

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA  
1708 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230  
August 1, 2017

Greetings from the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.

Each year the American Legion sponsors its National High School Oratorical Contest. This contest provides your students an excellent opportunity to improve their research, writing and oration skills plus gain a greater appreciation for one of our country's cornerstone documents, the United States Constitution. This is a national competition with the top national orator receiving an \$18,000 scholarship for college.

I encourage you to visit [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical) for contest rules and requirements for academic year 2017-2018. I recommend you assign a teacher to work with interested students. Encouragement and assistance at the school level will help ensure their successful participation.

A member of your local American Legion post should contact you soon with details pertaining to the contest in your area. If you are not contacted by the end of October, let me know and I will put you in touch with a contest official.

Local contests are conducted in December or January. Top orators advance to district and regional competitions with the very best orators advancing to the state-level contest in March 2018. In addition to awards and scholarships earned at lower levels, scholarships awarded at the state level include \$1,100 for first place and \$600 for students finishing second or third.

Specific information about the program can be found at [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical). The website features the performances of last year's national finalists so students can see for themselves what is required of each competitor.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email at [vaoratorical@yahoo.com](mailto:vaoratorical@yahoo.com) or call me at (757) 477-7904.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile program.

For God and Country,

Legionnaire Greg Mueller  
Oratorical Chairman  
American Legion, Department of Virginia