



Marlys Lemnah (St. Albans), Vermont Past Department Commander, Avery Carter, 2019 Vermont Oratorical winner and representative to The American Legion National Finals, Karlene DeVine, Vermont Department Oratorical Chair. Avery also won the 2020 and 2021 state competition.

For a well-prepared, talented student (gr 9 – 12), (<https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/oratoricalpromobrochure.pdf>) there is an excellent possibility of garnering some money for college from this competitive speech program.

**Critical Date: Vermont contest application deadline**  
**([http://vtlegion.org/documents/oratorical\\_application2022.pdf](http://vtlegion.org/documents/oratorical_application2022.pdf)) is no later than December 4, 2021**

*Completing the application doesn't obligate the student to participate. It does give me, the Department Chair, an idea where to focus our limited resources for the best possible outcomes. Once I receive an application, I can find a local American Legion post to support the student and help them move forward.*

This following information should be of interest to

- High school students
- Parents seeking financial resources for college
- Forensics coaches
- School club advisors such as for the National Honor Society
- Any interested teacher

WHY consider participating in the American Legion (AL) Oratorical Contest, a Constitutional Speech competition?

This program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Directly related to speaking skill comes monetary rewards.

- Vermont Department top 3 receive award money.
- National winner, top 3, receive scholarships of \$25,500, \$22,500 and \$20,000 respectively
- All other national participants receive \$2000 to \$4000
- American Legion National winners automatically seated for National Forensics League tournament

Competition begins in the local school and a contest is held at a local American Legion Post in January.

The local post winner competes in a District Contest tentatively planned for February 2022.

The district winner goes on to a state level contest to be held **March 2022**. There are 5 districts in Vermont. The national contest is held in Indianapolis 22-24 April 2022. (travel expenses paid for student and chaperone)

The student must:

- Speak 8-10 minutes on some aspect of the US Constitution as it relates to the responsibilities of citizens
- Speak 3-5 min. on one of 4 "assigned" amendments (one is selected by a draw from the hat moments before speaking) Those amendments are already posted on the national website.

**For vital information about competing in this program, go to [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical)** Scroll down to the pictured topics under "Rules and Resources; Competitors; Contests". You will find contest information there.

Many participants have begun in their freshman or sophomore years. That gives them the experience of researching the topic and executing public speaking. By the junior and senior years, the student can then refine their style and presentation winning money along the way.

If you have any questions please contact me, **Karlene DeVine**. Home phone is **(802) 877-6392** and my answering machine picks up after 5 rings if no one answers first. Or, e-mail [kdevine@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kdevine@myfairpoint.net).

Karlene DeVine  
Vermont Department Chair  
Oratorical Constitutional Speech Program



## **THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT**

**P O BOX 396**

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**Web Site: [vtlegion.org](http://vtlegion.org)**

### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

The American Legion – Department of Vermont is pleased and proud to offer this scholarship program to support Vermont high school students in their quest for higher education. Our program slogan is our goal: to support **“An Educational Opportunity for Every Qualified Student”** –

The Department of Vermont provides programs to support for high school students through the American Legion Family: Boys' State, Girls' State, Oratorical, and these Department scholarships. The men and women who make up the membership of our Department and local Posts continue to serve America and its citizens by providing access to deserving young men and women in their betterment of their lives through higher education.

#### **Scholarship Awards**

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT SCHOLARSHIP - \$1,500

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER SCHOLARSHIP - \$1,000

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS - TEN (10) @ \$500

#### **Eligibility**

Young men and women who attend a Vermont secondary school or Interstate school district serving Vermont students. Parents must be legal residents of the State of Vermont. Applicant must be a US Resident.

#### **Application Process**

Complete the application. Attach a copy of your high school transcript and two (2) letters of recommendation from members of the high school staff who have direct knowledge of your high school activities and achievements.

#### **SEND THE COMPLETED APPLICATION AND REQUIRED INFORMATION TO:**

**The American Legion, Dept. of Vermont**

**Scholarship Committee**

**P O Box 396**

**Montpelier VT 05601-0396**

#### **Application Deadline**

**April 1**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION – DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT  
EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**1. NAME/ADDRESS:**

|           |            |                |
|-----------|------------|----------------|
| Last Name | First Name | Middle Initial |
|-----------|------------|----------------|

Street

City/State/Zip

**2. TEL. NO:** \_\_\_\_\_ **3. DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. YEAR OF GRADUATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF HIGH SCHOOL NOW ATTENDING:**

**6. FAMILY & FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Fathers Name: _____        | Mothers Name: _____                    |
| Occupation: _____          | Occupation: _____                      |
| Annual Gross Income: _____ | Annual Gross Income: _____             |
| # Brothers/Sisters: _____  | # Currently Enrolled in College: _____ |

**7. LIST SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS, AND OFFICES:**

**8. LIST COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & OFFICES IN WHICH YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED:**

**9. NAME & ADDRESS OF THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY YOU WILL BE ATTENDING IN THE FALL (IF KNOWN).**

**ANTICIPATED MAJOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. PLEASE WRITE A PARAGRAPH ON WHY YOU WANT TO ATTEND THIS COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY. (Use Separate Sheet)**

Complete ALL sections of this application. Attach transcript and two letters of recommendation. ONLY fully completed applications will be considered. (Use additional sheets as necessary.)

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_