

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 16-17, 2019
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Resolution No. 2: National Oratorical Contest Of The American Legion
Origin: Resolution No. 82 (NY) National Convention 2018
Submitted by: Finance Commission**

WHEREAS, The oratorical program of The American Legion has been a youth activity of the Americanism Commission since 1938, providing high school students opportunity for developing deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States, leadership qualities, communication skills, and preparation for accepting of the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 38 of the National Executive Committee, May 1995, established a three-year test period for a new contest structure of the oratorical national contest, whereby a system of elimination contest rounds were conducted at a single location which featured nine first round contests, three second round contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and

WHEREAS, It was deemed that the concept of holding the national oratorical contest of The American Legion at a single location offered opportunity for greater administrative control, fairness and uniformity, while reducing administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 39 of the National Executive Committee, May 1999, adopted the national oratorical contest structure as tested by Resolution No. 38 of the National Executive Committee, May 1995; and

WHEREAS, The national oratorical contest The American Legion has been successfully conducted under the aforementioned single site, three round elimination contest structure for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, The Americanism Commission is seeking to double the number of competitors advancing from the first round to the second round (from the current 9 to 18), while continuing to still advance the top three to compete in the third and final round; and

WHEREAS, The scholarship awards structure of the annual national oratorical contest of The American Legion has remained unchanged at \$138,000 as follows for the past 22 years:

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

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Americanism Commission, and with concurrence from the 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, 2019, That the structure of the national oratorical contest of The American Legion continue to be an elimination system featuring nine first-round quarter-final contests, three second-round semi-final contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That effective in 2020 the scholarship award structure for the annual national oratorical contest of The American Legion will be \$188,000 as follows:

- **Up to 53 department winners competing in the first-round quarter-final contest receive \$2,000 each**
- **Up to 15 first-round winners advancing to the second-round semi-final contest who are subsequently eliminated receive \$2,000 each**
- **First place national contest winner receives \$20,000**
- **Second place national contest winner receives \$17,000**
- **Third place national contest winner receives \$15,000; and, be it further**

RESOLVED, That effective in 2021 the scholarship award for the first place national oratorical contest winner will increase to \$25,000; the second place national oratorical contest winner will increase to \$22,500; and the third place national oratorical contest winner increase to \$20,000, for a total of \$203,500 in scholarships awarded for the annual national oratorical contest of The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national oratorical contest of The American Legion continue to be conducted annually at a single-site location; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander, after review and approval by the national judge advocate, is hereby authorized and directed to execute any appropriate contract(s) and/or agreement(s) necessary to support the national oratorical contest and the national adjutant is hereby authorized and directed to attest the same; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 59 of the National Executive Committee, October 2012, titled “Oratorical Contest National Finals” and Resolution No. 39 of the National Executive Committee, May 1999, titled “Oratorical National Finals Site” are hereby superseded and rescinded.