

MINUTES
ORATORICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING OF
OCTOBER 12TH, 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
Gary Minadeo Oratorical Co-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:

Bruce Gardner, 1st District Chairman- PRESENT
Thomas Tierney, 2nd District Chairman- PRESENT
Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairman- PRESENT
John Looker, Oratorical Chairman- PRESENT
John Betterson, 5th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Keith Smigle, 6th District Chairman- PRESENT
Nathan Steinbrook, 7th District Chairman- PRESENT
Jared Hickie, 8th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Gary Minadeo, Oratorical Co-Chairman- PRESENT
Ed Long, 10th District Chairman- PRESENT
Richard Smathers, 11th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Brad Beatty, 12th District Chairman- PRESENT
13th District Chairman- VACANT
Jacob Marx, 14th District Chairman- PRESENT

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator
Chuck Hiller, 9th District
Malcolm Glasgow, 12th District

1. Reading of Previous Minutes

Jake Marx, 14th District Chairman moved, seconded by Brad Beatty, 12th District Chairman to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

MOTION PASSED

2. Approval of Committee Rules

Add "or virtually" on the authorized meeting section.

Jake Marx, 14th District Chairman moved, seconded by Brad Beatty, 12th District Chairman to approve the Committee Rules with the changes.

MOTION PASSED

3. 2025 Contest Review- Committee discussed the 2025 contest. John Looker, Department Chairman, liked how it was run last year. Having a volunteer with each contestant, and Christie being the runner worked very well. Gary Minadoe, Co-Chair suggested splitting some to the responsibilities before the contest and checking people in. Chuck Hiller, 9th District, suggested changing how we acknowledge the award winners and state officers. Limit who is recognized. Committee suggested creating a Program Book with contestant info and judge info. Discussion was had about recognizing

4. Contest Dates

a. District

D1- TBD

D2- Feb 21st @10:00AM TriStar

D3- TBD

D4- March 1st @2:00PM Mason City Building

D5- Not Present

D6- TBD

D7- TBD Post 62

D8- Not Present

D9- March 8th (will take District 13th contestants if they do not have a chair)

D10- March 8th

D11- Not Present

D12- TBD

D13- Vacant

D14- TBD

Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman motioned, seconded by Jacob Marx, 14th District Chairman to have all the District Contests finished by March 16th and the Department Contest will be Sunday March 29th, 2026.

MOTION PASSED

b. Department – March 29th, 2026.

c. National – May 15th- 17th, 2026- Hillsdale Michigan.

5. Edit Department Contest Packet Dates-

Dates on page 2 need to be changed as well as National prize amounts.

6. Unfinished Business- Malcom Glasgow, 12th District mentioned that the National Contest still needs judges and the Oratorical Committee should consider going to National. National pays for everything except gas to get there and back. Add on our website, National needs volunteers and add the link to Nationals website. Make sure to mention it at the DEC meeting.

Gary Minadeo, Oratorical Co-Chair, motions, seconded by Brad Beatty, 12th District Chairman, to ask Charities Inc to fund a .45 per mile travel per diem for volunteers to attend the National Oratorical Contest, round trip. Up to \$2,000 total.

MOTION PASSED

7. New Business- John Looker, Oratorical Chairman discussed the National Americanism Conference. He thinks it's because National stopped paying for call-ins. Jake Marx, 14th District Chairman discussed that he was at the National Fall Meetings and attend the Americanism Commission meeting. He does not recall anything that would affect Oratorical.
8. Good of the Legion- Gary Minadeo gave props to the Department Staff for all their help and everything they do. Christie Congratulated the Oratorical Committee on their hard work and Department winning the Daniel J. O'Connor Award.
9. Benediction- Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman gave the benediction.
10. Adjourned- Gary Minadeo, 9th District Chairman, motioned, seconded by Jake Marx, 14th District Chairman to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:18 P.M.