



The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program –
“A Constitutional Speech Contest”
Department of New York 2010 Contest Results

For the last three months high school students from all over New York State have been competing in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest”. The program is designed to instill a greater knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States in high school students. Other objectives include the development of leadership, the ability to think and speak clearly and the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Each contestant must give a prepared oration on some phase of the United States Constitution, giving emphasis to the duties and obligations of a citizen to his/her government. They must also speak on 1 of 4 topics, known as Assigned Topics, picked at random at each contest. Both parts of the contest must be memorized.

On March 6th at the Sand Creek Middle School in Albany, New York, the top five contestants competed for the top honors in the state of New York, and to be awarded the title of New York State American Legion Champion. The scholarships awarded to the five finalists are: 1st Place \$6,000; 2nd Place \$4,000; 3rd Place \$2,500; 4th and 5th Place \$2,000.

Our New York Champion will compete in the National Contest on April 10th and 11th at IUPUI, Indianapolis, Indiana. The scholarships awarded at the National Contest are: first round participation \$1,500; second round participation but not one of the three finalists another \$1500. The three National Finalists will be competing for scholarships of: 1st Place \$18,000; 2nd Place \$16,000; 3rd Place \$14,000. Watch the National Finals on webcam on legion.org, at 10:00 AM on April 11, 2010.

The result of the New York State Contest is:

1st Place and the New York State Champion and winner of a \$6,000.00 Scholarship:

Madison Malone Kircher

She is a senior at Queensbury High School
She represented Zone 3, 4th District, and Warren County
She was sponsored by the Queensbury Post 1797

2nd Place and a winner of a \$4,000.00 Scholarship:

Diana Viglucci

She is a senior at Greene High School
She represented Zone 4, 6th District, and Chenango County
She was sponsored by the Lloyd Jackson Post 692 &
the Edwin Wilbur, Jr. Post 1478

3rd Place and a winner of a \$2,500.00 Scholarship:

Steven J. Velardo, Jr.

He is a Home-schooled junior
He represented Zone 1, 9th District, and Dutchess County
He was sponsored by the Manny Bacon Post 1758

4th & 5th Place and winners of a \$2,000.00 Scholarship:

Danielle Haley

She is a sophomore at West Babylon Senior High School
She represented Zone 2, 10th District, and Suffolk County
She was sponsored by the Sergeant John Sardiello Post 1634

Eric Hepler

He is a senior at Williamson High School
He represented Zone 5, 7th District, and Wayne County
He was sponsored by the Williamson Post 394

Each of these students should be commended on the content and delivery of their speeches. We encourage more students to become interested in this worthwhile program.