

**The American Legion
Essay Committee**

As American Legionnaires, we fully believe that education is the cornerstone upon which the future of America is built. Education becomes the first requisite of good citizenship and the relationship of The American Legion to Pennsylvania citizens is of prime importance as a means of keeping us a free civilization.

Our approach to supporting solid educational principles is direct and positive. We agree with the current PA Department of Education initiative of "writing across the curriculum" and reward the efforts of involved students through our annual essay scholarship program.

Since the inception of the Department of Pennsylvania state Essay Contest in 1935, The American Legion has awarded well over \$500,000 in scholarships, while local American Legion Posts, counties, Districts and Sections have also offered suitable awards and prizes for their respective best essay winners as well.

Through the annual Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Essay scholarship contest, students are provided an opportunity to showcase their talents and abilities in English by using originality, accuracy and research as evidence, while learning that the responsibilities and duties of good citizenship can be both rewarding and fun.

For more information on participating in the Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Essay Contest, please call (717) 730-9100 or visit www.pa-legion.com.

Chairman: *Thomas Shumaker*
392 Webster Ave, PO Box 176
Clarksville, PA 15322
(724) 377-0632
tdshu176@windstream.net

Sectional Vice Chairmen:

East: **Siegfried Honig**, 802 Tomlinson Road
Philadelphia, PA 19116 (215) 464-2809

West: **Dave Mason**, 210 Low Hill Rd,
Brownsville, Pa 15417 (724) 785-5227

Central: **Arlington Phillips**, 1019 Brook Street
Scranton, PA 18505 (570) 343-6989

Inter-District Coordinators:

1-5: **Aaron Campbell, Jr.**, 60 Hawthorne Lane
Willingboro, NJ 08046 (609) 871-5618

8-9-10: **Robert Wilson**, 145 Rainbow Road
Coatesville, PA 19320 (610) 383-5515

11-12-15: **Arlington Phillips**, 1019 Brook Street
Scranton, PA 18505 (570) 343-6989

13-14-30: **Louise Canavan**, 136 Railroad Street
Girardville, PA 17935 (570) 276-1073

16-17-18: **Albert Hess**, 1009 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837 (570) 524-4367

19-22: **Leroy Martin**, 19 Hollar Avenue, Apt. 201
Shippensburg, PA 17257 (717) 532-6684

20-21: **Ray Lenz**, 415 Country Club Road
Cresson, PA 16630 (814) 886-7597

23-28-29:

24-25-31: **Jim Drazenovich**, 169 Mostoller Rd,
Somerset, PA 15501 (814) 445-2221

26-27: **John Davis**, 935 Dutch Ridge Road
Beaver, PA 15009 (724) 728-3322

32-33-36: **Jay Wise**, 105 Ridge Ln,
Murrys ville, Pa 15668 (724) 327-7250

*(Questions on Essay Contest rules or procedures can
be directed to any committee member)*



**“SHOULD AMERICA’S
PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTORAL PROCESS BE
CHANGED?”
(GIVE REASONS)**

**2012
PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICAN LEGION
77TH ANNUAL
ESSAY CONTEST
FOR GRADES 9-12**

**The American Legion
Department of Pennsylvania
PO Box 2324
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2324
(717) 730-9100
www.pa-legion.com**

ESSAY CONTEST RULES & REGULATIONS

1. This year's Essay Contest topic/title is: **"SHOULD AMERICA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORAL PROCESS BE CHANGED?" (GIVE REASONS)** other than that provided for all members of their class. American Legion Directory) for judging **before April 6, 2012.**
2. Any student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in a public, private or parochial school or who is home schooled in Pennsylvania is eligible to participate.
3. All essays MUST have a cover page containing the following information:
 - Essay topic/title
 - Name, address, telephone, & email address (if applicable) of contestant.
 - Sponsoring American Legion Post number, name & location.
 - Parent or guardian name.
4. The topic/title MUST appear on page one (1) of the essay, as well as the cover page.
5. ALL essays MUST be no less than 500 words and no more than 1,000 words.
6. Typewritten essays are preferred but not required.
7. Essays shall be judged on the following:
 - Proper English structure.
 - Accuracy.
 - Extent of information
 - Originality - *Any material not original must be cited in a bibliography for the information of the judges, stating publication, volume, page, date, publisher and author.*
8. Students MUST certify that essays are prepared without assistance
9. The PA essay program, as any program conducted by The American Legion, is designed to provide balanced judging. It is suggested that at least three (3) qualified judges be used.
10. The "**local school**" must determine its own winner by **February 3, 2012** and submit the winning essay to the sponsoring or local American Legion Post immediately for judging at the next level. **Each winner must have a sponsoring local American Legion Post**, which must be noted by the District American Legion Chairperson. To locate a post near you go to www.legion.org & click on find a post and enter your zip code.
11. The winning essay for each "**local American Legion Post**" must be selected immediately and forwarded to the local District American Legion Essay Chairperson for selection **before February 17 2012.**
12. The "**District**" winning essay must be selected and forwarded immediately to the appropriate Inter-District Essay Coordinator (as listed in the current American Legion Directory) for judging **before March 9, 2012.**
13. The "**Inter-District**" winning essay must be selected immediately and forwarded to the Department of PA Essay Contest Sectional Vice Chairperson (as listed in the current
14. The "**Sectional**" winning essay must be selected **before April 27, 2012** and forwarded immediately to the Pennsylvania Department Essay Chairperson, Tom Shumaker, for judging and immediate selection of the 2012 Department of Pennsylvania Essay program finalist before **May 4, 2012.**

PRIZES TO BE AWARDED

1. The Department of Pennsylvania State Essay **First Place Winner** will be awarded a \$3,500 scholarship, a plaque and a trip to the PA American Legion Convention in July 2012 to read the winning essay to the assembled delegates. In the event the first place winner chooses not to attend college, they will receive \$300.
2. The **Second Place Winner** will receive a \$3,000 scholarship and a plaque. In the event the second place winner chooses not to attend college, they will receive \$200.
3. The **Third Place Winner** will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and a plaque. In the event the third place winner chooses not to attend college, they will receive \$200.

NOTE: In the event the winners of 1st, 2nd or 3rd place Dept. of PA American Legion Essay Contest choose not to enter college but have enlisted and been sworn into the active duty military of the U.S. armed forces and shipped to basic training, they would receive the full scholarship amount.