

## Letter to Commanders

It is now time to begin your preparation for this year's Department of Alabama Oratorical contest. The 2019-2020 contest dates are set and it's time to begin your communications with your local schools, newspapers, radio and television stations.

We are asking Division commanders to be the Point of Contact (POC) for your Division. If you designate a POC please let us know who your contact is. We are requesting that you ensure your Districts and Posts are working towards meeting the requirements to hold the contest and to ensure that the contest is held in accordance with the rules set by the Department and National Headquarters. We are also asking that each post and District assign a POC (Adjutant by default) and submit the names to the Commission.

To all local Posts: if you are contemplating not holding a contest due to finances please reconsider. A Post is not required to award a monetary prize if it cannot afford to. The post can be the platform for the contestants to move up to the District and Division contests where monetary prizes should be awarded. The goal is to get the most qualified contestant to the National Finals and that won't happen if we cannot get them out of their local Posts.

Contest dates are listed below. Please remember, these dates are suggested except for the Department finals. The objective is to give contestants enough time between orations to improve based on feedback from the previous oration.

Information on the Department of Alabama's representative for the National Finals must be submitted to the National Headquarters **no later than 18 March 2020:**

**Schools Contests not later than: 11 January 2020**

**County/Zone/Post Contests not later than: 25 January 2020**

**District Contests not later than: 8 February 2020**

**Division Contests not later than: 22 February 2020**

**Department Contest: 14 March 2020**

**National Finals: 17-19 April 2019 - Indianapolis, IN**

We are asking that the Division's please attempt to finalize your contest date, place, and time by the mid-winter convention. Also, if you can get your Districts and Post to finalize their information this will be a plus for us moving forward in a informed manner.

If you have any questions pertaining to hosting a contest see all forms, instructions, and movies detailing the procedure on the department webpage <https://www.legional.org/oratorical-competition.html>. All Oratorical information have been updated for 2019-2020. The Oratorical Commission members are listed below. Please feel free to call any of them for help or if you have questions:

Chairman	Willie Rogers	334-467-5039	<a href="mailto:32&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;ccrogers@gmail.com">32<sup>nd</sup>ccrogers@gmail.com</a>
Vice Chairman	Earnestine Doubek	708-691-2447	<a href="mailto:ewdoubek@yahoo.com">ewdoubek@yahoo.com</a>
Member	Norman James	251 300-9915	<a href="mailto:stormandrose88@gmail.com">stormandrose88@gmail.com</a>
Member	George Krigbaum	256-739-5916	<a href="mailto:georgekrigbaum@gmail.com">georgekrigbaum@gmail.com</a>
Member	Barry Blount	205-663-3806	<a href="mailto:bkblount@gmail.com">bkblount@gmail.com</a>
Member	Rick Kaster	205-243-0763	<a href="mailto:rlkaster@bellsouth.net">rlkaster@bellsouth.net</a>

Looking forward to working with you to accomplish another successful Department Oratorical program and thank you for your work.

Willie

Willie Rogers  
Oratorical Chairman  
Department of Alabama American Legion