



## *2009 Conference Objectives*

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- ***Educate***

*Need to educate our contest staff on how to conduct the contest . Correct and proper tabulation procedures are a MUST!*

- ***Contest Uniformity & Consistency***

*Need to ensure that our contests are the same for everyone, every time*

- ***Continue to Improve Contest Participation***



## *2009 Contests in Review*

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### *2009 Contests In Review*

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- *First time ever the national finals contest was Webcast Live via YouCastr, Inc.*
- *Over 120 watched the contest and based on the e-mails and comments from those that watched this first attempt was an overwhelming success!!*
- *Consideration will be given to expanding the Webcasts to include the semi-final contests for 2010.*



### *2009 Contests In Review*

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- *Eligibility Question*  
*Contestants must either be legally domiciled within or attend an educational institution within the Department that they enter competition (Rule Clarification 2006)*



*2009 National Finals Contest In Review*

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- **National Champion --**  
*Andrew Dykstal (IN) (Senior)*  
*Home-schooled*
- **2nd Place --**  
*Caroline Heydinger (VT) (Senior)*
- **3rd Place --**  
*Werner Ferrone (FL) (Senior)*  
*Home-schooled*



*2009 National Finals Contest In Review*

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- **Semi-Finalists --**  
*Leanne Livingston (GA) Senior*  
*Heidi Erbsen (IL) (Junior)*  
*Christina Sauer (KY) (Junior)*  
*Gregory Prusiewicz (MI) (Senior)*  
*Kristina Lee (MT) (Junior)*  
*Zachary George (OH) (Senior)*
- **Home schooled –**  
*Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho,*  
*Indiana, Louisiana, New Mexico, Rhode Island,*  
*& Tennessee*



### *2009 National Finals Contest In Review*

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- *8 repeat contestants from 2008 National Finals – Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, & South Dakota*
- *53 Department Finalists competed in the National Finals – Mexico DID NOT have a Department Contest*
- *Saturday evening contestant “pizza-party and social mixer” was once again a HUGE SUCCESS!!*



### *2009 National Finals Contest In Review*

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- *The rewards are enormous in terms of memories, friendships, knowledge gained & \$cholarships received*
- *Goal of the contest operation is invisibility therefore letting the contestants shine through*



## ***2010 National Finals Contest Planning & Arrangements***

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### ***2010 National Finals Contest Dates***

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- ***April 9- 11***  
***University Place Conference Center  
and Hotel***
- ***Travel date is Friday, April 9***
- ***Certification of Department winner  
due to National Headquarters by  
MARCH 8!!***



### ***2010 Contest Administrative Requirements***

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- ***Certification of Department Winner reporting form will be mailed mid November 2009 to both the Department Chairman and the Adjutant***
- ***Other contest forms that need to be completed by the Department Winner will be e-mailed to the winner upon receipt of Department Winner form.***

***This procedure has worked EXTREMELY WELL with little delay or follow-up in obtaining the necessary forms from the Department Winners.***



### ***2010 Contest Administrative Requirements***

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- ***Will continue having the contestants submit both a “hard copy” and “digital” copy of their prepared oration; failure to submit the complete text of the prepared oration (no notes, outline, etc.) will result in the disqualification of the contestant***
- ***Digital copy can be in any word processing format -- preferably PC on a CD/DVD***
- ***Can also e-mail to [mbuss@legion.org](mailto:mbuss@legion.org)***



***2010 National Finals Contest Travel Requirements***

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- ***Contestants will agree by signing the travel consent form that they have to arrive on Friday, April 9***
- ***Travel arrangements are made by National Headquarters, not the Department, not the Contestant***



***2010 National Finals Contest Travel Requirements***

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- ***We will try to fly contestant and chaperone from the airport as designated on the Certification of Winner form; however if a more reasonable airfare can be obtained from a near-by larger airport we will use this airport for travel and reimburse mileage***



***2010 National Finals Contest Travel Requirements***

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- ***We can make airline reservations for other family members, etc. that desire to attend the National Finals***
- ***Additional form is included on the back of the Certification of Winner reporting forms & contestant instructions to “capture” this information***



