

Oratorical Program

A Step by Step Guide to a Successful Oratorical Program

1. Post Commander must get out in front of the membership and lead them to achieving goals and successfully implementing the Oratorical program. First step is to appoint an Oratorical Chairman who has a “can do” and committed attitude to get out and meet the area High Schools, Charter Schools & Home Schooled; specifically, the Debate, Speech or English teacher that is responsible for speech programs.
2. Oratorical Chairman to develop a committee of dedicated volunteers. Assign specific responsibilities...divide up the work
3. Write your plan – it is your road map to success – written plan elements are: who, what, where, when, why & how
 - a. Develop a list of schools within the Post jurisdiction
 - b. Contact teachers of the schools and provide program brochures
 - i. Rules, guidelines, deadlines and Competition dates
 - ii. Eligibility
 - iii. Current year 4 assigned topics
 - iv. Present scholarship award potential
 - c. Recruit members and community leaders necessary to conduct the contest
 - i. Judges
 - ii. Time Keepers
 - iii. Audience
 - iv. Ready Room Staff
 - d. Arrange for a location to hold the competition
 - e. Educate...familiarize yourself, committee members, volunteers and post membership on the processes and procedures of the Oratorical Program
 - f. “Spread the Word” - Public Relations...Communicate!
 - i. Internal – insure the Post membership knows what you are doing and the benefits
 - ii. External - engage all forms of media available for coverage for entrants, dates of competition and coverage of winners.
Remember to inform the contestants and their families on who the American Legion is and what all we do for the community and schools
 - g. Conduct the competition according to the rules of the program
 - h. Invite the winner, their school sponsor, and parents to the next Post meeting and present them with the American Legion Oratorical medal