

1. Any student entering the competition must be under the age of 20 years on the date of the National Contest.
2. The student must be presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private, or home school), commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade twelve, during the time of participation at any level of the Contest.
3. The student must either live in or attend school in Pennsylvania and can only compete in Pennsylvania.
4. **The student must submit an application to any Pennsylvania Post for sponsorship by November 29, 2026.** A local Post can be found at <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Find-a-Post>.
5. The contest will consist of two parts: an 8-10 minute memorized oration on some phase of the United States Constitution and a 3-5-minute oration on one of four “assigned topics” selected by the National Organization. These four topics can be found at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical/topics>
6. The contestant may not use any notes, props, amplification, or prompts during the oration.
7. A minimum of five judges will judge all contests at the District level and above. Local and County contests may use a minimum of three judges.

8. All contests at the District level and above shall conform with National Contest procedures, rules, and regulations. The “assigned topics” shall be used at all levels of competition. National Contest rules can be found at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical>
9. The judges’ score sheets, the tabulation forms, and the timekeepers’ cards all become the property of the Department of Pennsylvania Oratorical Committee.
10. Barring unforeseen circumstances, any student who enters the Oratorical program **must** be available to compete on the date of the Department Contest and **must** be available to compete at the National Contest from May 14-16, 2027 in Hillsdale, Michigan.
11. The Oratorical Committee has established the following dates **BY WHICH the various contests must be held, if required, and the winner’s name and contact information sent to the next level of competition:** (Dates subject to change. Check with the appropriate competition level to confirm.)

Application to any Pennsylvania Post no later than (NLT) November 29, 2026

School or Post Contest NLT December 27, 2026

County Contest NLT January 10, 2027

District Contest NLT January 24, 2027

Inter-District Contest NLT February 7, 2027

Sectional Contest NLT February 21, 2027

Department Contest ON March 13, 2027

National Contest from May 14-16, 2027

12. The Department Contest will be held in Harrisburg at 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 13, 2027. A banquet to honor the Department Contest competitors will be held on Friday evening, March 12, 2027.
13. The Department Contest in March will be under the direct supervision of the Oratorical Committee; final authority on all issues raised will remain with the Oratorical Committee.
14. The Department winner must be certified with National Headquarters. If for any reason the Department winner is unable to compete at the National Contest, the Department First Runner-up will be substituted, following approval by National.
15. Additional contest resources can be found at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical>



Application Form

2027 High School

Oratorical Program

Deadline: November 29, 2026

Student First Name _____

Student Middle Name _____

Student Last Name _____

Student Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian First Name _____

Parent/Guardian Middle Name _____

Parent/Guardian Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

High School _____

Grade _____

Contact a Sectional Vice Chair with any questions.

I have read and understand the rules and regulations to participate in the Oratorical Program sponsored by The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania. I have also read and understand the brochure prepared by The National American Legion and agree to abide by all rules and regulations of both the Department and the National Organization.

Signed _____

Date _____

Oratorical Program Committee

Department Commander: Jon Hosfeld

P O Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2324

Department Adjutant: James “Woody” Hogan

P O Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2324

Department Oratorical Chair:

Michael Cortes, 2711 Legion Rd Ste 8243

Erie, PA 16506 (814) 954-0067

michael@michaelcortes.com

Sectional Oratorical Vice Chairs

Eastern: John Kubitz, 158 Link Rd,

Fleetwood PA 19522 610-987-9670

jfkuster@comcast.net

Central: Dorene Meaders, 215 Nottingham Ln,

Bloomsburg PA 17815 570-854-6050

punsy307@aol.com

Western: Gary Bojalad, 192 Bailey Ave,

Uniontown, PA 15801 814-590-6438

garybojalad@icloud.com

AWARDS

Department Winner

\$7,500.00 scholarship, plaque, and all-expenses-paid trip to the Department of Pennsylvania State Convention to deliver his or her winning prepared oration, plus the opportunity to represent Pennsylvania at the National Contest and receive an additional \$2,000.00 scholarship from the National Organization.

Department First Runner-up

\$5,000.00 scholarship and plaque.

Second Runner-up

\$4,000.00 scholarship and plaque.

2027 HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



“A Constitutional
Speech Contest”

Rules and Regulations



PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN LEGION

www.pa-legion.com

(717) 730-9100