

MINUTES
ORATORICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING OF
OCTOBER 19TH, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.
TEAMS MEETING- VIRTUAL

1. Call to Order at 11:00 A.M.
Chairman Looker opened the meeting of the Department Oratorical Committee at 11:00 A.M.
2. Salute to the Colors- The Colors were saluted.
3. Invocation
Malcolm Glasgow 12th District Chairman gave the opening invocation.
4. Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Looker led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Roll Call: Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

Members present:

Harold Landis, 1st District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Thomas Tierney, 2nd District Chairman- PRESENT
Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairman- PRESENT
John Looker, Oratorical Chairman- PRESENT
John Betterson, 5th District Chairman- PRESENT
Roy Terry, 6th District Chairman- PRESENT
7th District Chairman- VACANT
Laura Blake, 8th District Chairman- PRESENT
Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman- PRESENT
Ed Long, 10th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Richard Smathers, 11th District Chairman- PRESENT
Malcolm Glasgow, 12th District Chairman- PRESENT
13th District Chairman- VACANT
Jacob Marx, 14th District Chairman- PRESENT

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

6. Reading of Previous Minutes

Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman moved, seconded by Malcolm Glasgow, 12th District Chairman to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

MOTION PASSED

7. Approval of Committee Rules

Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman moved, seconded by Jacob Marx, 14th District Chairman to approve the Committee Rules.

MOTION PASSED

8. 2024 Contest Review- Committee discussed the 2023 contest. John Looker, Department Chairman, thinks it went well. Adding the runners-up from the districts allowed more students to participate. They want to continue doing that. Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman asked how many contestants there are since she is new to this committee.

9. Contest Dates

a. District

D1- Not present

D2- Feb 15th @10:00am

D3- March 2nd

D4- March 9th

D5- February 8th

D6-

D7- VACANT

D8- March 8th

D9- March 9th

D10- Not present

D11- March 9th

D12- March 16th

D13- Not present

D14- Still selecting dates

Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman motioned, seconded by Jacob Marx, 14th District Chairman to have all the District Contests finished by March 17th and all District winners need to be sent to Department by March 17th.

MOTION PASSED

b. Department – March 30th, 2025.

c. National – May 16th- 18th, 2025- Hillsdale Michigan.

Discussion was had about getting volunteers to attend the National Oratorical Contest. If Ohio had 30 or more volunteers, the Committee could talk about getting a bus as transportation. John Betterson, 5th District Chairman volunteered for the National Contest.

10. Edit Department Contest Packet Dates-

Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman moved, seconded by Richard Smathers, 11th District Chairman, that the Oratorical Contest money for the students from the Department Oratorical Contest will now be scholarships and come out of the scholarship fund pending Finance Commission approval.

MOTION PASSED

Prize money was discussed. First place \$4,000, Second place \$2,000, and the remainder of the contestants will receive \$3,000 divided. This may increase participation.

Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman motioned, seconded Jacob Marx, 14th District Chairman, to have the prize money increased to \$4,000 for 1st Place, \$2,000 for 2nd Place, and \$3,000 divided between the remainder of the contestants.

MOTION PASSED

Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman motioned, seconded by John Betterson, 5th District Chairman to accept the Oratorical Packet with the changes of the scholarship money and new dates.

MOTION PASSED

11. Unfinished Business- John Betterson, 5th District Chairman said he can assist with District 13 since there is no Oratorical Chairman there. District 7 does not have a chairman either, so contestants will be sent to the nearest District to compete.
 12. New Business- Americanism Conference notes. John Looker, Department Chairman gave a report on the National Americanism Conference and the Oratorical Meeting. Discussion was had about getting in to schools and school/student participation. John Betterson, 5th District Chairman was asked to share his list of homeschool families and his contact for a diversity and inclusion organization and their essay program.
 13. Good of the Legion- John Looker, Department Chairman lets the committee know about some of the students that have reached out through the Ohio Legion website that are interested in participating in the American Legion Oratorical Contest. Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman will talk to Chuck Hillier about being a judge again for the Department Oratorical Contest.
 14. Benediction- Malcom Glasgow, 12th District Chairman gave the benediction.
- Department will edit the Oratorical Brochure and create a QR code that will direct people to the Oratorical Website.
15. Adjourned- Jacob Marx, 14th District Chairman, motioned, seconded by Richard Smathers, 11th District Chairman to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:13 P.M.