

Coventry Board of Education

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Each year thousands of high school and home-schooled students participate in the American Legion High School Oratorical Constitutional Speech contest. The students pick a topic that explores the meaning and importance of the constitution. According to the American Legion, other objectives of this contest include “the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.”

The participants gain an in-depth understanding of the U.S. Constitution and share their knowledge with their audience in an eight to ten minute prepared speech and an impromptu three to five minute oration chosen randomly from one of four predetermined topics. The first step in this contest is at the Post level.

On February 3rd, American Legion Post #52 held their 4th Annual High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, chaired by State Representative, Timothy Ackert. The legionnaires awarded cash prizes for the best orations. Daniel Bullock, Coventry High School freshman, won first place. Ian Tyszka, Coventry High School Senior, won second place.

State and local contests run annually from December to March, culminating at the national level in April. The district winners will compete for the State Title on March 5, 2011 at Goodwin College. Then, all state champions compete at the national contest in Indianapolis, Indiana, and receive scholarship money, with the top awards going to the best three orators.

For further information, or if you have any questions, please call Coventry High School at 860-742-7346, Ext. 104.