

## Oratorical Scholarship Committee

Frank Nicholson, (31), Chairman.....	P.O. Box 14, Shinnston 26431
Jackson Gerrard, (68), Vice Chairman.....	520 O'Neil Hollow Road, Clarksburg 26301
Robert "Dan" Chandler, (187),.....	14 Woodclyffe Road, Hurricane 25526
Mike Immel, (14),.....	251 Mimosa Drive, Martinsburg 25404
George Sinkewitz, (93),.....	1932 Washington Avenue, Huntington 25704
David Robinson, (14),.....	365 Qualint Swan Dale Drive, Martinsburg 25404
Barbara Burdette, (26),.....	333 Knollwood Drive, Lewisburg 24901
Doug Robinson, (12),.....	19 Rogers Street, Grafton 26354

### District Scholarship Dates

January 2—January 31, 2020

#### District Chairman

1st District—Robert Pope.....	205 Harrison Street, Newell 26050
2nd District—Doug Robinson.....	19 Rogers Street, Grafton 26354
3rd District—Jack Gerrard.....	520 O'Neil Hollow Road, Clarksburg 26301
4th District—Marianne Bennett.....	1814 20th Street, Parkersburg 26101
5th District—Fred Buchanan.....	105 Cheyenne Trail, Ona 25545
6th District—Paul Harper.....	1238 North Sandbranch Road, Mount Hope 25880
8th District—Andrea Hammock.....	228 Shepherd Avenue, South Charleston 25303
9th District—Coleman "Dan" Kuhn.....	P.O. Box 892, Summersville 26651
10th District—Mike Immel.....	251 Mimosa Drive, Martinsburg 25404

### Sectional Scholarship Date

February 1—February 28, 2020

Section "A": Jack Gerrard.....	520 O'Neil Hollow Road, Clarksburg 26301
Section "B": Barbara Burdette.....	333 Knollwood Drive, Lewisburg 24901
Section "C": Fred Buchanan.....	105 Cheyenne Trail, Ona 25545

### State Final Scholarship Program

March 14, 2020

Frank Nicholson.....	P.O. Box 14, Shinnston 26431
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## AWARDS

### DISTRICT:

FIRST PLACE WINNER—\$200 check, a medal, or plaque and will advance to a Sectional Scholarship Program

SECOND PLACE WINNER—\$150 check and a medal

THIRD PLACE WINNER—\$100 check and a Medal (bronze) All contestants will receive a lapel pin. Checks will be mailed to winners. If two 2, or more contestants, District Chairman will conduct contests.

### SECTIONAL:

FIRST PLACE WINNER—\$300 check, a medal and will advance to the State Finals Scholarship Program

SECOND PLACE WINNER—\$200 check

THIRD PLACE WINNER—\$100 check and a medal (bronze) Checks will be mailed to winners.

### STATE FINALS:

FIRST PLACE WINNER—\$2,000 check, a plaque, a four-year STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS SCHOLARSHIP and will advance to the National Scholarship Program. (Also, a \$1,500 Scholarship will be awarded by participating in National Scholarship Program)

SECOND PLACE WINNER—\$1,500 check and a plaque

THIRD PLACE WINNER—\$1,000 check and a plaque

Any first place contestant not participating in the next level of competition will be ineligible to receive monetary awards. National Scholarship Awards for the three finalists are: FIRST PLACE WINNER—\$18,000 SECOND PLACE WINNER—\$16,000 THIRD PLACE WINNER—\$14,000

### ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

#### PURPOSE

The National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program was created in 1937 and is a part of the National Americanism Program of The American Legion and its purpose is to create interest, appreciation and a better knowledge of the United States on the part of high school students.

#### ORGANIZATIONS

The Department of West Virginia has an Oratorical Scholarship Committee of eight (8), appointed for a term of one year, whose responsibility is to make plans and prescribe rules and regulations for the conduct of the programs. Also, to appoint District and Sectional Program Chairpersons and conduct a school of instruction for Program Chairpersons. The Department uses the nine regular Districts, which are divided into three sections. Section A consists of Districts 1, 3 & 4; Section B consists of Districts 2, 9 & 10; and Section C consists of Districts 5, 6 & 8.

### DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

All arrangements for Department Scholarship Programs shall be made by Departments and each Department can certify one contestant to enter the National Scholarship Program. All Department Program Finals must be conducted strictly in conformity with National Rules and Regulations. A Department Winner certified to the National Americanism Commission, which did not conduct its Department Scholarship Program Final in conformity with the rules and regulations set forth in the Annual High School Oratorical Scholarship Program leaflet may, in the judgement of the Directors, be disqualified by the National Americanism Commission for competition in National Programs. Department winners must be certified to the National Americanism Commission no later than March 16, 2020.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants in The American Legion National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program shall be citizens of, or lawful permanent residents of the United States. Students who have previously won awards, or participated in The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program shall be eligible to participate in the 2020 Oratorical Program, except the three finalists of the National Program. Contestants must meet the rules of the 2020 West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. **ONLY THREE CONTESTANTS FROM A SCHOOL WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.** All contestants must be Bona Fide students under the age of 20 years on the date of the National Finals Program, presently enrolled in a High School, or Junior High School (Public, Parochial, Military, Private, or State Accredited Home School) in which the curriculum is of Public High School level, and must have a "C" average, or equivalent and enrolled in classes equivalent to the regular 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.

Students must be enrolled in High School, or Junior High School, during the time of participation at any level of The American Legion National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program.

Contestants must either be legally domiciled within, or attend an educational institution, within the Department (State) they enter competition. Contestants can enter competition through only one Department.

## DRESS

Uniforms of all kinds will be barred, because a uniform worn by one contestant and not by the others might create an unfair advantage. Informal dress will be required.

## FINANCES

The National Organization of The American Legion will pay the travel cost of the Department winners as they progress in National Competition. Travel costs for chaperons of all contestants certified into the National level of competition will be paid by The American Legion. All contestants must be accompanied by a chaperon.

The National Americanism Commission will make all the travel arrangements and routings for all contestants and chaperons from their home town to their National Program. Common carrier transportation only will be authorized by the Commission.

Neither the National Americanism Commission, nor the American Legion will assume any liability for personal injury, property damage, or loss sustained by an contestant, or his or her chaperon en-route to, or from the Programs. The Department Oratorical Chairman, or the Department Representative will be paid while attending the National Oratorical Finals.

## SUBJECT TO BE USED FOR PREPARED ORATION

The subject to be used for the prepared oration in the Oratorical Program must be 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. The same subject and orations used in the Department Program must be used in the National Program. **THE PREPARED ORATIONS MUST BE THE ORIGINAL EFFORTS OF EACH CONTESTANT AND MUST NOT TAKE UP LESS THAN EIGHT MINUTES NOR MORE THAN TEN MINUTES FOR DELIVERY. THE PENALTY FOR PLAGIARISM WILL BE DISQUALIFICATION.** Substitutions for disqualified contestants, or contestants unable to compete in the National Program for any reason are not permissible. Programs cannot be delayed from the officially scheduled time and dates, unless officially approved by the National Americanism and Children and Youth Division. **EVERY DISTRICT CONTESTANT MUST PRESENT TO THE DISTRICT CHAIRMAN A TYPEWRITTEN COPY OF HIS, OR HER ORATION PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL DISQUALIFY THE CONTESTANT.** Said typewritten copy of each contestant's oration shall be forwarded to the Department Adjutant by the District Oratorical Chairman together with score cards and report forms immediately following the District Program.

## THE ASSIGNED TOPICS FEATURE

The Assigned Topics Discourse must not consume less than THREE minutes, nor more than FIVE minutes in delivery. The purpose of the Assigned Topics Discourse Feature is to test the speaker's knowledge of the subject, the extent of his research, and the ability to discuss extemporaneously the topic as related to the basic principles of government under the Constitution.

