

# 10th District American Legion Oratorical Speech Contest - Saturday 12/14/2024 at Grayslake Central High School 8:00 AM until complete

Teacher or Department Chairs / Sponsors of Constitutional Learning and Speech & Debate Coaches, Lake County Illinois High Schools

The American Legion 10th District will hold its subject contest at:

Grayslake Central High School (Theater)  
400 N. Lake Street                      Located on Lake Street north of Center Street and South of the railroad tracks  
Grayslake, IL 60030                      at the intersection of Lake Street and Hillside Ave.

10th District, of the Illinois American Legion is hosting the contest on Saturday December 14, 2024, from 8:30 AM until complete estimated as no later than 2:00 PM including awards. The contest starts at 8:30 AM with the first contestant giving their prepared speech at that time.

Students shall arrive so to be available promptly at 8:00 AM for the contest chairman to orient them to the contest venue and brief them on the program/contest rules. The Department of Illinois brochure on the program including the possible (4) assigned speech topics and rules are attached.

Please advise your local high school Teacher /Sponsors and participating Student competitors that they **are not allowed the use of any notes in hand, in either paper or electronic form, while delivering their speeches at the contest.** However, Students may bring notes to the contest venue, for their use in the prep/holding room, before they depart that room to present their prepared speech and their assigned topic speech.

Students wanting to compete at the 10th District Contest on December 2nd, should give you their information (name, email, Hometown and High School Name and Grade and intent to compete. The School Sponsors need to get that student competitor information to your Sponsoring American Legion Post Representative (for D127 and other Grayslake High Schools that is Paul Ahern – see below) [**Change to your Legion post contact and insert their name and email and/or phone number**] by Noon on Wednesday 12/4/2024.

Also attached is the application form needed to compete at the State Level of the Oratorical Speech program. Students who desire to compete at that level and are selected as moving forward at the District-level, shall have to complete that form including the student portion, parent portion, and post sponsorship portion (including SIGNATURES) upon arriving at the 2nd Division competition. It is highly recommended that each student have the form prepared for our courtesy review to ensure completeness by the 10th District competition on 12/14/2024.

No (Legion Post) Sponsorship check (\$175) is required to go forward with a given student's application until the student is selected to move on to the Department (State) Level Competition from the American Legion 10th District competition and the (next level) 2nd Division competition.

The Second Division Competition will be held on Sunday January 19, 2025 at a location in the western Chicago suburbs to be announced in the near future. The 2nd Division contestants will compete, from Approximately 10:00 a.m, (first student's prepared speech) until complete which is expected to be no later than 5:00 p.m. including awards.

The Department/State level Oratorical competition includes an orientation and overnight (Legion-paid) hotel stay, for the student and their parent at the Springfield Illinois Hotel venue on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. On Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 the Department Oratorical contest will start at approximately 8:30 AM and be conducted as two rounds - Semi Finals and Finals. Semi Finals conclude at about noon with lunch and the Finals conclude by about 5:00 PM including presentation of awards.

Very respectfully yours,

Paul Ahern, Americanism Chairman  
10th District, American Legion, Illinois  
(c) 224-627-5490, [ahernpt@aol.com](mailto:ahernpt@aol.com)