

**AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
“A Constitutional Speech Contest”**

For All Students In THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**THE AMERICAN LEGION OF SOUTH DAKOTA**



**TOP ORATOR** – Joe Schartz of Humboldt captured first place in the 2011 South Dakota American Legion High School Oratorical Contest. Pictured above, (left to right) are South Dakota American Legion Department Commander G.D. “Hoot” Gibson of Sioux Falls, 2011 South Dakota American Legion High School Oratorical Champion Joe Schartz and South Dakota American Legion 2011 Department Americanism Officer Hans Nelson of Veblen.

**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 oration on one of the above subjects, be prepared to speak extemporaneously for **THREE (3)** to **FIVE (5)** minutes on any of the Articles or Amendments of the Constitution, also listed on the second page of the National Brochure.

**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 American Legion officials. If there is more than one entrant from a high school, there must be a local 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 preparation period for extemporaneous talk, may make notes to be used during delivery. However, no notes or prompting will be allowed in contests above the local level.**

All local Post contests must be completed by January 1, 2012. The name of the first place winner is to be sent to the proper chairperson named below.

**DISTRICT CONTESTS**

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

**DIST. 1** – (Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Ziebach counties) Chairman Russ Edwards, 20616 Maitland Rd., Lead, SD 57754. District Contest will be held at Piedmont Valley American Legion Post 311, 122 Main St., Piedmont, Jan. 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 22, same time and place.

**DIST. 2** – (Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Mellette, Pennington, Shannon, Todd counties) Chairman Mike Pelly, 1403 West Boulevard, Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest will held at Rapid City American Legion Post 22, 818 E. St. Patrick St., Rapid City, Jan. 8, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 15, same time and place.

**DIST. 3** – (Faulk, Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp counties) Chairman Larry Madsen, 906 E. Commercial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest will be held at Pierre American Legion Post 8 Log Cabin, 520 S Pierre St., Pierre, Jan. 8, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan.15, same time and place.

**DIST. 4** – (Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, McPherson, Spink,

Walworth counties) Chairman Dave Yost, 602 3rd St., Leola, SD 57456. District Contest will be held at the Aberdeen American Legion Post 24 Home, 316 S. 2nd St., Aberdeen, Jan. 7, 2012, 1:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 14, same time and place.

**DIST. 5** – (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts counties) Chairman Byron Callies, 1332 20th St., NE, Watertown, SD 57201. District Contest will be held at Cornerstone Methodist Church, 1350 11th St. NE, Watertown, Jan. 8, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 15, same time and place.

**DIST. 6** – (Aurora, Beadle, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Miner, Sanborn counties) Chairman Robert Brodkorb, PO Box 395, Wolsey, SD 57384. District Contest will be held at Arlington American Legion Post 42 Home, 108 Main St, Arlington, Jan. 7, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 14, same time and place.

**DIST. 7** – (Lake, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody counties) Chairman Bill Huntimer 509 W. 9th St., Dell Rapids, SD 57022. District Contest will be held at Dell Rapids American Legion Post 65, 408 N. Orleans Ave., Dell Rapids Jan. 14, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 21, same time and place.

**DIST. 8** – (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner, Union, Yankton counties) Chairman William Dolan, 514 N. 1st St., Beresford, SD 57004. District Contest will be held at Yankton Auditorium, 2000 Mulberry, Yankton, Jan. 8, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 15, same time and place.

The above mentioned district chairpersons are in charge of district contests to be held within their district. These district contests must be completed on or before January 15, 2012.

District Chairpersons **MUST** report names of first place winners in each district to State Commission and to State Headquarters immediately after the completion of their District Contest.

## STATE CONTEST

The top contestant from each District will compete in the State Finals which will be held in Oacoma, SD, February 12, 2012. The contest will be held at the Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, SD at 11:00 a.m. or after adjournment of the MidWinter Conference.

## NATIONAL CONTEST SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the Final Round of the National Contest as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> place - \$18,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$16,000; 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 made 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.

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. Fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth place finishers will each receive a \$100 scholarship and a trophy. Award scholarships 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 is available by writing State Headquarters, The American Legion, PO Box 67, Watertown, S.D. 57201.

Teachers of history, civics, English and speech can be of great assistance to students in helping prepare for the contest. School and public librarians can be of help as well.

