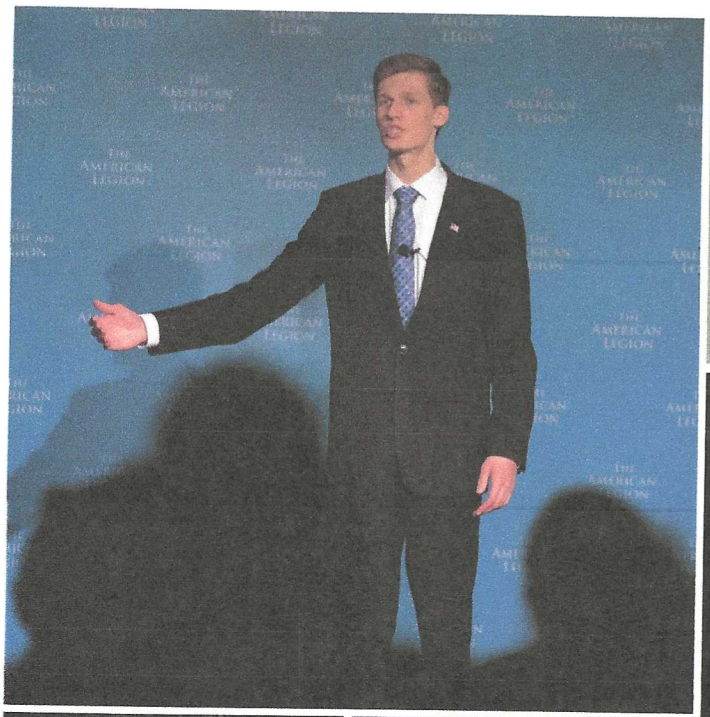
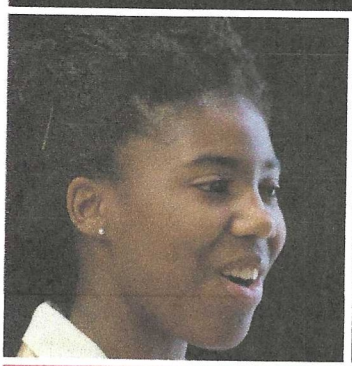
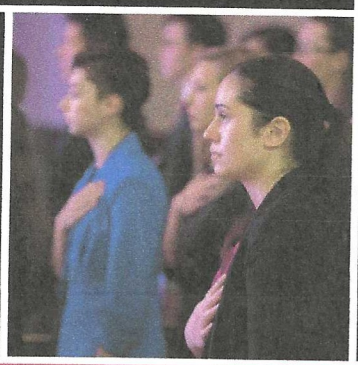
AMERICAN LEGION | Oratorical Contest











"A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"

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Oratorical Tips - Getting Started

(Listed here are a few reminders as you are getting into your 2026-2027 Oratorical Program)

Identify your Oratorical Chairperson: (Let the Dept Chair know who they are). (Division, District, Post, etc.) **By Fall Conference. Past it up through your Chain of Command. Leaders need to know.**

Reminder - If you do not have a Chairperson, Commander is it.

Preparation with Contestant: (Never skip a level for the speech. Students should be allowed to speak at every level, **EVEN** if you only have one contestant).

Locate an appropriate facility for your Contest: (Holding Room 1 for all for an 8-10 minute speech) (Assigned Topic preparation room) (Holding Room 2 for after the Assigned Topic speech) Individual rooms are good, but only if they are of the same quality. Good parking and space for Social afterwards is good. Make sure all doors to the contest area are secured and monitored. No one should enter while a contestant is speaking. Ensure flag is displayed properly and not blocked by other things. The US flag is the only must have.

Contest Staff: All need to have a Background Check and Risk Training completed IAW TAL Policy since 2020 (Especially judges, ushers, escorts, holding room volunteers, ages 18 and up). Do it now & you're all set for 2026-2027. **Go to *nclegion.org*, Programs, Select Background Check.**

Judges -5 / Timekeepers -2 / Escorts -1 per contestant / Tabulators -3 / **Ushers -for Contest Room doors.** Have Alternates on hand as well. (Start a short list of supporters and alternates to conduct your contest. Try to get community leaders to judge your contest but certainly limit the number of Legionnaires).

Getting contestants: Try to contact schools, talk with Principals, teachers, counselors, your city's website, businesses, and parents. Attend Board meetings and advertise on the radio and in the local newspaper. Post notices in places where students gather. Talk to them. (Post notices where you can). Grow your own –Start an eighth-grade Constitutional Essay Contest to spark interest and grow speech contestants). Offer a scholarship to the contest winner. (If needed, do a fundraiser. Yard sale and raise $500.00 ---Easy, Local donations, etc.).

Contest Programs (Doing for the event is a great thing to do, but do not print the judges and contestant's names on your handouts and programs. Those will be announced after the contest has concluded. **(Follow the script in conducting your Contest).**

Assigned Topics -are posted online under *Programs, Oratorical*. (Have a knowledgeable person work with the contestant on them to ensure they understand them and can speak well on them).

Set up an Oratorical Kit with ALL Contest info and materials.

*(More information and materials are **available to you**. Please contact the Committee with any questions or concerns). **You can see all the information related to the Contest on Mylegion.org. Scroll down to: Oratorical Contest, Resources. There you will find flyers, brochures, news release information, forms, and more. Even past winner videos).***

(JoAnn Blyther & the NC Department Oratorical & Education Committee) jablyther@aol.com *910-217-6258*