

**2022 RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE
84RD ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL
ORATORICAL CONTEST
SPONSORED BY**



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Anthony Dias
Department Commander

Milton K. Lashus
Department Adjutant

Lisa A. McPhee, Chairman
Department Oratorical Committee

This competition is approved by the
National Association of Secondary School Principals
and the Department of Education Commonwealth of
Massachusetts

Inquiries may be directed to
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157 Water Street
Clinton, MA 01510
**Cell 978-230-6208 – please leave a message if no
answer.**

The rules governing the Department Contest are the same as those that regulate the National Contest.

THE DEPARTMENT PRIZES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

First Prize	\$1,000*
Second Prize	\$ 800
Third Prize	\$ 700
Fourth Prize	\$ 600

The first-place winner receives the state prize of \$1,000 and then receives a \$2,000 scholarship upon participation in the first round of the National Contest. The state oratorical champion will automatically advance into the National American Legion Oratorical Competition. See the National Contest brochure for further details. The National Finals Contest will be held April 9 – 11, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

ORGANIZATION

The contest will be under the direct supervision of the American Legion Oratorical Committee, appointed by the Department Commander. Final authority on all issues raised shall remain with the Committee.

The State has been divided into three Zones by Districts

Zone 1 - Districts 1,2, and 3 (Berkshire, Franklin-Hampshire, and Hampden Counties)

Zone 2 - Districts 4,5, and 6 (Worcester, Middlesex, and Norfolk Counties)

Zone 3 - Districts 7,8,9, and 10 (Suffolk, Essex, Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Counties)

Elimination contests will be held in the Zones in the order named. The Zone winners will compete in the State Finals to be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at the Marlborough High School in Marlborough.

Each Department (state) of the American Legion is responsible for all arrangements for Department Contests. Each Department can enter only one contestant into the National First Round Contest.

SCHEDULE OF 2022 CONTESTS
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS
DECEMBER 31, 2021

Contestants are to be selected by the school principals in any manner they deem suitable to represent the school. The name(s) shall be certified by the principal to the Oratorical Committee, postmarked no later than December 31, 2021, on a form that will be supplied to the school. Any American Legion Post may sponsor as many contestants from a school as they wish.

ZONE CONTESTS
February 1 to February 20, 2022
(Tentative)

The first contest that a contestant enters, sponsored by the American Legion, is the District Contest. School authorities and contestants will be notified through the mail as well as the Department web site as to where these contests will be held. All contestants should be prepared to enter this contest by January 2, 2022.

DEPARTMENT CONTEST
6 MARCH 2022
(Tentative)

The four winners from the Zone Contests will compete for the Department Oratorical Championship

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants in the contest shall be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States. All contestants must be bona fide students herein described as any student under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest who is presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school), commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade 12.

Students must be enrolled in high school or junior high school during the time of participation at any level of the contest. High school students that graduate early during the school year are eligible to compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the department finals contest.

Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the department. (state) where they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition in only one department.

PREPARED ORATION

All contestants shall be required to deliver a prepared oration, which must be the original effort of each contestant, and must require not less than eight (8) nor more than ten (10) minutes for delivery.

The prepared oration must be based on some phase or phases of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. Failure to do this may result in disqualification. The same subject is to be used for the prepared oration throughout all contests.

The contestant may choose their own subject, or they may select a title similar to topics which follow:

An American Citizen's Rights and Responsibilities Under the Constitution
Our Constitution – Worth Having, Worth Defending
The Constitution In A Changing World
The Constitution In Our Everyday Life
The Bill of Rights – Reciprocal Rights and Duties
The Constitution – Guardian of People's Rights

Contestants may have in their possession a copy of their prepared oration in the first holding room. The copy may be in electronic or paper form. They may consult the copy of their prepared oration, until they exit the holding room in order to begin the contest, at which time the copy of the prepared oration will be surrendered to the contest official who is monitoring the first holding room.

THE ASSIGNED TOPIC DISCOURSE FEATURE

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.