***2010 National Finals Contest Travel Requirements***

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- ***A 400-mile limit/arrive by 4:00 p.m. requirement continues to be in place for those contestants that desire to drive – we are flexible with this requirement on a case-by-case basis (APPROVAL MUST STILL BE GRANTED BY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO THOSE THAT DESIRE TO DRIVE!)  
This a National Americanism Commission mandated requirement***



### *2010 National Finals Contest Travel Requirements*

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- *Contestants **MUST** be accompanied by a **CHAPERONE!!** (*Standing Resolution*)*
- *We still pay \$18.00/day per diem to **BOTH** the contestant and chaperone (\$4.50 per quarter day)*
- *Mileage rate \$.18 per mile to either the contestant or chaperone -- **not** both*



### *2010 National Finals*

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- *Contest pairing bracket drawn by the Youth Activities Subcommittee and approved by the National Americanism Commission during the 2009 Spring Meetings*



*Future Dates - National Finals*

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- *April 15 – 17, 2011*
- *April 13 – 15, 2012*
- *April 19 – 21, 2013*



*Tie - Breaking Procedures*

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## *Two - Way Tie - Breaker*

JUDGES	CONTESTANTS RECORD OF CHOICE					CONTESTANTS FINAL TOTAL POINTS				
	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5
1	5	4	3	2	1	62	67	71	78	91
2	4	1	5	2	3	74	93	69	87	84
3	2	3	1	4	5	89	85	92	80	79
4	5	4	3	1	2	65	73	79	90	88
5	4	5	2	3	1	74	67	91	85	94
TOTALS	20	17	14	12	12	364	385	402	420	436



## *Three - Way Tie - Breaker*

JUDGES	CONTESTANTS RECORD OF CHOICE					CONTESTANTS FINAL TOTAL POINTS				
	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5
1	3	2	1	5	4	81	87	90	62	74
2	1	3	4	2	5	93	82	73	87	68
3	4	3	2	1	5	67	74	81	88	63
4	2	3	1	4	5	87	81	93	67	61
5	2	1	4	3	5	79	86	74	76	72
TOTALS	12	12	12	15	24	407	410	411	380	338

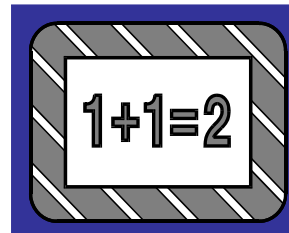


## *Four - Way Tie - Breaker*

JUDGES	CONTESTANTS RECORD OF CHOICE					CONTESTANTS FINAL TOTAL POINTS				
	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5
1	3	2	1	5	4	88	90	95	62	68
2	5	2	3	1	4	65	86	79	92	75
3	2	1	5	3	4	86	91	72	81	77
4	5	4	3	2	1	64	69	75	78	88
5	1	2	4	5	3	92	88	73	76	85
TOTALS	16	11	16	16	16	395	424	394	389	393



## *Tabulation Exercises*





## *Who is the Winner?*

JUDGES	CONTESTANTS RECORD OF CHOICE					CONTESTANTS FINAL TOTAL POINTS				
	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5
1	5	4	3	2	1	62	67	71	78	91
2	4	1	5	2	3	74	93	69	87	84
3	2	3	1	4	5	89	85	92	80	79
4	5	4	3	1	2	65	73	79	90	88
5	4	5	2	3	1	74	67	91	85	94
TOTALS										



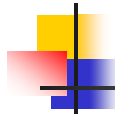
## *Who is the Winner?*

JUDGES	CONTESTANTS RECORD OF CHOICE					CONTESTANTS FINAL TOTAL POINTS				
	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5
1	3	2	1	5	4	81	87	90	62	74
2	1	3	4	2	5	93	82	73	87	68
3	4	3	2	1	5	67	74	81	88	63
4	2	3	1	4	5	87	81	93	67	61
5	2	1	4	3	5	79	86	74	76	72
TOTALS	11	12	12	15	24	407	410	411	380	338



