

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

August 9, 2019

Greetings from the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.

During each school 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 college scholarship.

I encourage you to visit www.legion.org/oratorical for contest rules and requirements for academic year 2019-2020. I recommend a faculty member work with interested students. Encouragement and assistance at the school level is key to 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.

Most local contests are conducted in early January. Top orators advance to district and regional competitions with the very best orators advancing to the state-level contest in late February. In addition to awards and scholarships earned at lower levels of competition, 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. 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 or call me at (757) 477-7904.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile program.

For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Mueller" followed by a circled "ed" in the right margin.

Legionnaire Greg Mueller
Oratorical Chairman
American Legion, Department of Virginia