



The American Legion Department of Washington Constitutional Speech Contest Commissioners

Ms. Carol Reed, Chairman, Mr. Mike Montaney, Mr. Wayne Wexler, Mr. David Gedrose

February 5, 2018

Dear Contestant,

On behalf of The American Legion Department of Washington Commander Mr. Gary Roach and the Oratorical Contest Committee we congratulate you on your entry into The American Legion Department of Washington's 2018 National High School Constitutional Speech Contest. Your application has been accepted, and you have been certified to participate in the contest.

Five thousand dollars in scholarships will be awarded in March at the conclusion of the State contest. The State Champion will also earn the right to represent Washington State at The American Legion's National High School Constitutional Speech Contest, April 13 thru 15, 2018, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The contest winner **MUST** be able to attend the National Contest.

The Washington State Contest is scheduled for **Saturday, March 10, 2018** at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. The Big Bend Community College Conference Center is located at 7611 Bolling Street, Moses Lake, Washington. See enclosed map. **You MUST be in attendance at said location at 8:00 PM on Friday, March 9, 2018 for the contest orientation and contestant briefing, or you will not be allowed to compete.** You will receive contest round notification at the orientation. (If you do not attend the Friday night briefing you will not be allowed to compete).

The quarter/semi-final contests are scheduled to **start at 9:00 AM on Saturday March 10, 2018**. The four finalists from the morning contest will compete once again on Saturday afternoon. They will receive \$500, \$1000, \$1500 or \$2000 scholarships determined by their order of finish. The 2018 Constitutional Speech Contest Agenda is included in this mailing, along with an official rules brochure for the 2018 National Contest.

Please be ready to deliver your 8 to 10 minute prepared oration. The subject to be used for the Prepared Oration must be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States which gives emphasis to the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The same subject and oration used in the Department Contest must be used in the National Contest.

One of the four Assigned Topics for 2018 will be selected at each contest, and you must be prepared to deliver a three to five minute presentation on that Assigned Topic. You will be taken to a private room and allowed five minutes to prepare, without notes, for the Assigned Topic. Please see the attachment for a list of the Assigned Topics.

At all contests, both orations must be delivered in English, without notes, without a podium or lectern and without amplification. All notes must be left behind as you leave the first holding room to begin the contest. Please bring a word-processed copy of your speech with you to turn in to the chairman.

An American Legion Post sponsor has paid your \$150.00 application fee. Volunteers from the American Legion and people from throughout the State have prepared for this contest as well. We trust that you will honor your commitment and attend the contest. If for any reason you are unable to participate, you must notify Ms. Carol Reed, Contest Chairman, via email at cmreed98058@hotmail.com or phone at 206-683-5950, ASAP. If you have any other questions, or concerns please feel free to contact Ms. Reed.

The American Legion will pay **up to \$75.00** to help cover your travel expenses to the contest site and back home. The reimbursement rules are as follows:

- **TRAVEL and PARKING:** The Legion will pay 15 cents per mile up to the \$75 limit, plus any ferry costs (bring receipt). You must provide receipts for any additional costs. Reimbursement will be based on the most direct route from your home to Moses Lake. Mileage will only be paid if you participate in both the prepared oration and the assigned topic phases of the contest. Payment will be by voucher approved by the contest chairman.
- **LODGING:** The American Legion will furnish lodging for Friday evening for each Contestant and Chaperone at The Inn at Moses Lake at 1745 E Kittleson Rd. located just off Interstate 90 at Exit 179. Each room can accommodate up to 4 people. When you check in inform the desk clerk you are with the American Legion Constitutional Speech Contest and they will assign you a room which will be paid for by the American Legion.
- **CHAPERONES:** Each Contestant **MUST** be accompanied by an adult (21 years of age) chaperone assuming legal responsibility and staying in the same room with the Contestant.
- **HOW TO FILE FOR REIMBURSEMENT:** A Legion representative will be available on site following the semi-final contest to collect travel receipts and to assist each contestant with the reimbursement process. A reimbursement check will be mailed to each qualified contestant.

The Oratorical Committee is pleased to offer this contest and is excited about your participation. We all look forward to seeing you on March 9, 2018.

All applicable Washington Oratorical contest information, maps and updates will also be posted on the Oratorical web site at www.WAConstitutionalSpeechContest.org

Sincerely,

Carol M. Reed

Ms. Carol Reed, Chairman

The American Legion Department of Washington Constitutional Speech Contest

cc: Post Sponsor