

## Judges Biographies

### HONORABLE CATHY CARLAT

Peoria Mayor 2015-2023, served as Peoria's first female Mayor, two terms. Ms. Carlat served on the Peoria City Council beginning in 2005, where she was reelected to three four-year terms. Was a District Manager for a Fortune 500 Company and Vice President for a commercial real estate firm in Texas, Carlat returned home to Arizona and spent thirteen years at Central Arizona Project. Cathy received many honors including being named one of the Most Influential Women in Arizona for her professional leadership, innovation, and community impact by AZ Big Media. Mayor Carlat served as President of the League of Arizona. Now retired, former Mayor Carlat and her husband Dennis enjoy the fruits of their labors.

### MR. JON FORSYTHE

Born and raised in Phoenix, AZ. Graduated Brophy Preparatory and University of Arizona a triple major - Finance, Accounting and Political Science. Entered the family business, married at 23. Retired 25 years later after growing a large business in both Arizona and California, 7 locations with over 100 employees. Today active in preserving our Constitution as a speaker and activist for protecting American's inalienable rights at City Hall and local Communities.

### CDR DICK METZ

Commander of Thomas D. Rabjohn Post 143, Goodyear AZ. Retired United States Air Force 21 years, Inspector General for Computer Operations, Retired Administrative Law Judge, Nebraska Department of Education. Former College Instructor for Personnel Management, Business, Computer Science and Business Law. Former President of Nebraska Elks Association, District Deputy for the National President of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and presently serves as Presiding Justices for the Omaha (NE) Elks Lodge #39.

### MRS. JULIA GUSSE

Legislative Liaison for the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. Prior to accepting this role, she served as a political appointee for the Biden-Harris Administration as the Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs. Julia has been in public service all of her adult life, after having served on active duty in the United States Air Force. She is the former Director of the Veterans Upward Bound Program at Arizona State University and former Councilwoman (two terms) for the City of Maricopa, Arizona. Julia holds a B.A. from CSULA and a Masters' from the University of Arizona in Information Resources and Library Science. Mrs. Gusse is also an active member of The American Legion.

### DR. KAYE ROBINSON

Former University Director/Professor of College Forensics and Communications at Arizona State University. Dr. Robinson has for many years been an avid adjudicator in speech competitions. She volunteers her time for The American Legion through the Eugene C. Yount Post-145 Oratorical Program and has is able to continue teaching students the value of constructing well organized speech content, along with the ability to "Stand and Deliver" She has since retired and continues to keep her hand in education and is grateful to assist in the understanding of The Constitution of The United States of America.

**Thank you to everyone that works behind  
the scenes at every level!**

# The American Legion



**DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

*"A Constitutional Speech Contest"*

**SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**Auditorium**

**Phoenix, AZ**

**8:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.**

**March 29, 2025**



## 2025 ORATORICAL CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST PROGRAM



- 9:15 OPENING REMARKS
- INVOCATION
- COLOR GUARD— Sandra Day O'Connor High School JROTC Color Guard
- NATIONAL ANTHEM
- 9:25 INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER (to be announced)
- 9:40 CONTEST BRIEFING
- DRAWING FOR ORDER OF SPEECH (done prior to start)
- PREPARED ORATION DELIVERED (8-10 Minute Speech)

**10 MINUTE BREAK: Judges reconciling their scores.**

**\*\* Rear doors can be used to access restrooms during breaks only.**

**Please be back in your seats no later than a 10 minute break!!**

- 11:20 ASSIGNED TOPIC SPEECH (done prior to start )
- ASSIGNED TOPIC (3-5 Minute Speech)
- DISMISS JUDGES AND TABULATORS

**10 MINUTE BREAK: Judges reconciling their scores.**

- 12:15 FINAL TABULATION AND PRESENTATION
- CONTESTANT INTRODUCTIONS
- JUDGES & CONTEST TEAM INTRODUCTIONS
- 12:30 STATE AWARDS PRESENTATION
- CLOSING COMMENTS
- BENEDICTION



## 2025 AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTANTS AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### *"A Constitutional Speech Contest"*

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program started in the 1934-1935 School Year at the state level in Kansas City, Missouri by William A. Kitchen a past Department Commander of Missouri. The first National Oratorical Contest was held in Norman, Oklahoma in 1938. The first National Winner that year was John Janson of Phoenix, Arizona.

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of High School students. Other objectives include the development of leadership qualities, and the ability to think and speak Clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for the acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship. Another purpose is to assist students in paying for their college education. The National first place winner takes home \$25,000, the next two winners take home \$22,500 and \$20,000. First round participants in the National contest receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Second round participants do advance to the final round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship.

#### **THE DEPARTMENT PRIZES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**First Prize** - \$1700.00 plus an additional \$2000.00 scholarship upon participation in the First Round of the National Finals in Hillsdale, Michigan

All Contestants at the Department Finals receive Cash Scholarships. The Department AZ Oratorical champion will automatically advance into the National American Legion Oratorical Competition. Finalist receive full airfare, room, meals and transportation to and from National contest.

The FIRST and SECOND ROUNDS of the National Contest will be held of May 16, 17

The NATIONAL FINALS will be held on Sunday, March 18th, 2025 followed by a banquet honoring all the contestants.

#### **2025 ASSIGNED TOPICS**

##### **Amendment I**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

##### **Amendment VII**

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

##### **Amendment XVIII**

**Section 1.** After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited

**Section 2.** The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**Section 3.** This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

##### **Amendment XXVI**

**Section 1.** The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

**Section 2.** The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

**ARIZONA'S NATIONAL CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:** 1938 - 1<sup>st</sup> John Jansen, Nogales H.S. (1<sup>st</sup> National Contest winner) 1966 - 1<sup>st</sup> Ronald T. McCoy, Phoenix Union 1996 - 1<sup>st</sup> Kaleen Love, Mountain View H.S. 2003 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thomas Joraanstad, Brophy Prep.