## *Who is the Winner?*

JUDGES	CONTESTANTS RECORD OF CHOICE					CONTESTANTS FINAL TOTAL POINTS				
	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5
1	4	3	2	5	1	77	84	87	65	90
2	2	4	3	5	1	90	74	80	69	95
3	3	2	1	5	4	82	87	91	71	78
4	1	2	3	5	4	91	87	82	75	79
5	4	3	5	2	1	78	81	72	86	88
TOTALS										



## *Who is the Winner?*

JUDGES	CONTESTANTS RECORD OF CHOICE					CONTESTANTS FINAL TOTAL POINTS				
	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5
1	3	4	1	2	5	85	79	92	88	75
2	4	1	3	2	5	72	88	79	82	69
3	5	2	3	1	4	61	82	78	90	67
4	2	5	1	3	4	84	76	91	81	77
5	3	5	1	2	4	80	71	92	90	73
TOTALS	17	17	9	10	22	382	396	432	431	361



## *Who is the Winner?*

JUDGES	CONTESTANTS RECORD OF CHOICE					CONTESTANTS FINAL TOTAL POINTS				
	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5	C #1	C #2	C #3	C #4	C #5
1	3	2	5	4	1					
2	5	1	4	3	2					
3	1	3	2	5	4					
4	1	5	2	3	4					
5	4	3	2	1	5					
TOTALS	14	14	15	16	16					



## *Tabulation Procedures*



### *Tabulation Procedures*

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- ***The National Americanism Commission **STRONGLY** recommends that Departments consider the use of the Excel spreadsheet for the scoring and tabulation of the Department Oratorical Finals Contest.***



### *Tabulation Procedures*

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- ***Five judges are designated as **PRIMARY**; the other two judges are **ALTERNATES*****
- ***Discussion of methods to determine the primary and alternate judges***
- ***Whatever method is used ensure at least two people are involved in the process!***



### *Tabulation Procedures*

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- *Number the judges scorecards 1 – 5 for the five primary judges*
- *Write a BIG “A” on the alternate judges’ scorecards!!*
- ***ONLY the FIVE PRIMARY JUDGES’ SCORECARDS ARE USED TO DETERMINE A WINNER!!!!***



### *Tabulation Procedures*

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- *Record of Choice on Judge’s Score Card – Highest # of Final Total Points is the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner and so on*
- *This data is transcribed to the Tabulation Card for each respective judge in the Contestant Record of Choice Block*



## *Tabulation Procedures*

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- ***Contest Tabulation Process -- WILL be done in private NO CONTESTANTS, COACHES, PARENTS in the same room***



***Don't sacrifice accuracy for contest expediency!!***



## ***Oratorical College***

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*Oratorical College*



***Department Final Contests --***

***SHALL CONFORM with National Contest procedures, rules & regulations***

***It is strongly recommended that ALL contests follow the National Contest procedures, rules & regulations to include the Assigned Topic Presentation***



*Oratorical College*



■ ***Recent Rule Changes, Additions & Clarifications --***

***Eligibility (Clarification - 2006):***

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



- ***Recent Rule Changes, Additions & Clarifications --***

***Home-schooled (Clarification - 2009):***

*The state accreditation requirement has been deleted. Accreditation differs from state to state (if even offered).*



- ***Recent Rule Changes, Additions & Clarifications --***

***The Prepared Oration (Rule Change - 2005):*** *The Prepared Oration must be on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The oration given in the Department Contest must be given in the National Contest.*



- ***Recent Rule Changes, Additions & Clarifications --***

***The Prepared Oration & Assigned Topic  
(Clarification – 2006; Penalty 2009): The singing  
of songs is NOT PERMITTED and will result in  
IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION.***

***The contestant may QUOTE a verse(s) of a song  
provided proper attribution is made.***

***THIS IS NOT "AMERICAN IDOL"***



- ***Recent Rule Changes, Additions & Clarifications --***

***Contest Regulations (Addition - 2005):  
The use of any type of electronic/digital  
data gathering, receiving and/or  
transmitting equipment in any form by  
contestants or members of the audience is  
prohibited.***



