

**2017-2018 THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
**“A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST”**

The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary are again sponsoring the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest. The contest, in which a student can win over \$18,000 in scholarships, is open to all secondary school students (Grades 9-12). At this time, we invite your cooperation and support for this worthwhile program. We hope you can include this program in the regularly scheduled class exercise.

Our 2017-2018 North Dakota State Contest will be held in Mandan at 1:00 p.m., on January 27, 2018, at the Baymont Inn during The American Legion Winter Conference. The ten District Contests will be scheduled soon, but must be held by Saturday, January 2, 2018. The East and West Division Contests will be held before January 8, 2018.

The National Headquarters of The American Legion explains the High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest Program on their website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) under programs. A copy of "The Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States of America" is enclosed ONLY in the mailer for the use of the schools. A SUGGESTED STUDENT REFERENCE HANDOUT is also attached.

The American Legion Post and American Legion Auxiliary Unit in your community should have an Oratorical Contest Chairman. The chairman should be contacting you shortly after you receive this information. It is the duty of the Oratorical Contest Chairman to plan for the local contest if the number of contestants warrant one and to provide you with additional information concerning the program. The local chairman has received a complete guide for conducting a contest. If the local Oratorical Contest Chairman does not contact you by October 15, please notify Jerry Samuelson, Department Oratorical Contest Committee Chairman, at his Watford City address.

The winner of the local contest will advance to the District Contest (we have ten districts in North Dakota). In the event your high school enrollment area is represented by more than one Legion post, the school may enter one contestant for each post represented. The winner of the District Contest will advance to the Divisional Contest (we have two Divisions of five Districts each in the state). The first and second place winners from each of the two Divisional Contests will advance to the Department Oratorical Contest (State Finals) at the Winter Conference, and that winner will advance to the National Round of Competition in Indianapolis, IN, April 13-15, 2018. District and Divisional boundaries are shown on the attached map. Also attached are names of the District and Divisional Chairmen.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

1. At the local level the prepared oration may be from six to eight minutes in length. At the District and other higher contests, the prepared oration must be from eight to ten minutes in length.
2. The use of notes will be permitted at the local and District levels. Notes are not permitted at the Divisional and other higher contests.
3. The Assigned Topic Discourse is optional at the local contest; however, it is mandatory at the District and other higher contests.

If you have questions, contact the Oratorical Contest Chairman of the nearest American Legion Post or American Legion Auxiliary Unit. If you are unable to contact the local chairman, please advise the District Chairman, or Jerry Samuelson, Dept. Chairman, PO Box 1036, Watford City, ND 58854 Home – 444-3121.

## ROSTER OF STATE CHAMPIONS

### NORTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

1939	Delores Brady, Carrington	1973	Lyla Ann Safely, Alexander
1940	Caryl Andrews, Oakes	1974	John C. Palenberg, Mandan
1941	Norma Lillo, Jamestown	1975	Bradley Edin, Jamestown
1942	Harold Pollman, Carrington	1976	Becky Omdahl, Grand Forks
1943-44	Robert Lillo, Jamestown	1977	Julie Swedback, Fargo
1945-46	Paul R. Vogel, Bismarck	1978-79	Myron Braun, Jamestown
1947	Jerry Butler, Jamestown	1980	John Bickel, Bismarck
1948	Roger K. Mosvik, Minot	1981	Nadine Gassner, Fargo
1949	John Reilly, Grand Forks	1982	Craig Cerkowniak, Des Lacs - Burlington
1950-51	Patty Amon, Bismarck	1983	Michele Horner, Fargo
1952	Nondice Carothers, Jamestown	1984	James W. M. Fischer, Raleigh
1953	Clayton Johnson, Jamestown	1985	Lisa Godon, Fargo
1954-55	Patrick Williams, Mandan	1986	Julie Albertson, Stanley
1956	Robert Hunter, Bismarck	1987-88	Winifred Smith, New Salem
1957-58	Wallace Martz, Rolla	1989-90	Michael Eaton, Fargo
1959	Howard Abbott, Minot	1991	Brent Anton, Dickinson
1960	Ted Coonrod, Bismarck	1992-93	Nancy Broderson, Watford City
1961-62	Roger Roberts, Minot	1994	Doug Larsen, Granville
1963	Loren J. Anderson, Rugby	1995-97	Jason Matthews, Garrison
1964	Betty Malen, Fargo	1998	Stephanie Ritter, Sherwood
1965-66	Don Gaetz, Rugby	1999	Mike Rylander, Minot
1967	Robert Umland, Minot	2000-01	Jordan Hylden, Park River
1968-69	Pamela Kay Walz, Beulah	2002	Teresa Oe, Belfield
1970	Daniel Cozort, Fargo	2003	Jeffrey Johnson, Rolette
1971	Neal Nygard, Des Lacs	2004	Garrett Boyer, Carrington
1972	Wayne D. Struble, Fargo	2005	Krista Thom, Edgeley
		2006	Rebecca Shelton, Grand Forks
		2007	Robert Vallie, Christine
		2008	Andy Backstrom, Maddock
		2009	Andy Backstrom, Maddock
		2010	Sibinee Jokela, Watford City
		2011	David Shelton, Arvilla
		2012	Anjali Lall, Fargo
		2013	David Shelton, Arvilla
		2014	Samantha Goerger, Wyndmere
		2015	Samantha Goerger, Wyndmere
		2016	Iida Lehto, Watford City
		2017	Preeti Chemiti, West Fargo