

November 2009

TO: HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

FROM: KARLENE DEVINE, CHAIRMAN  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT ORATORICAL CONTEST

This marks our 72<sup>nd</sup> year of awarding scholarships in the National High School Oratorical Program. This program was initiated in 1938 to develop a deeper knowledge and understanding among high school students of the Constitution of the United States of America. The participants also obtain the ability to think, speak intelligently and prepare, through understanding, for the responsibilities, rights and privileges of American Citizenship.

National Scholarships awarded annually are in the amount of \$138,000. The responsibility for the National Contest site and establishing dates lies within the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion.

Another purpose of the program is to assist students in paying the high cost of a college education. On the National level, The American Legion Life Insurance Fund provides the scholarship money for the program. **The first place winner in the National Contest takes home \$18,000 and the next two finishers receive \$16,000 and \$14,000 respectively. Each Department (State) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the National Contest will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the Final Round, will receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.**

The American Legion takes great pride in the contest and a strong interest in the contestants and their families. For this reason, participants have cited the experience of meeting people involved in this program as a special benefit of the competition. Entrants reaching advanced levels of the contest have the added chance to meet students and Legionnaires from throughout the Nation.

In order to reach the National Contest, contestants must participate at the High School, District and State Level. The winner of the High School Contest will proceed to the District Contest and the winner of the District Contest will proceed to the State Championship. **The State winner receives \$2,000 from The American Legion Department of Vermont and the privilege of competing at the National Contest. The runners up in the State Contest will each receive \$100 from The American Legion Department of Vermont. All contestants may apply for additional scholarship funds from The American Legion Department of Vermont.**

WE ASK YOUR HELP IN GETTING THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR STUDENT BODY. ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12, WHO ARE CITIZENS OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

**SCHOOL CONTEST            MUST BE COMPLETED BY: February 1, 2010**  
**DISTRICT CONTEST        MUST BE COMPLETED BY: February 13, 2010**

**STATE CONTEST**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2010 (Snow Date is March 6<sup>th</sup>)**

**PLACE: Vergennes American Legion Post #14, Vergennes VT**

**TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

**NATIONAL FINALS** will be held **APRIL 9-11, 2010** at **UNIVERSITY PLACE CONFERENCE CENTER & HOTEL, INDIANAPOLIS IN.**

Department of Vermont Oratorical District Chairmen for the 2010 Contest and District Contest Dates are:

**1<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT (Addison, Chittenden and Franklin County)**

**CONTEST: FEBRUARY 6, 2010 (snow Date is February 13<sup>th</sup>)- Vergennes Post #14 – 10:00 a.m.**

**CONTACT:** Karlene Devine, 834 Little Chicago Road

Ferrisburg VT 05456

TEL: 877-6392

E-mail: [kdevine@gmavt.net](mailto:kdevine@gmavt.net)

**2<sup>nd</sup> DISTRICT (Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans County):**

**CONTEST: FEBRUARY 13, 2010; Location – TBA; 1:00 p.m.**

**CONTACT:** Lou Furry, P O Box 1286,

Hardwick VT 05813

TEL: 472-6007

E-mail: [caledoniacommander@yahoo.com](mailto:caledoniacommander@yahoo.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> DISTRICT (Lamoille, Orange, and Washington County):**

**CONTEST: TBA**

**CONTACT: 1<sup>st</sup> District Chairperson**

**4<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT (Bennington and Rutland County):**

**CONTEST: FEBRUARY 20, 2010; Place – TBA; 9:00 a.m.**

**CONTACT:** Leslie Howe - 63 Lafayette St.,

Rutland, VT 05701

TEL: 855-8311

E-Mail: [lesfreda@aol.com](mailto:lesfreda@aol.com)

**5<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT (Windham and Windsor County):**

**CONTEST: FEBRUARY 6, 2010; Chester American Legion Post #67; 10:00 a.m.**

**CONTACT:** Edward Brown, 25 US Rte 5,

Windsor VT 050859

TEL: 674-6882

E-Mail: [edbrown25@wildblue.net](mailto:edbrown25@wildblue.net)

**You should contact the District Representative in the area nearest you for information on setting up a contest in your school or call The American Legion of Vermont Department Headquarters at 802-223-7131 or toll free at 800-501-7131; E-mail; [alvthq@myfairpoint.net](mailto:alvthq@myfairpoint.net) or check our website at [legionvthq.com](http://legionvthq.com).**

Karlene Devine

Department Oratorical Chairman

834 Little Chicago Road, Ferrisburg VT 05456

TEL: 802-877-6392

ENCL.

The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest Official Rules 2009-2010