

**82<sup>nd</sup> Annual**  
**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**2019 HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
**“A Constitutional Speech Contest”**  
**For All SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**



*Pictured left to right above: Department Commander Hugh Holmes, Michael Patton of Hill City, Shaina Determan of Alexandria, Sierra Daugaard of Hoven, Maggie Fouberg of Aberdeen, 2018 Department Champion Griffin Smith of Spearfish, and Americanism Commission Chairman Larry Madsen of Gettysburg, SD.*

### WHAT TO DO

Write an oration, which takes not less than EIGHT (8) minutes nor more than TEN (10) minutes to deliver, on some phase of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government.

In addition to the above prepared oration, each contestant must be prepared to speak extemporaneously for THREE (3) to FIVE (5) minutes on any of the Articles or Amendments of the Constitution, Assigned Topics for 2019 Contest.

### DATES FOR ENTERING AND COMPLETING CONTEST

High school students who wish to enter the contest should decide promptly and notify their high school principal, who should notify local Post American Legion officials. If there is more than one entrant from a high school, there must be a Post contest conducted under the joint auspices of the high school and the American Legion Post to decide the local representative. Every high school conducting a local contest under the joint auspices of the school and local American Legion Post is authorized to enter a contestant in the district contest.

### LOCAL CONTESTS

Contestants are not required to commit oration to memory for local contests, and during the preparation period for the extemporaneous talk, may make notes to be used during delivery.

However, no notes or prompting will be allowed in contests above the Post level.

All Post contests must be completed by January 13, 2019. Send the name of the Post first place winner to your District Americanism Chairperson.

### DISTRICT CONTESTS

District American Legion Americanism Chairs, and the counties under the jurisdiction of each are as follows:

**DIST. 1** – (Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Ziebach counties) Chair: Ken Sabers, (ksabers@rushmore.com) 1908 Butte View Dr. Sturgis, SD 57785. District Contest to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, Jan. 6, 2019, 1:00pm. Storm date, Jan. 13, same time and place.

**DIST. 2** – (Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Mellette, Pennington, Shannon, Todd counties) Chair: Paul Douglas, 622 Auburn Dr, Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest to be held at Rapid City American Legion Post 22, 818 E. St. Patrick St., Rapid City, January 13, 2019 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 20, 2019 7:00 p.m. same place.

**DIST. 3** - (Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp counties) Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry\_madsen@hotmail.com) or 906 E Commercial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest to be held at the Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center, 714 N Grand Ave, Pierre, SD. January 20, 2019 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 27 same time and place.

**DIST. 4** – (Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, Spink, Walworth counties) Chair: Dale Strom, (dale\_strom@yahoo.com) 115 N. Kline St, Aberdeen, SD 57401. District Contest to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 6, 2019, 4:00 p.m. Storm date, January 13th, same time and place.

**DIST. 5** – (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts counties) Chair: Shelli Romeu (shell.romeu@gmail.com) PO Box 284, Watertown, SD 57201. District Contest will be held at Watertown Post home, Jan. 20, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 27, same time and place.

**DIST. 6** – (Aurora, Beadle, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Miner, Sanborn counties) Chair: Kim Thomas, (photostoday@midstatesd.net) 112 S Merrill St Chamberlain SD 57325. District Contest to be held at the Best Western Hotel 2000 Dakota Ave S, Huron, SD, January 13, 2019, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 20th, same time and place.

**DIST. 7** – (Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Union counties) Chair: Kevin Hempel, (krhempel@gmail.com) 25793 470<sup>th</sup> Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57107. District Contest to be held at Humbolt American Legion Post Home, Humbolt, SD 57035, January 13, 2019, 2:00 p.m. Storm date January 20<sup>th</sup> same time and place.

**DIST. 8** – (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Yankton counties) Chair: Greg Geiman, (gksn\_82501@hotmail.com) 410 Stafford St Scotland, SD 57059. District Contest to be held at the Yankton Public Library, 515 Walnut St, Yankton SD 57078, January 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m. Storm Date January 17, 2019, same time and place.

**District Chairperson is in charge of District Contest**

**ALL District Contests must be completed on or before January 27, 2019**

#### **EACH DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON MUST**

Report the name of the District winner to, State Americanism Commission Chair, Larry Madsen at [larry\\_madsen@hotmail.com](mailto:larry_madsen@hotmail.com) or 765-2746, and to SD American Legion State Headquarters at: [adjutant@sdlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@sdlegion.org) or 605-886-3604 upon the completion of their District Contest.

**“All the great speakers were bad speakers at first”  
Ralph Waldo Emerson**

*Teachers of Government, History, Civics, English and Speech can all be of great assistance to students in helping to prepare for the contests. School and public librarians can be of help as well.*

## **STATE CONTEST**

The top contestant from each District will compete in the State Finals on Sunday, February 10, 2019. The contest will be held at the Holiday Inn –Convention Center Spearfish, SD 57783 at 10:30 a.m. or at the conclusion of the non-denominational Sunday Service adjournment of the 2019 SD American Legion MidWinter Conference.

### **NATIONAL CONTEST SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the Final Round of the National Contest as follows: 1st place - \$18,000; 2nd place - \$16,000; 3rd place - \$14,000. 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.

### **PRIZES AND AWARDS**

Chairpersons of local contests will secure no less than three nor more than five competent local citizens to judge the local contest.

If there are local awards, they must be funded by the local American Legion Post.

Chairpersons of District contests will secure three or five competent citizens to judge the district contest. The winner of each District contest will receive a medal and have the right to represent the district in the State contest. Any other prizes at the District level are the responsibility of the individual District. Five judges of college status will evaluate the work of the contestants in the State Contest. The first place winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a trophy, plus a plaque for display in his/her high school trophy case. Second place winner will receive a \$500 scholarship and a trophy and third place winner will receive a \$300 scholarship and a trophy. Remaining finalists will each receive a \$100 scholarship and a trophy. Award scholarships are redeemable in any school above high school level.

### **MATERIAL FOR STUDY**

All contestants and coaches should be familiar with the rules for American Legion oratory as defined in the national brochure Annual High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, “A Constitutional Speech Contest” which are available on line at:

<http://www.legion.org/publication> or by writing State Headquarters, The American Legion, PO Box 67, Watertown, S.D. 57201