glenview
1953	Herbert Lassiter, Chicago	1992	Brian Baker, Glenview
1954	Robert B. Rosenberg, Chicago	1993	Richard Janor, Harwood Heights
1955	David G. Sills, Peoria Heights	1994	Adam Smith, Northbrook
1956	Kenneth Schurter, Chicago	1995	Richard Janor, Harwood Heights
1957	David Cohler, Chicago	1996	Jamie Aussieker, Highland
1958	Paul V. Black, Lansing	1997	Michael Masters, Winnetka
1959	ROGER R. MAJAK, LANSING*	1998	Julia Barrett, Oak Park
1960	Douglas Grandgeorge, Somonauk	1999	Julia Barrett, Oak Park
1961	James Edward Bond, Peoria	2000	Robert Goedert, Oak Park
1962	Robert I. Gordon, Highland Park	2001	April Kusper, Oak Park
1963	William (Bill) Thieman, Peoria	2002	MEGAN WYKES, PLANO*
1964	Frederick McDowell, Aurora	2003	Lucas Mette, Teutopolis
1965	Thomas J. Santefort, South Holland	2004	JACQUELINE KEIDEL, BERWYN*
1966	Michael Duncheon, Danville	2005	JOSHUA WILSON, GRIDLEY*
1967	David Lenny, Collinsville	2006	Casey Verkamp, Lisle
1968	David Lenny, Collinsville	2007	JARED CANFIELD, NAPERVILLE*
1969	Kathy Best, Peoria	2008	Heidi Erbsen, Pearl City
1970	Richard Prigge, Western Springs	2009	HEIDI ERBSEN, PEARL CITY*
1971	Joel Richard Levin, Morton Grove	2010	Matthew Schuhriemen, Naperville
1972	Roger Jones, Chicago	2011	Athena Saldanha
1973	JOHN WESLEY FROST, PEORIA*	2012	Athena Saldanha*
1974	Joseph Arthur Bates, Winnetka	2013	Jacob Custer
1975	GRETCHEN WINTER, CHICAGO*	2014	Sarvasva Raghuvanshi
1976	Dale J. Trela, Evergreen Park		

\* NATIONAL SEMI FINAL OR FINALS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS