

**DATE:** OCTOBER 4, 2017

**TO:** ALL POST COMMANDERS AND ADJUTANTS  
ALL POST ORATORICAL CONTEST CHAIRMEN

**FROM:** GLENN HERO, CHAIRMAN, ALL DISTRICT COMMANDERS  
ALL DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS

**RE:** THE AMERICAN LEGION 2017/2018 H.W. DARE MANESS HIGH  
SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM –  
“A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST”

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Enclosed are the Rules and Regulations for **The American Legion 80<sup>th</sup> Annual High School Oratorical Scholarship Program “A Constitutional Speech Contest”**. Please note the contest’s name and use it when publicizing the contest. Also enclosed is the Contestant Certification form that must be completed by the contestant’s high school principal and forwarded with the proper signatures to the appropriate contest level representative.

**YOU ARE RECEIVING INFORMATION ON THE CONTEST BEFORE IT IS SENT TO THE SCHOOLS, SO THAT YOU CAN LET THE SCHOOLS KNOW THAT THE INFORMATION IS BEING MAILED TO THEIR GUIDANCE OFFICE ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>.** Additional Rules and Regulations brochures are available from the Department website – [scarolinalegion.org](http://scarolinalegion.org) under Legion Programs (Oratorical Contest).

National Headquarters has provided the Department with a limited quantity of the The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest Chairman’s Guide that contains a suggested contest script, suggested news release and samples of forms used in the contest. Copies of the Chairman’s Guide may be downloaded from The American Legion National Headquarters Oratorical Contest website (<http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/oratoricalrules.pdf>).

**The success and/or failure of this contest depends on you.** Please see that the principal and/or guidance counselor of your local high school(s) is personally contacted in order to assure that every student who is interested can be contacted directly by a Post representative.

Post Contests must be concluded by **JANUARY 24, 2018**. **Post winners will advance directly to the Quadrant Oratorical Contest. No District Contests will be held.** However, your District Commander will be working with the Vice Commander to plan the Quadrant Contest. The enclosed certification blank must be sent to your **District Commander** immediately following your Post Contest. **District Commanders** will forward results to the respective **Vice Commander**.

**All Quadrant Contests will be held on FEBRUARY 17, 2018. NO exceptions will be allowed except for inclement weather.** Your Post will be notified of the complete details on the time and place for its respective Quadrant Oratorical Contest.

The State Finals Contest will be held **MARCH 10, 2018**, 10:00 a.m., at The American Legion Department of South Carolina, 103 Legion Plaza Road, Columbia, SC 29210.

In publicizing the contest, please emphasize that the following scholarships will be awarded:

Post Contests	Discretion of Posts
Quadrant Contests	Certificate
State Finals	1st place - \$2000 scholarship
	2nd place - \$1000 scholarship
	3rd-4th place - \$500.00 scholarship
National Contest:	
First Round	\$1500 scholarship to each participating State Winner
Second Round	\$1500 scholarship to each participating contestant who does not advance to the National Finals
National Finals 1st place	\$18,000 scholarship
2nd place	\$16,000 scholarship
3rd place	\$14,000 scholarship