

## 2005 HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

**2005 ORATORICAL CONTEST** in Texas will begin in November, 2004 when high school students will enter competition to qualify for the National Oratorical Contest, with an ultimate award of \$160,000 in scholarships. Posts and schools may hold local contests during the Fall of 2004 if they so desire. Whenever possible, it is recommended that the Oratorical Contest be presented before the student body of a high school. It is strongly recommended that the National Rules be strictly followed in all contests. Any Post wishing to bid for hosting the 2005 Department Contest should have their bid in Department by September 13, 2004.

### **SELECTION OF CONTESTANTS AND DATES:**

1. Each high school in the state may select representatives and hold its own elimination contest after October 30, 2004, but not later than January 2, 2005, and certify the winner to the local American Legion Americanism Chairman or Post Commander, who will certify such winner to the District Americanism Chairman. A Post may sponsor a winner from each high school in its general area to the District Contest.

2. District Contests shall be held on or after January 3, 2005, but not later than January 22, 2005 at such place as may be directed by the District Chairman, and the winner certified to the Division Americanism Chairman.

3. Division Contests shall be held on or after January 23, 2005, but not later than February 6, 2005, at such place as may be directed by the Division Chairman, and the winner certified by each Division Chairman to Department Headquarters, Box 3401 Ed Bluestein Blvd, Austin TX 78721. Should the winner decline to participate in the Department Finals for any reason, the first runner-up should then be certified as the participant by the Division Chairman.

4. The American Legion, Department of Texas, Oratorical Contest Finals, will be held Monday, February 21, 2005 (February 28 ALTERNATE) (site to be announced). Department Headquarters will certify the winner to the National Americanism Commission not later than March 4st. The National Finals will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 9 - 10, 2005, at the IUPUI Conference Center & Hotel.

### **SUPERVISION OF CONTEST:**

1. The Americanism Chairman in charge of each Contest shall have full control and supervision of each Contest and his decisions shall be final. The Department Oratorical Chairman will direct the Department Contest. Official judging cards, tabulation forms, and timekeeper forms can be found in the Post Oratorical Chairman's Guide. Extra forms can be furnished upon request.

### **AWARDS:**

1. The American Legion Post may present a scholarship or such awards to the winner of the High School Contest as it chooses so long as such awards have no monetary value.

2. The American Legion, Department of Texas, will award: A certificate to each District and Division winner. Department medals will go to the four Division winners as they place in the Department Finals. An attractive plaque is presented in appreciation to the school of each participant in the Department Contest.

3. The winner of first place will be certified to National Headquarters as the Texas representative in the Regional Contest on March 4, 2005, and the Department will award a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of his/her choice, provided the winner enters college in the fall term after graduation from high school; 2nd place - \$750 scholarship; 3rd place \$500; 4th place \$250.

4. The Department Champion will receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship from National provided he/she participates in the Regional Contest, and an additional \$1,500 scholarship from National if the participant advances to the Sectional Contest and does not advance to the National Finals. Competitors in the National Finals are awarded scholarships as follows; 1st - \$18,000; 2nd - \$16,000; 3rd - \$14,000.

### **FINANCES:**

1. The Department assumes no liability for the expenses of any individual contestant in connection with any High School, District or Division Contest.

2. Meals, hotel expenses, plus .25¢ per mile round trip for contestant and one adult in car for Division winners will be paid by the Department to the State Contest. (No air travel is authorized.) Such expenses will be paid to the adult chaperon or to the Post. No monies are to be paid directly to the contestant to protect his/her future eligibility to participate in the Interscholastic League. Contestant's actual expenses will be reimbursed.

3. The winner of the Department Contest will represent the State of Texas in the National Contests and expenses for such contestant will be provided in accordance with the National Rules.

### **COPIES OF MANUSCRIPT:**

1. All Division Winners must submit one copy of their prepared oration to the Department Chairman before competing in the State Final Contest. (This copy is to be forwarded by the Department Chairman to Department Headquarters for record purposes along with the Chairman's written report.)

### **2002 ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS:**

1st Place – Saeed Jones – 1420 West Main #815, Lewisville TX 75067

2nd Place – Weston Elkins – 6802 Kari Ln, Richmond 77469

3rd Place – Aerin Williams – 4615 Ford St, Beaumont 77706

4th Place – Andrew Mahler – PO Box 62313, San Angelo 76906

## 2005 ORATORICAL CONTEST CHAIRMEN

**DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN - James P. Heath - 600 Headlee Ln., Denton 76201-0853  
940/382-3465**

**1<sup>st</sup> DIVISION – Lee Keith - 804 Ector St., Denton 76201  
Hm: 940/382-3709**

### DISTRICT

- 1 Charles Hopper - 539 Parklane, Mount Vernon 75457  
Wk: 903/588-2723 Hm: 903/588-2936
- 3 Louis Beavers, 1235 Juanita Rd N, Longview, 75605  
903/238-9337
- 4 Thomas Kelly – PO Box 861166, Plano 75074  
972/423-5423
- 5 Jim Rey – 3438 King Arthur Dr., Garland 75044  
Hm: 972/495-0900
- 12 Joe Page – 6758 Winifred Dr., Fort Worth 76133  
817/294-7899
- 13 Lee Keith - 804 Ector St., Denton 76201-2427  
Hm: 940/382-3709

**2<sup>nd</sup> DIVISION – Tom Larsen – 22 Tiffany Sq, Houston, 77478  
281/242-4618**

### DISTRICT

- 2 Marvin Durden, 4245 Simon Dr., Beaumont, 77701  
409/842-4722
- 6 Donald Simons, 7109 Creek Shadows Dr., Bryan, 77808  
979/589-2075
- 7 Joseph Hammond – 9 Indian Cedar Ln, The Woodlands 77380  
281/292-7705
- 8 Jimmie Atchison, 2303 Saxon Dr., Houston, 77018  
713/681-9723
- 11 Joe Fisher – PO Box 626, Cameron, 76520  
254/697-2777
- 22 Tom Larsen, 22 Tiffany Square, Sugarland 77478  
281-242-4618

**3<sup>rd</sup> DIVISION - Tom Tvrdik - 126 E. Holland St., San Marcos 78666  
512/392-8387 512/353-8443**

### DISTRICT

- 9 James Hopkins – 2515 Sequoia, Rosenberg, 77471  
281-342-4310 jhopkins@jch-pc.com
- 10 Tom Tvrdik - 126 E. Holland St., San Marcos 78666  
512/392-8387 512/353-8443
- 14 Paul Altherr – 1710 W Kingsbury, Seguin 78155  
830/379-2782
- 15 Rosa Cavazos – 4506 Hummingbird Ln S, Harlingen 78550  
956/638-8550
- 20 Dave Paris, 8315 Althenian Dr, Universal City, 78148  
210/614-8168
- 23 Emery Deem – 5905 Santa Maria Apt 3B, Laredo, 78401  
956/724-4381

**4<sup>th</sup> DIVISION – Robert Bland – 109 Pony Express Tr, Lubbock, 79404  
806/747-2456**

### DISTRICT

- 16 Martha Folmar, 4364 Loma Taurina Dr., El Paso, 79934  
915/284-1559
- 17 Brian Whitecotton – 802 Cypress St, Ranger, 76470  
254/647-0231
- 18 Walter Bull – 1915 Manhattan, Amarillo 791030  
806/373-3448
- 19 Robert Bland – 109 Pony Express Tr, Lubbock, 79404  
806/747-2456
- 21 LeeRoy Kiesling - 2762 Red Bluff Ramp Rd., San Angelo 76904  
915/223-9206