



Department of New York American Legion
High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
“A Constitutional Speech Contest”
2012



March 3, 2012
(Snow date March 10, 2012)
Sand Creek Middle School
Albany, New York 12205

PURPOSE

The purpose 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 qualities, 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

New York – The American Legion, Department of New York offers Zone winners competing in the Department (State) Final, scholarship only, in the following amounts: 1st place - \$6,000, 2nd place - \$4,000, 3rd place - \$2,500, 4th place - \$2,000, and 5th place - \$2,000. Payments are made directly to your college and are awarded over a four year period. The scholarships awarded by The American Legion, Department of New York to the five department finalists may be used to attend any college or university in the United States.

Zone Awards are as follows: First place advances to Department Finals; Second place receives a \$1,000 savings bond; Third place a \$500 savings bond; and Fourth place, also a \$500 savings bond.

ORATIONS

The contest has four levels, County, District, Zone, and then Department before going on to the National Finals Contest. On the County level **ONLY**, the only timed speech is the Prepared Oration before judges. From the District level up the contest will consist of delivering two (2) timed speeches before judges. The first is the Prepared Oration; the second is the Assigned Topic Discourse. Orations must be delivered in the English language, without notes, a podium, or an amplification system, and must be from memory. Props are not permitted. The same orations used at the lower level contests are used in the Department (State) and National contest.

The Prepared Oration – The subject must be on some aspect of our Constitution with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same subject and oration used in the New York contest must be used at the National contest. This oration must be an original effort and must take between 8 and 10 minutes to complete.

Assigned Topic Discourse – The Assigned Topic Discourse must be delivered between 3 and 5 minutes. The purpose is to test the speaker’s knowledge of the subject, the extent of his/her research, and the ability to relate to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. There are four (4) Assigned Topics. The one you will speak on will be drawn by a contest official and made known to you five (5) minutes before delivery. All contestants at each level are required to speak on the same selected topic. The Assigned Topics for 2011 can be found in the last page of the Department of New York brochure.



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HOW TO ENTER

Click on the Application link on the home page and complete an application (Form #6). Make sure everything on the application is filled in. Then send the application, along with a copy of your oration to your local American Legion County Organization. If you do not know who to contact in your county, find you're County below and call the Zone Chairman that County is associated with:

Zone 1: Robert A Corrigan – (718) 892-1898 (racorr@msn.com)

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Bronx | Dutchess | Putnam | Westchester |
| New York | Orange | Rockland | |

Zone 2: Philip Barczak – (631) 724-8577 (barczakp@aol.com)

| | | |
|----------|--------|---------|
| Kings | Queens | Suffolk |
| Richmond | Nassau | |

Zone 3: Stephen Bowers – (518) 283-6182 (sbowers5@nycap.rr.com)

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|--------------|------------|
| Albany | Schoharie | Essex | Montgomery | Warren |
| Columbia | Sullivan | Franklin | Saratoga | Washington |
| Greene | Ulster | Fulton | Schenectady | |
| Rensselaer | Clinton | Hamilton | St. Lawrence | |

Zone 4: John Ryan – (315) 725-7253 (jryan37@roadrunner.com)

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Herkimer | Onondaga | Chenango | Otsego |
| Jefferson | Oswego | Cortland | Schuyler |
| Lewis | Broome | Delaware | Tioga |
| Oneida | Chemung | Madison | Tompkins |

Zone 5: Michael F. Hannan – (315) 573-0703 (druidharley@hotmail.com)

| | | | | |
|------------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|
| Cayuga | Seneca | Allegany | Erie | Wyoming |
| Livingston | Steuben | Canada | Genesee | |
| Monroe | Wayne | Carraraugus | Niagara | |
| Ontario | Yates | Chautauqua | Orleans | |

You may also contact one of the following for assistance:

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------------|
| Ann Wilsey, Program Coordinator | 1-800-332-6632 | annie@nylegion.org |
| Anthony L. Paternostro, Department Chairman | 1-516-308-7019 | paternosol@aol.com |
| Jeffrey French, Department Vice-Chairman | 1-518-672-4757 | jwfrench@verizon.net |



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ELIGIBILITY

Participants shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. Contestants must be bona fide students, under the age of 20, and presently enrolled in high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) in which the curriculum is considered to be of high school level between grade 9 and 12. Contestants must compete in the State that their school is located in, and can enter competition through only one (1) Department (State).

APPEARANCE

Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required by all contestants. Contestants are not permitted to wear awards and medals from previous competitions.

CERTIFICATION

Form # 6, High School Report, must be filled out and signed by the contestant and the principal of the high school. It then gets submitted to the County Chairman by the date noted on the form.

DATES OF CONTESTS

County contests are held between December 1 and January 14, District contests are held between January 15 and February 4, and Zone contests are held between February 5 and February 18. **The dates of each level of competition are determined by the respective chairmen.** They will contact you once they have received your certification form. The Department (State) Finals will be held on March 3, 2012, at 10:00 AM, at the Sand Creek Middle School, Albany, New York. In case of cancellation due to inclement weather, it will be held on March 10, 2012 at the same place and time.

The National Finals will be held at IUPUI, Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 14 and 15, 2012. All contestants must be at the contest site on April 13, 2012. 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. Two contestants from the County contest will continue on to the District contest. 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.

Please read the Department of New York Official Rules Brochure