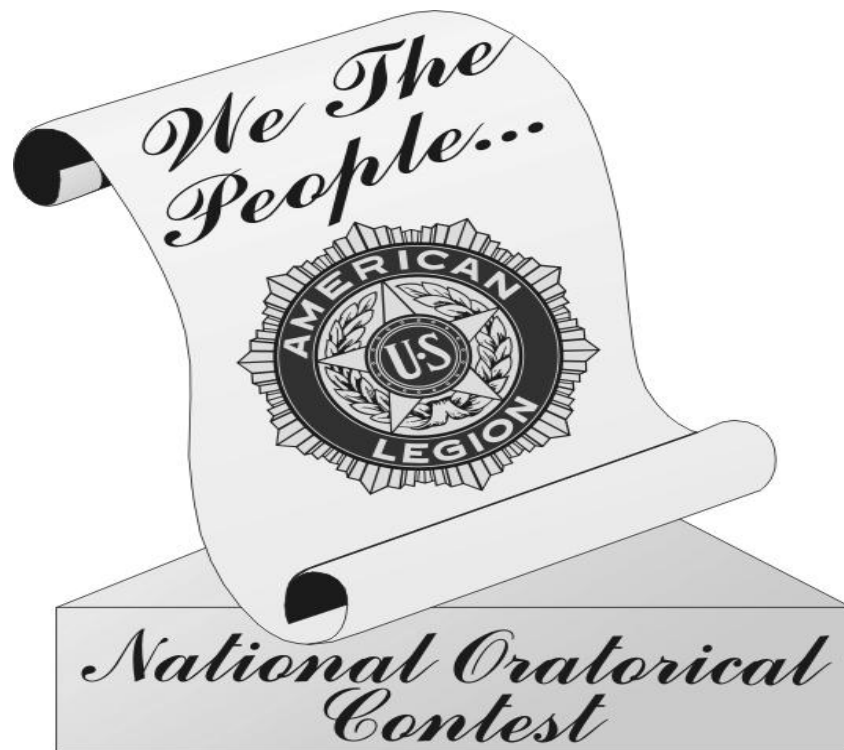


*Eighty Ninth Annual
The American Legion Department of Iowa
High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
"A Constitutional Speech Contest"
2025 / 2026*



***\$25,000 for Winning Oration
Based on the U.S. Constitution***

Open to Students Grades 9 - 12

<u>Department Contest*</u>		<u>National Contest</u>
\$2,000	<i>First Place</i>	\$25,000
\$1,500	<i>Second Place</i>	\$22,500
\$1,000	<i>Third Place</i>	\$20,000

*Department Champion will also receive an additional \$2,000 for Participating in
National Quarter-Finals level of Competition
Up to 15 Finalists advancing from first round to second round semifinals
Will receive an additional \$2,000 each*

**Half of each Department of Iowa scholarship is awarded by The American Legion of Iowa Foundation.
It is contingent upon the student enrolling in an institution of higher learning located within the State of Iowa.*

American Legion Oratorical Contest

American Legion Post #403 is again sponsoring the local Post American Legion Oratorical Contest. Community high school age students, **grades 9-12, are eligible to participate for Post scholarship awards. Post 403 Contest Application Registration deadline is November 18, 2025. Application and written copy of Prepared Oration must be submitted by the deadline date. The Post Contest will be held Sunday, November 23, 2025 starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Veterans Reception Center, 910 Main Street, Van Meter. Students are to arrive at 12:30 p.m. that day.**

First Place:	\$500.00**	(advances to Dallas County Contest)
Second Place:	\$400.00**	(advances to Dallas County Contest)
Third Place:	\$300.00	
Fourth Place:	\$200.00	
Fifth Place	\$100.00	

**The Post First and Second Place contestants will receive an additional \$200 if they participate in the Dallas County American Legion contest to be held between December 8th – 21st, 2025 and another \$300 if they proceed to participate in the District American Legion Contest to be held between December 22, 2025 and January 11, 2026. Area Contests will be completed by January 25, 2026 and State Contest will be Sunday, February 15, 2026 – see ialegion.org – Youth Programs – Oratorical.

The National High School Oratorical contest sponsored since 1938 by the American Legion 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. Other purposes of the program are to assist students in paying the high cost of college education and helping the student build their resumes for future job and college admissions.

The Post (community level) competition is the beginning step to the final culmination in the National competition. The student advances from the Post level, county level, district level (there are 9 Legion districts in the state of Iowa), area level (comprised of each district's first and second place contestants), department level (State competition comprised of 3 area level winners), and finally the national level in which the student competes against winners from other states and U.S. territories in Hillsdale, MI at Hillsdale College.

Scholarships Awarded beyond the Post Competition are:

County Scholarship Award:	TBD by American Legion Dallas County Officers.		
District Scholarship Award:	District Champions eliminated in the Area contests will receive a scholarship prize of \$200 with same restrictions as Department finals.		
Area Scholarship Award:	Each participant in Area Contest will receive \$50 from Dept. of Iowa for expenses.		
Department (Iowa) Scholarship Award:	First Place:	\$2,000.00	
	Second Place:	\$1,500.00	
	Third Place:	\$1,000.00	
National Scholarship Award:	First Place:	\$25,000.00	each quarterfinalist receives \$2000
	Second Place:	\$22,500.00	
	Third Place:	\$20,000.00	

There are two sections to the contest at District level and higher. These sections are the Prepared Oration section and the Assigned Topic section. **The subject to be used for the Prepared Oration must be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government.** The Prepared Oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must not take less than eight (8) minutes or more than ten (10) minutes for delivery. The Assigned Topic section of the contest must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. **There are four different Assigned Topics that relate to specific sections of the Constitution. These specific topics are rotated from year to year by the National American Legion. At the Post level competition, the Post has elected to have the contestant prepare for only two of the four National assigned topics. The Assigned Topics for Post 403 competition for 2025/2026 are: (1) Amendment IV and (2) Article VI Clause 3.** Specific wording on these two topics can be found on the Department website – www.ialegion.org – place cursor over Programs / Children and Youth and click on Oratorical, scroll down to Assigned Topics and click on this link. The student will not know which of the two Assigned Topics he/she will have to address until it is given to the student by a contest official approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of the contestant's delivery.

National contest information may be obtained by visiting American Legion website at www.legion.org and place cursor on Programs and click on Oratorical Contest. For local Post community contest information contact Vince Junker at cell 701-712-6236 or email address at vcjunker@msn.com. School contacts are: Mrs. Renee Martin, Mr. Josh Flaws, or Mr. Lamoureux.

Post 403 Contest Registration Deadline is November 18, 2025.
Application and written copy of speech required with deadline turn-in.

Post Oratorical Contest Date is: November 23, 2025 1:00 P.M. . – Veteran Reception Center, 910 Main St.