

Veterans Strengthening America



**The American Legion Oratorical Committee
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.**

Dear School Official:

The Oratorical Committee requests your cooperation with the 85th Annual American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest by encouraging your students to participate. The top prize at the Department (state) level is \$1250. The National Scholarship awards are: first prize – \$25,000, second prize –\$22,500, and third prize –\$20,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. As you are most likely aware, this contest is approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Massachusetts Department of Education.

The purpose of the Legion's Oratorical Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the United States Constitution on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship. This is an excellent program for your students and your school.

You could well have a National Winner. In 2017 Matthew Steinberg of Newton placed first and in 1987 Maryagnes Barbieri placed first. In the intervening years Massachusetts had three second place winners, one third place winner, and one fourth place winner. Their total National Finals Scholarship winnings were \$115,000. Please inform your students of this fine educational and financial opportunity and urge them to participate.

I am enclosing a copy of the Massachusetts Rules and Regulations which contains the certification form which must be completed and signed by the principal in order for a student to compete. If for some reason the student(s) certified to represent your high school do not have a local Legion Post to sponsor them, please send in the certification form by January 31, 2024, and the Oratorical Committee will designate a Legion Post as sponsor.

You are authorized to photocopy the brochure and information contained there in order to provide the opportunity for as many students as possible to have the necessary information for their participation. For any further information, please contact the District Chairman for your area listed in the Department brochure or contact me as Department Chairman.

Sincerely yours,

Lisa McPhee

Lisa A McPhee, Chairman

Department Oratorical Committee

157 Water Street

Clinton, MA 01510

redsox1964@aol.com

Cell 978 230 6208