The full text for the Assigned Discourse Feature Topic (drawn but not announced, immediately before the last speaker begins delivery of his/her prepared oration) will be made known to each contestant approximately five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery.

The topic will be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States selected from Articles and Sections as listed under Assigned Topics for 2020 below. Each contestant will speak on the same topic, the prepared orations, as well as in the Assigned Topic Discourse, quotations must be indicated as such. Where quotations are more than ten words in length, the author's name must be given orally and in the manuscript. **DISTRICT PROGRAM EXCEPTION: TEXT OR NOTES MAY BE USED, DURING THE 5 MINUTE PREPARATION.**

## ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR 2020

By actions of the National Americanism Commission, the Assigned Topics to be used in 2020 programs are as follows:

**Amendment XII-** The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; - The President of the Senate, shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; - The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed;

and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member, or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in the case of the death, or other constitutional disability of the President. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

#### ***Amendment XX***

**Section 1.** The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in, which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

**Section 2.** The Congress shall assemble, at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3rd day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

**Section 3.** If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen, before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President, until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect, nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly, until a President, or Vice President shall have qualified.

**Section 4.** The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

**Section 5.** Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

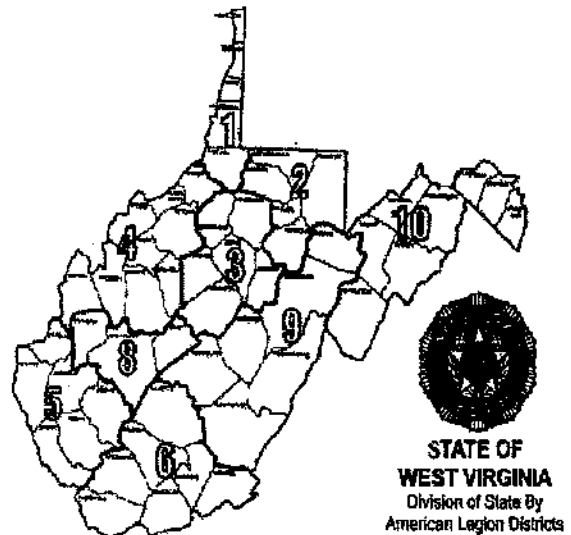
**Sections 6.** This article shall be inoperative, unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, within seven years from the date of its submission.

**Amendment XXIV**

**Section 1.** The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary, or other election for President, or Vice President, for electors for President, or Vice President, or for Senator, or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied, or abridged by the United States, or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax, or other tax.

**Sections 2.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**Amendment XXVII—** No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives, shall have intervened.



Each Program shall have five judges. No publicity shall be given to the names of judges in advance of the Program. During the Program, the judges shall be seated in different locations in the auditorium and each judge shall render his final decision, without consultation with other judges, or any other person. Official score sheets are for the use of the judges. Each judge must sign his score sheet. The manner of scoring and selecting the winner in the District, Sectional and Final programs shall conform to the point-scoring schedule: Each Judge shall insert the total number of points credited to the contestant and also insert in the Record of Choice column his choice of placement of each contestant in accordance with the highest total point scores. If a tie exists in the total point scores on a Judge's Score Card, the Judge must go back and make adjustments in his scoring of the tied contestants, so that no two contestants have the same Total Point Score, which will enable the Judge to rank one contestant above the other in the Record of Choice column. The Judges shall not confer prior to the announcement of the decision as to the standing on the contestants. The contestant receiving the low score total will be declared the winner. (For Example, if one contestant receives two firsts, two seconds and a third on the judges' score sheets, his total low score points will be nine. If the second contestant receives two firsts, two seconds and a fourth, his total low score will be ten. Even though the second contestant receives two firsts, his total low score of ten will place him second.) **LACK OF EMPHASIS IN THE PREPARED ORATION AND THE ASSIGNED TOPICS DISCOURSE ON THE ATTENDANT DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF A CITIZEN MUST RESULT IN THE JUDGES DOWNGRADING THE CONTESTANTS INVOLVED. TIEBREAKER: IF, AFTER TABULATION OF THE JUDGES' RECORD OF CHOICE, TWO CONTESTANTS RECEIVE THE SAME PLACEMENT POINT SCORE TOTAL, the tie shall be broken by comparing the Record of Choice scores of the five judges for the two contestants. One of the contestants will be the winner over the other by a majority of the judges' Record of Choice when only the placement of the tied contestants is considered (EXAMPLE: Consider that Contestant No. 1 and No. 2 are tied. If Judge's card No. 1 reflects Record of Choice for Contestant No. 1 as 3 and Contestant No. 2 as 4, then it is considered (that this judge ranks Contestant No. 1 ahead of Contestant No. 2) Use this procedure for all five Judge's cards and a majority of the five judges will break the tie and determine the winner. IF, AFTER TABULATION OF THE JUDGES' RECORD OF CHOICE, THREE, OR MORE CONTESTANTS RECEIVE THE SAME PLACEMENT POINT SCORE TOTAL, The tie shall be broken by reference to Final Total Points on the Judges' Score cards. Only in this instance will the contestant with the largest Final Total Points be declared the winner. In the case of a tie on the Final Total Point basis, the judges will then meet, compare their scores and discuss all features of the program in order to arrive at a final choice. **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL.****