■ ***Recent Rule Changes, Additions & Clarifications --***

***Use of the English Language for the Prepared Oration and Assigned Topic***

*It is acceptable to utilize or incorporate short phrases of a foreign language in order to develop the argument, establish a point, etc. It is to be understood that the vast majority of the Prepared Oration and/or Assigned Topic must still be delivered in the English Language.*

*(Approved Ruling - 2007)*



■ ***Recent Rule Changes, Additions & Clarifications --***

***Contestant MUST give both their Prepared Oration and Assigned Topic Discourse in order to receive scholarship moneys they are entitled to.***

*(Clarification – 2007)*



## *Oratorical College*



- ***Eligible Participants --***

***CITIZENS OF or LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS of the UNITED STATES***

***(Foreign Nationals are NOT eligible to compete at any level of the contest)***

***3 National Finalist are INELIGIBLE for further participation at ANY LEVEL of competition***

***NOTE: Department Winners CAN repeat!***



## *Oratorical College*



- ***Prepared Oration and the Assigned Topic Discourse MUST be given in the ENGLISH LANGUAGE!***
- ***Prepared Oration and the Assigned Topic Discourse MUST be spoken NOT SUNG!***



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- ***National Finals Contest Scholarships***

*1st -- \$18,000*

*2nd -- \$16,000*

*3rd -- \$14,000*

*Quarter Finals -- \$1,500*

*Semi Finals -- \$1,500*



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- ***National Finals Contest Scholarships***

*May be used to attend any college or university in the United States or possession*

*Eight years to use the scholarship after it has been awarded*





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- ***Prepared Oration --***  
***Contestants MAY have a copy of their Prepared Oration in the First Holding Room***

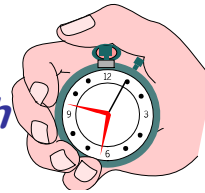
***They will leave the copy behind after commencing the contest!!***



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- ***Prepared Oration --***  
***Eight to ten minutes in length***



- ***Assigned Topic Discourse --***  
***Three to five minutes in length***



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■ *Props --*

*The United States flag is considered to be a prop if contestant were to grope or grasp the flag.*



*Simply pointing at the flag is NOT considered using it as a prop.*



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■ *Props –*

*Dressing in a costume is considered to be a prop*

*No medals from previous competitions*



## *Oratorical College*



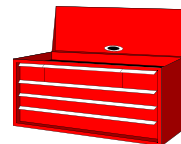
- ***Judges --***  
***WILL be seated in DIFFERENT LOCATIONS in the contest facility***  
  
***WILL NOT be identified in advance to the Contestants!!***



## *Oratorical College*



- ***Tools to help you --***
  - ***“The Contest on a DVD”***
    - How to Conduct the Oratorical Contest*
    - National Finals Contest*
    - Judges Briefing*
    - Public Service Announcements (PSA's)*
    - The Indianapolis Experience*
  - ***Rules Brochure***
  - ***Chairman's Guide***
  - ***Promotional Brochure***
  - ***Program WebPage***
  - ***National Staff***
    - Do not hesitate to call, write, or send an e-mail*





*Oratorical College*



- ***Printed program publications –  
Due to budgetary considerations the amount of publications printed has been significantly REDUCED over the past six years.***

*Considerations --*

*Use the Promotional Brochure to interest potential contestants and schools.*

*Use the Contest Rules Brochure for actual contestants.*



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- ***Printed program publications –  
The Rules Brochure, Chairman’s Guide and the Promotional Brochure are bulk-shipped to the Department Headquarters by the middle of June.***

***It is the responsibility of the Department Headquarters to distribute as they see fit.***



*National Americanism/Oratorical  
Conference Dates*

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***Sept. 24 – 26, 2010***

***Sept. 23 – 25, 2011***

***Sept. 28 – 30, 2012***