

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION: #23-16

SUBMITTED BY: 19th District

SUBJECT: Create Adult Oratorical Contest

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students; and

WHEREAS, The Oratorical Contest program has continued to be an important, educational youth program since 1938; and

WHEREAS, The challenge of the Oratorical Contest teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The importance of understanding the U.S. Constitution and its effect on each citizen is not limited to high school students; and

WHEREAS, Many adults in the United States may have limited understanding and awareness of the provisions of the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the knowledge and understanding of the Constitution among the general adult public will allow for and help create a more informed and aware electorate; and,

WHEREAS, A more informed and aware electorate is an integral part of a more secure nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in annual Department Convention assembled in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, July 7-9, 2023, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan request the Department Americanism Committee work to develop a competition program functionally and operationally similar to the High School Oratorical Scholarship program; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program be open to any American Citizen or anyone currently involved in the Naturalization process over the age of eighteen (18); and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program, in conjunction with existing or developing collegiate relationships, award prizes commensurate with the prizes awarded for the high school program; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a plan for promotion of the program to be distributed through every post-secondary school within the state of Michigan, through affiliated organizations and through appropriate media channels, be included in the draft document; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this program be presented in draft format to the Department Executive Committee, through the appropriate channels, no later than Department Winter Meeting, February 9-11, 2024; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, That, if successful, this program be recommended to other Departments and to the National Organization, with the possibility of becoming an annual National competition.

APPROVED

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APPROVED REJECTED REFERRED TO DEC _____ APPROVED w/AMEND _____