The Chairman will be expected to introduce each contestant by name immediately, before he announces the decision of the judges.

The time allotted for each contestant to deliver his/her prepared oration shall not be less than eight nor more than ten minutes, and for the Assigned Topics Discourse not less than three nor more than five minutes.

If a contestant fails to use all of his/her allotted time or uses more than his/her allotted time in the delivery of his/her prepared oration, or Assigned Topics Discourse, a penalty of one point for each minute, or fraction thereof shall be assessed against the contestant's total score.

Assigned Topics Disclosure will be drawn by some individual designated by the Chairman, but will not be made known at this time to the contestants. As each speaker concludes his/her prepared oration, he/she will be retired to a private room, under the supervision of an individual appointed by the Chairman, where the discourse of the Assigned Topics by other speakers cannot be heard.

APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES PRIOR TO THE TIME OF THE DELIVERY OF THE ASSIGNED TOPICS DISCOURSE, CONTESTANT NUMBER ONE WILL BE INFORMED OF THE TOPIC DRAWN FOR THE ASSIGNED DISCOURSE AND SHALL BE PERMITTED TO RETIRE TO PRIVACY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRMAN, WHOSE DUTY IT SHALL BE TO SEE THAT NO TEXT MATTER, OR NOTES HAVING ANY CONNECTION WITH THE ACTUAL WORDS OF THE TOPIC PROVIDED ON THE CARD DRAWN. Each succeeding contestant will be called upon in the order in which he/she previously appeared, previously appeared. He/she shall, also in turn, be informed of the topic of the Assigned Topics Discourse and shall then be escorted to privacy in the manner as provided for Contestant Number One.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the National Program as follows::

**1st Place—\$18,000**

**2nd Place—\$16,000**

**3rd Place, - \$14,000**

Each Department (State) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the National Program 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 rounds will receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. The three finalists of a National Finals Program will be ineligible to further participate at any level.

## DISQUALIFICATION

If for any reason a contestant is disqualified, or is unable to compete in the higher program, after passing through one, or more stages of the program, his/her place will be taken by the contestant adjudged next best to him/her in the last competition in which he/she participated prior to his/her disqualification, or withdrawal, provided said next contestant is available and can proceed with the competition, without unduly delaying the contestant. If said substitute contestant is not available with undue delay, the program shall proceed among the available contestants. (Failure of a contestant to appear at the appointed time and place for the program will be automatically disqualified.)

## TV AND RADIO

Live television and radio broadcasts are permitted in all contests, as well as filing, taping, or other types of media for later showing provided: 1. The American Legion is in no way obligated financially. 2. Satisfactory arrangements are made in advance with all persons concerned. 3. Filming, or broadcasts in no way distract the contestants, or interfere with the pre-announced, scheduled time of program. 4. The normal speaking voice of the contestant is not interfered with, or amplified, within the auditorium.

