Department of New York American Legion
High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
"A Constitutional Speech Contest"
2020 – 2021

March 6, 2021
(Snow date March 13, 2021)
Sand Creek Middle School
Albany, New York 12205

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest" shall be **citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States.**

All contestants must be bonafide students herein described as any student under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the National Finals Contest and who is presently enrolled in high school or junior high school (public, military, private, or parochial, or who are home schooled) in which the curriculum is considered to be of high school grade level commencing with grade nine (**9**) and terminating with grade twelve (**12**). Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest. High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the Department finals contest. Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department (state) where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition in only one department (state).

CERTIFICATION

The Contestant Application (Form # 1) must be filled out and signed by the contestant, the principal of the high school, and parent or guardian. Both the Prepared Oration and Contestant Application (Form # 1) must be submitted to the County Chairman no later than November 20, 2020.

DATES OF CONTESTS

County contests will be held between November 28, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Please contact your County Chairman to find out the date of your contest. District contests are held between January 2, 2021 and January 30, 2021, and Zone contests are held between February 6, 2021 and February 13, 2021. **The dates of each level of competition are determined by the respective chairmen.** They will contact you once they have received your Contestant Application (Form # 1) and your Prepared Oration. The Department (State) Finals will be held on March 6, 2021, at 10:00 AM, at the Sand Creek Middle School, Albany, New York. All Contestants and Chaperones must be in Albany by 4:00 PM March 5, 2021. In case of cancellation due to inclement weather, it will be held on March 13, 2021 at the same place and time, and would have to be in Albany by 4:00 PM on March 12, 2021.

The National Finals are April 10 and 11, 2021 in Indianapolis, Indiana. All contestants must be at the contest site on April 9, 2021. The National Organization will bear the expenses for the contestant and their chaperone. See www.legion.org for additional information.

CONTEST FORMAT

New York is broken down into four levels of competition, County, District, Zone, and Department (State) Final. Each school may enter three (3) contestants in the County Contest. Preliminary County Contest maybe run if too many contestants enter prior to the County Final. Each District will structure their contest to conform to the number of contestants that have applied to compete in the County contests, and how many will advance into the District contest or contests. **No County or District will have more than six contestants in any preliminary or final contests without the consent of the Department of New York Chairman.** The District Chairman will report the first and second place winners to the Zone Chairman. Two contestants from the District contest will continue on to the Zone contest, and then one contestant will go on to the Department (State) Final. There will be five contestants in the Department (State) Final of which one will go on to the National Finals.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

District Scholarship Awards: 1st Place $600.00; 2nd Place $500.00; 3rd to 6th Place $150.00
Zone Scholarship Awards: 1st Place $1,000.00; 2nd Place $800.00; 3rd & 4th Place $500.00
Department Scholarship Awards: 1st Place $6,000.00; 2nd Place $4,000.00; 3rd Place $2,500.00; 4th & 5th Place $2,000.00
National Scholarship Awards: 1st Round each contestant receives $2,000.00 Scholarship
2nd Round each contestants other than the 3 National Finalists receive another Another $2,000.00 Scholarship
National Finalists: 1st Place $25,000.00
2nd Place $22,500.00
3rd Place $ 20,000.00

1st District	2nd District	3rd District	4th District	5th District	6th District	7th District	8th District	9th District	10th District
Bronx	Kings	Albany	Clinton	Herkimer	Broome	Cayuga	Allegany	Dutchess	Nassau
New York	Richmond	Columbia	Essex	Jefferson	Chemung	Livingston	Cattaraugus	Orange	Queens
		Greene	Franklin	Lewis	Chenango	Monroe	Chautauqua	Putnam	Suffolk
		Rensselaer	Fulton	Oneida	Cortland	Ontario	Erie	Rockland	
		Schoharie	Hamilton	Onondaga	Delaware	Seneca	Genesee	Westchester	
		Sullivan	Montgomery	Oswego	Madison	Steuben	Niagara		
		Ulster	St.Lawrence		Otsego	Wayne	Orleans		
			Saratoga		Schuyler	Yates	Wyoming		
			Schenectady		Tioga				
			Warren		Tompkins				
			Washington						

HOW TO ENTER

Click on the Application link on the Oratorical home page and complete the Contestant Application (Form # 1). Make sure everything on the registration form is filled in. Then send the registration form, along with a copy of your oration to your local American Legion County Organization. If you do not know what County you need to apply to, look at the list above and then find your Zone and District Chairperson below and they will be able to give you your County Chairperson.

Zone 1: Michael Brophy – (845) 238-8161 (michaelebrophy@aol.com)

District 1 – Earl J. Menard, Jr.
917-325-0300
Email: ejm124@aol.com

Bronx County
New York County

District 9 – Maureen Morgan
845-729-5471
Email: rocklandgirl286@gmail.com

Dutchess County
Orange County
Putnam County
Rockland County
Westchester County

Zone 2: John T. Digilio, Jr. – (631) 968-4335 (bgjohndigilio@aol.com)

District 2- Albert W. Klingele
718-948-0571
Email: aklingele@si.rr.com

Kings County
Richmond County

District 10 – Michael Pankowski
(631-369-6355
Email: mikebets@optonline.net

Queens County
Nassau County
Suffolk County

Zone 3: Margaret Folk – (518) 747-6855 (shebearmk@roadrunner.com)

District 3 – Mark Blank
518-708-7505
Email: markblank360@yahoo.com

Albany County
Columbia County
Greene County
Rensselaer County
Schoharie County
Sullivan County
Ulster County

District 4 – Steve Bowman
518-846-8263
Email: steve.bowman@clintoncountygov.com

Clinton County
Essex County
Franklin County
Fulton County
Hamilton County
Montgomery County
St. Lawrence County
Saratoga County
Schenectady County
Warren County
Washington County

Zone 4: Philip A. Seybert – (315) 777-7177 (philipseybert@yahoo.com)

District 5 – Lynn May
(H) 315-642-3408 (C) 315-486-9958
Email: lynnmay.csea@yahoo.com

Herkimer County
Jefferson County
Lewis County
Oneida County
Onondaga County
Oswego County

District 6 – Tom Ryan
(C) 607-724-1803
Email: tomrya@stny.rr.com

Broome County
Chemung County
Chenango County
Cortland County
Delaware County
Madison County
Otsego County
Schuyler County
Tioga County
Tompkins County

Zone 5: Norma Weissend – (585) 727-6190 (nwewissend@me.com)

District 7 – Holly Trueman
315-521-4783
Email: holly.trueman@gmail.com

Cayuga County
Livingston County
Monroe County
Ontario County
Seneca County
Steuben County
Wayne County
Yates County

District 8 – Walter Ackley
716-664-1692
Email: walterackley@gmail.com

Allegany County
Canada County
Cattaraugus County
Chautauqua County
Erie County
Genesee County
Niagara County
Orleans County
Wyoming County

You may also contact one of the following for assistance:

Kristine Delap, Program Coordinator	1-518-463-2215	kdelap@nylegion.org
Anthony L. Paternostro, Department Chairman	1-516-308-7019	paternosal@aol.com

READING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK OFFICIAL RULES BROCHURE IS MANDATORY