

2012 Department Oratorical Contest Winners

Eleven high school students from around the state participated in the 2012 Wisconsin American Legion Oratorical Contest, held Saturday, February 25, 2012 at Ripon College. Each contestant delivered a prepared oration about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, as well as an oration on a randomly assigned constitutional topic.

Emily Willson, sponsored by Appleton Post No. 38 was the State Winner and recipient of a \$3,000 scholarship. "Hearing Voices" was the title her oration. Emily, a Senior who is home schooled, will compete at the National Finals to be held April 13-15 in Indianapolis, IN.

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of all high school students. Objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, thinking and speaking clearly, and preparation for accepting the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship. Students begin competition at the Post level and progress through County, District, Regional and State competitions.

The 2012 Wisconsin American Legion scholarship winners are:

First Place Winner – *Emily Willson*, Senior-Home School, Appleton, WI, sponsored by Post 38, Appleton, WI representing the 9th District

First Runner-Up – *Anna Hartlaub*, Junior-Home School, sponsored by Post 95, Delavan, WI represented the 1st District and will receive of a \$2,500 scholarship.

Second Runner-Up – *Riley Tuma*, Junior-Shawano High School, sponsored by Post 117, Shawano, WI, will receive of a \$2,000 scholarship and represented the 8th District.

Regional participants:

Sean Gasiorowski, Senior-Grafton High School, sponsored by Post 355, Grafton, WI, recipient of a \$600 scholarship, represented the 2nd District.

Sumaia Masoom, Sophomore-Platteville High School, sponsored by Post 42, Platteville, WI, recipient of a \$600 scholarship, represented the 3rd District.

Joseph Kotvis, Junior-Audubon High School, Milwaukee, sponsored by Post 18, Milwaukee, WI, represented the 4th District and will receive a \$600 scholarship.

Hannah Boutin, Sophomore-Omro School, sponsored by Post 234, Omro, WI, represented the 6th District and will receive a \$600 scholarship.

Kali Burkhardt, Senior-Bangor High School, Bangor, WI, sponsored by Post 40, Bangor, WI, represented the 7th District and will receive a \$600 scholarship.

Mitchell Warren, Sophomore-Independence High School, Independence, WI, sponsored by Post 186, Independence, WI represented the 10th District and will receive a \$600 scholarship.

Elaine (Amy) Alexander, Junior-Phillips High School, Phillips, WI, sponsored by Post 122, Phillips, WI, represented the 11th District and will receive a \$600 scholarship.

Austin Bork, Senior-Webster High School, Webster, WI, sponsored by Post 96, Webster, WI represented the 12th District, and will receive a \$600 scholarship.