## PUBLICITY

Program Chairpersons are urged to give publicity to the programs using various methods of informing the public of the forthcoming programs, so far as desirable and advisable.

## PROMPTING

Prompting will be permitted in all programs up to the Department Sectional. However, judges may reduce rating of contestants. In sponsoring the program, The American Legion offers nothing for sale. No admission fee shall be charged to any program. The school authorities and the public generally are invited to cooperate with The American Legion in promoting this patriotic enterprise. Constructive criticisms and suggestions will be gratefully received. All inquiries concerning the program should be addressed as follows: Frank Nicholson, Chairman, Department Oratorical Scholarship Program Committee, The American Legion, Department of West Virginia, P.O. Box 3191, Charleston, West Virginia 25332

# WINNERS OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE CONTESTS, SINCE 1953

2019 Trevor Swiger, Grafton  
 2018 Hayden Long, Elkins  
 2017 Chad Durante, Follansbee  
 2016 Chad Durante, Follansbee  
 2015 Sarah Bryan, Huntington  
 2014 Lauren Spears, Elkins  
 2013 Colleen Iasiah, Charleston  
 2012 Anthony Braxton, South Charleston  
 2011-2010 Alek Fedyszyn, Wheeling  
 2009 Allssa Fetherolf, Huntington  
 2008-2007 Michael Kotson, Glen Dale  
 2006 Stephanie Bridgeman, New Martinsville  
 2005 Karen Snyder, New Martinsville  
 2004 Joseph Chambers, Oak Hill  
 2003-2002 Sarah Goldstein, New Martinsville  
 2001 Tia Viglianco, Bridgeport  
 2000-1997 Vanessa McNeely, New Martinsville  
 1996 Christina Tabor, Princeton  
 1995 Marcie Simms, Mt. Clare  
 1994 Josh Duncan, Princeton  
 1993 Joni Marie Johnson, Fairmont  
 1992 Christopher Stirewalt, Wheeling  
 1991-1990 Scott Rogers, Clarksburg  
 1989 John Nathan Stroud, Williamsburg  
 1988 Kimberly Dawn Knotts, Williamsburg  
 1987 Eleanor R. Brown, Williamsburg  
 1986 Eric W. Leullette, Clarksburg  
 1985 Carl I. Merchant, Bloomery  
 1984 No Contest  
 1983 Holly L. Becker, Charleston  
 1982 Dean Harvey, Berkeley Springs  
 1981 Margret McKowen, New Martinsville  
 1980-1979 Naren Ramakrishna, Charleston  
 1978 Michael D. Molina, Anmoore  
 1977 Kevin Dean, Wheeling  
 1976 Vicki Rush, Fairmont  
 1975 Kevin Dean, Wheeling  
 1974 Rae Ellen Scanlon, Romney  
 1973 James McKowen, New Martinsville  
 1972 Joan L. Aulabaugh, Berkeley Springs  
 1971 Debra Ann Novak, Huntington  
 1970 Cheryl Haines, Points  
 1969 Howard E. Seuffer Jr., Williamstown  
 1968 David N. Conway, Elkins  
 1967 Eileen McKay, Paden City  
 1966 Katherine Leisering, Wheeling  
 1965 Charlotte Thralls, Fairmont  
 1964-1963 Thomas J. Craig, Jr., Elkins  
 1962 Jeffery Schmitt, Pickaway  
 1961 Ray Edmond Ratliff, Bluefield  
 1960 Patsy Dugan, Elkins  
 1959 Joyce Ann Rohr, Elkins  
 1958 Sue Toothman, Bridgeport  
 1957 Ray Houchins, Charleston  
 1956 Margie Rowley, Ravenswood  
 1955 Nancy Ann Nutter, Charleston  
 1954 Carolyn Means, Ravenswood  
 1953 Joan O'Conner, Charleston