

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 16 - 17, 2013**

Resolution No. 8: Oratorical Contest National Finals

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, The December 2011 change to the charter of The American Legion created the need to examine and edit language within certain resolutions of the organization in order to bring a resolution into compliance with the Charter, and gave opportunity to correct deficiencies in other resolutions, the subject herein being one as originally set out in Res. 38, NEC, May 1995; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest” is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States, develop leadership qualities and communication skills and to prepare high school students for the acceptance of the responsibilities of American citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest” has been a national youth activity of The American Legion since 1938 during which time more than three million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to several thousand participants at the national level of competition; and

WHEREAS, NEC Resolution No. 38, May 2-4, 1995, established a three-year test period for a new contest structure of national competition, whereby a system of elimination contests are conducted at a single location which feature nine first round contests, three second round contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and

WHEREAS, NEC Resolution No. 39, May 5-6, 1999, made permanent the new contest format to The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest” as established in NEC Resolution No. 38, May 2-4, 1995; and

WHEREAS, The concept of holding all national level oratorical contests in one location offers the opportunity for greater administrative control, a greater degree of fairness and uniformity while reducing administrative costs associated with conducting the national contests; and

WHEREAS, The task of administering the national oratorical competition is the responsibility of the Americanism and Children & Youth Division staff in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, The national oratorical contest has been successfully conducted in Indianapolis, Indiana, under the aforementioned single site contest structure for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the National Americanism Commission and with concurrence from the National Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2013, That the contest structure at the national level of The American Legion High School Oratorical

Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest” be a system of elimination contests conducted at a single location which will feature nine first-round contests, three second-round contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the scholarships award structure for the national level of oratorical competition be as follows so as to annually award the expenditure of scholarship funds in the amount of \$138,000:

Fifty-four department winners competing in first-round of national contest \$1,500 each

First-round winners eliminated in second round of national contest \$1,500 each

First place national contest winner \$18,000

Second place national contest winner \$16,000

Third place national contest winner \$14,000; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national level of competition for The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest,” be conducted in Indianapolis, Indiana, each year; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Commander, after review and approval of the National Judge Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be needed to support the execution of the Oratorical Contest National Finals and the National Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same.