

OCTOBER 2010

TO: HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

FROM: KARLENE DEVINE, CHAIRMAN  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT AMERICAN LEGION  
**HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST**

**Do you know a student that would like money for college? Consider the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program.**

The American Legion Department of Vermont, each year, sponsors an Oratorical Contest for high school students in Vermont. The purpose of the Contest is to develop knowledge and appreciation of the United States Constitution, the ability to think and speak clearly and critically, and the acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. Another purpose of the program is to assist students in paying the high cost of a college education.

Vermont students have excelled at the National Contest. Brooke Connor of Bridport, VT and Middlebury Union High School placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2010 National Contest and returned with \$15,500 in scholarship money. In 2009, Caroline Heydinger of Brattleboro Union High School placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the National Contest and returned to Vermont with \$17,500 in scholarship assistance.

**AWARDS**

**The State winner receives \$2,000 from The American Legion Department of Vermont and the privilege of competing at the National Contest. The runners up in the State Contest will each receive \$100 from The American Legion Department of Vermont. All contestants may apply for additional scholarship funds from The American Legion Department of Vermont.**

On the National level, the American Legion Life Insurance Fund provides the scholarship money for the program. Contestants in the National Finals receive scholarships of **\$18,000, \$16,000, and \$14,000** for the top three places. State winners who participate in the first-round National contests receive **\$1,500** scholarships. Second-round National participants (who do not make the Finals) receive additional **\$1,500** scholarships.

There are (5) Districts in VT, divided into County groups. A student enters the Contest through a local American Legion Post in their County. That Post runs a competition between local students. The winner of the Post competition goes on to the District competition. It is the winners from the District contests that go on to the **American Legion Department competition, scheduled for Sat. Feb. 26, 2011** in Vermont. (snow date Mar. 6)

Here is a list of District Chairpersons and contact information.

**SCHEDULE OF CONTESTS**

**District 1**

**(Addison, Chittenden, Franklin Counties)**

Contact Department Chairperson for the date.

Karlene DeVine (802) 877-6392

E-mail: [kdevine@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kdevine@myfairpoint.net)

## District 2

(Caledonia, Orleans, Essex Counties)

Contact Department Chairperson for the date.

Karlene DeVine (802) 877-6392

E-mail: [kdevine@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kdevine@myfairpoint.net)

## District 3

(Washington, Orange, Lamoille Counties)

Chairperson:

Leonard Normandeau (802) 476-6823

E-mail: [cashtronics@myfairpoint.net](mailto:cashtronics@myfairpoint.net)

**DATE:** Feb 12, 2011

**Place:** Post #10, Barre

**Time:** 9 AM

## District 4

(Rutland & Bennington Counties)

Chairperson:

Leslie Howe (802) 236-2651

E-mail: [lesfreda@myfairpoint.net](mailto:lesfreda@myfairpoint.net)

**DATE:** Feb. 12, 2011

**Place:** Post #31, Rutland

**Time:** 9 AM

## District 5

(Windsor, Windham Counties)

Chairperson:

Stan Garland (413) 648-9126

E-mail: [uped@comcast.net](mailto:uped@comcast.net)

**DATE:** Feb. 19, 2011

**Place:** Post #26, Brattleboro

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ AM

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT CONTEST**  
**Sat. Feb. 26, 2011 (snow date Mar. 5)**  
**Norwich University, Cabot Hall, Northfield VT**  
**Time: 9:30 A.M. Arrival of Contestants**

**Lunch following at Sorrell Maynard Post #63, Northfield, VT**

**For information about lodging near Norwich University, contact**

**<http://www.norwich.edu/about/map/lodging.html>**

**There is a listing of hotels, motels, and inns.**

## NATIONAL CONTESTS

National Contests are **April 15-17, 2011** at **UNIVERSITY PLACE CONFERENCE CENTER & HOTEL, INDIANAPOLIS, IN.** The Vermont Department sends one contestant to the first of the three National rounds.

**To view videos of the 2010 contest or to learn more, go to [www.legion.org/programs](http://www.legion.org/programs) and [www.legionvthq.com/programs](http://www.legionvthq.com/programs)**

The American Legion takes great pride in the Contest and a strong interest in the contestants and their families. For this reason, participants have cited the experience of meeting people involved in this program as a special benefit of the competition. Entrants reaching advanced levels of the Contest have the added chance to meet students and Legionnaires from throughout the Nation.

**WE ASK YOUR HELP IN GETTING THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR STUDENT BODY. ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12, WHO ARE CITIZENS OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.**

A contestant competing in additional years may use the same subject/content for the prepared oration. This allows that someone competing as a freshman to use the next years to perfect their presentation and subject--gaining valuable experience and proficiency each year.

**SCHOOL-LOCAL POST CONTEST MUST BE COMPLETED BY: January 29, 2011**

**DISTRICT CONTEST MUST BE COMPLETED BY: February 20, 2011**

**You should contact the District Representative in the area nearest you for information on setting up a Contest in your school or call The American Legion of Vermont Department Headquarters at 802-223-7131 or Toll Free at 800-501-7131; E-mail; [alvthq@myfairpoint.net](mailto:alvthq@myfairpoint.net) or check our website at [legionvthq.com](http://legionvthq.com).**

Karlene DeVine  
Department Oratorical Chairman  
834 Little Chicago Road, Ferrisburgh, VT 05456  
TEL: 802-877-6392

ENCL.

The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest Official Rules 2010-2011  
The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program  
The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Application