

**The
American
Legion**



For God and Country

September 2016

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TO: High School Principals and Guidance Counselors
American Legion Post commanders and Adjutants

SUBJECT: 2016-2017 American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

Enclosed Please find the following:

A Poster to be placed on your school scholarship bulletin board.

A Brochure that explains the rules of the Oratorical contest, the prepared speech and the assigned topic speech.

The American Legion strongly encourages any high School student who is a United States citizen to participate because it is designed to create interest, foster appreciation and gain a better understanding of the United States Constitution.

Your local American Legion Post or district Oratorical chairman will be contacting your school in the near future to answer any questions you may have about the American Legion Oratorical Contest.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest is open to all 9-12 grades students in public, parochial, private, and approved home school programs in New Hampshire. Each high school may select one student to participate in its local American Legion District contest. For More information please see <http://www.legion.org/oratorical> and <http://www.legionnh.org/>

All District Contests will be held before February 20, 2017. If your school has a contestant, please contact the local American Legion Post. Contestants will be notified of the district contest date and location. The State finals will be held on March 4, 2017 at St. Anselm College at 9:00am.

Assigned Topics

The assigned topic discourse must not consume less than three (3) minutes or more than five (5) minutes for delivery. The purpose of the assigned topic discourse is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

The assigned topic shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his or her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery. The topic will be on some phase of the U.S. Constitution, selected from Articles and Sections as listed under assigned topics for the current year's contest in this brochure.

All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language on the same assigned topic.

Assigned Topics for 2017 Oratorical Contest

Amendment 7

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment 10

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Amendment 16

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Amendment 17

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.