

American Legion

Post 1288

Presents

2019-2020

Oratorical Contest

- A Constitutional Speech Contest –

Sunday, December 8, 2019

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

American Legion Post 1288

201 Canterbury Ln. Unit B

Bolingbrook, IL 60440

All area High School students under age 20 are eligible. Qualifying contestants may go on to compete in American Legion District, Division, Department and National Competitions with a chance to earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. See www.legion1288.org for complete rules and details. Contestant slots are limited so register today. For questions or to register as a participant, please email Sgtroy0341@gmail.com or call 630-730-1225. Registrations must be received by no later than midnight November 30, 2019.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Participants in the American Legion Oratorical contest can earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

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

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.

Official Rules for Post 1288 Oratorical Contest

Purpose: 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.

Eligibility: All contestants must be lawful Permanent Residents of the United States 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.

Oration and Assigned Topic: The contest will consist of two parts: a prepared oration and an oration on an assigned topic. 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 Post Contest must be used in the department Contest as well as 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.

In addition to the prepared oration, contestants will also be required to prepare an oration on an assigned topic. 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 one of the following listed below:

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.

Manuscript: Contestants will be required to submit a copy of their speech and assigned topic (manuscripts) prior to their oration on the day of the contest. These manuscripts will include a title as well as a bibliography of their cited research. Although it is not required for a contestant to memorize his or her speech verbatim, they should follow closely to the content of the manuscript.

Format: On the day of the event, contestants and guests will be seated and receive final instructions on the format of the contest. Thereafter, contestants will be escorted away from the speaking room and sent to a waiting room. Contestants will then be selected by drawing and called in individually to deliver their oration. Upon entering the speaking room, the contestants will hand over a copy of their speech/manuscript to the Moderator. Upon completion of their oration, each contestant will leave the speaking room and the next contestant will be called in. Under no circumstances will any contestant sit and observe another contestant during the contest. Once all contestants have spoken, the judges will collaborate

and tally scores. The Post contest winner, runner-up and awards will then be announced shortly thereafter.

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. No notes, podium, microphone, props, or any other aides will be allowed during the orations; therefore, it is suggested that the speaker memorize his or her prepared orations.

Registration: All contestants will be required to submit an application prior to the registration deadline of midnight November 30, 2019. Participation slots are limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis to applicants who qualify. To receive an application, please contact Post 1288 Oratorical Contest Coordinator, Roy Pura, at 630-730-1225 or email Sgtroy0341@gmail.com.

Questions: Questions regarding any aspect of this contest should be directed to Roy Pura - Post 1288 Oratorical Contest Coordinator – at 630-730-1225 or email Sgtroy0341@gmail.com