Each contestant speaks on the same assigned topic which shall be drawn by the contest official in full view of the audience immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her prepared oration and will be made known to the audience and each contestant approximately five minutes prior to the time of delivery.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment XIV, Section 3

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Amendment XXV, Section 4

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

JUDGING

The State Contest shall be judged by five judges. The District and Zone Contests shall be judged by three or five judges. Under no condition shall a judge be used for more than one contest in the same year. The decision of the judges shall be final.

CONTEST REGULATIONS

Dress – Uniforms are not permitted. Appropriate business attire is required for all contestants. Contestants may not wear awards and medals from previous competitions.

Copies of the Prepared Oration – Contestants participating in the State Finals shall submit to the State Chairman a neatly printed copy of their prepared oration. Titles of orations must be shown.

Order of Appearance – Contestants shall draw for the order in which they appear, the drawing to be conducted by the Chairman, who will introduce the speakers as Number 1, Number 2, etc.

Notes and Lecterns – The use of notes, amplification, lectern, or speaker's stand by contestants, or prompting in any manner, is not permitted.

Language – All contestants at each contest level are required to speak in the English language. It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases of a foreign language into the prepared oration and/or assigned topic in order to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. The vast majority of the prepared oration and/or assigned topic must be delivered in the English language.

Songs – The singing of a song in any language is not permitted and will result in the immediate disqualification of the contestant. The contestant may, however, quote a verse(s) of a song provided proper attribution is made.

Quotations – In both the prepared oration and the assigned topic discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than 10 words in length, the author's name must be given in the manuscript and cited orally.

HINTS, TIPS, AND UPDATES

Contestants are encouraged to visit the American Legion Department of Massachusetts web site at <http://www.masslegion.org/> for hints, tips, and the latest updates, especially to the contest schedules. When you reach the Department web site, click on Programs Americanism Oratorical to reach the Oratorical page. The Chairman will post all updates on the Oratorical page as soon as they are available. Contestants are also encouraged to visit the American Legion National web site at <http://www.legion.org/oratorical> for further information including videos of the top three finalists in previous years' National contests delivering their orations [URL for videos is <https://www.legion.org/oratorical/videos>]

THE ORATORICAL COMMITTEE

Chairman – Lisa A. McPhee, 157 Water St, Clinton, MA 01510
Cell 617-513-4484 chairman@maoratorical.org

Vice Chariman – Scott Connor, 7 Meadowbrook Rd, Spencer, MA 01562
Phone 508-885-5618 smconner@charter.net

District Contacts

District 1 (Berkshire County)
TBA

District 2 (Franklin & Hampshire Counties)
Brian Willette 174 Brainerd St, South Hadley, MA 01075
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District 3 (Hampden County)
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District 4 (Worcester County)
Scott Connor, 7 Meadowbrook Rd., Spencer 01582
508-885-5618 smconner@charter.net

District 5 (Middlesex County)
TBA

District 6 (Norfolk County)
Wendy Eng, 49 Payne St., Quincy, MA
Home 617-584-0079

District 7 (Suffolk County)
William Chisholm, 115 Eutaw St., E. Boston, MA 02128
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District 8 (Essex County)
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District 9 (Bristol County)
Lisa Borges, 2396 Riverside Ave Apt 1, Somerset MA 02726
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District 10 (Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes & Nantucket Counties)
David Sillars ----Sillyman505@hotmail.com
508-264-3545

**2022 AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS, ORATORICAL CONTEST
CERTIFICATION OF HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE**

Student's Name: _____

Sponsored by American Legion Post No.: _____ District: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

County: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Name and Location of High School Contestant Now Attends:

Grade: _____

The principal of the high school must certify the contestant's age and the fact that they attend the particular school by signing this form:

Principal: _____

The high school principal is authorized to select one or more school representative(s) in any manner deemed satisfactory. This application must be filled out completely and mailed, not later than 31 December 2022, to Lisa A. McPhee 157 Water St, Clinton, MA 01510. Applicants are also encouraged to send a copy of the completed and signed application as a readable PDF file to Lredsox1964@aol.com as backup, particularly if applying close to the deadline date.