

**The Department of Oregon
Presents
The 73rd Annual Voice of
Democracy Program
February 1, 2020
6:00 PM
Valley River Inn
Eugene, Oregon**



2019-2020

Scholarship Program

“What Makes American Great”

**Sponsored by: The Veterans of Foreign Wars
And its Auxiliary – Working Together**

DISTRICT WINNERS

<input type="checkbox"/> District #2	Ryan Garner	Post & Aux 1440
<input type="checkbox"/> District #3	Ryaan Akmal	Post 1325
<input type="checkbox"/> District #4	Hassaan H Qadir	Post & Aux 3182
<input type="checkbox"/> District #5	Julianna Amenkowicz	Post 1383
<input type="checkbox"/> District #6	Quinton Collins	Post & Aux 5452
<input type="checkbox"/> District #7	Matthew Schenk	Post 6881
<input type="checkbox"/> District #8	Mackenzie Dunn	Post & Aux 922
<input type="checkbox"/> District #9	Ethan Price	Post 3156
<input type="checkbox"/> District #10	Caroline Sherwood	Post & Aux 1643
<input type="checkbox"/> District #12	William Powell	Post & Aux 3970
<input type="checkbox"/> District #13	Gerard Morton	Post & Aux 3473
<input type="checkbox"/> District #14	Ellie Bemrose	Post 3203
<input type="checkbox"/> District #15	Justin Thomas	Post & Aux 12140
<input type="checkbox"/> District #16	Sanya Surya	Post & Aux 2666

Program

Opening: Dennis Pratt & Cathy Lindsay
Voice of Democracy Chairpersons

Invocation: Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Distinguished Guests:
Department Commander & President

Dinner

Hal Roesch – National Sr-Vice Commander in Chief
Laurie Lukas- National District 20 Councilwomen

Department Patriot Pen 1st Place Winner
William Brewer – District 14

Department Teachers Awards: Albert Little

Introduction of District Winners- VOD Chairpersons

Presentation of Awards & Speeches

Awards Presentation

5th Place

Laurie Lukas- National District 20 Councilwomen

4th Place

Bert W. Key- National Council Member-Oregon

3rd Place

Hal Roesch- National Sr-Vice Commander in Chief

2nd Place

Janie Mills – State President

1st Place

John Wrinkle – State Commander

Voice of Democracy

*Established in 1947, our **Voice of Democracy** audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regard to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay.*

Each year, nearly 40,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1.9 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school.

Introducing the 2020 Department of Oregon's District winners

District 2: Ryan Garner

My name is Ryan Garner and I am an aspiring filmmaker. I have wanted to enter into the film industry from a young age and I am currently pursuing a college education for that purpose.



District 3: Ryaan Akmal

Ryaan is a 17-year-old senior currently



attending Sunset High School. He is an IB Diploma candidate and participates in a number of public speaking activities, such as his school's Mock Trial

team as well as Future Stars, a youth Toastmasters Club. He also plays the electric guitar and formed a band called "Out of Luck".

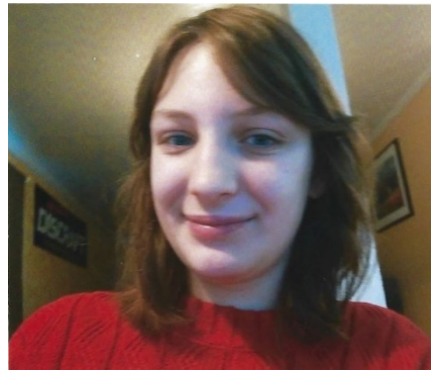
District 4: Hassaan Qadir

"I am from North Bend on the Southwest Oregon Coast. I swim, debate, and run cross-country and track. I plan on studying engineering, and after serving in the Navy, I intend to bring biomedical technologies out of the labs and into the market where they can improve lives."



District 5: Julianna Amenkowicz

I am currently involved in a volunteer program at my school where I am a student aide at Pelican Babies



CCLC, I am also involved with a career class through Klamath Works. I am starting college courses and different online courses for certificates and degrees in those fields. After high school I hope to go to a technical school to take horticulture and botany classes

District 6: Quinton Collins

I am Junior at Jordon Valley High School. There are only 25 kids in my high school and only 6 in my graduating class. I enjoy playing basketball and many musical instruments and my favorite subject in school is math.



District 7: Matthew Schenk:

My name is Matthew Schenk and I have earned the rank of Eagle Scout in my Boy Scout Troop, I carried out a project that repaired a historical covered and I was awarded a Citizenship Award by the city of Eagle Point. I am also one of the top runners for Crater High Schools cross country and track team, I began running my freshman year and quickly climbed up to varsity and have won more than a few state titles with my team. In addition to my running career, I plan on running in college if I am offered a helpful



scholarship so that I can focus on my classes and sports. I have yet to decide where I wish to attend college, but I will be going for my Masters in Psychology which will not take as much time seeing as I have been taking college-level courses at Rogue Community College while in high school.

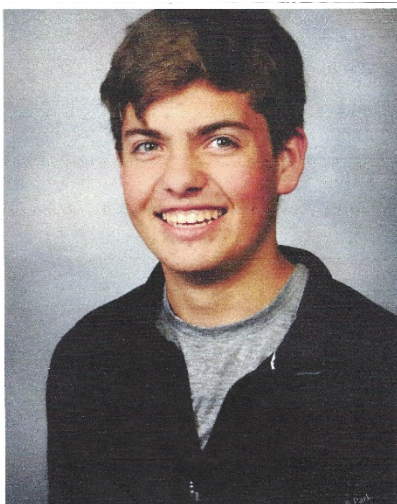
District 8: Mackenzie Dunn



My biography: I am 17 years old and from Helix, Oregon. I play volleyball and tennis. I am currently a part of my school's key club and after I graduate, I plan to enter the workforce.

District 9: Ethan Parker Price

I am a Senior at Taft High School in the small coastal town of Lincoln City. I have sent in applications to OSU, U of O, and various elite colleges such as MIT and Yale, and no matter where I end up my current plan is to study Mathematics. Outside of schoolwork I enjoy Dungeons and Dragons, cartography, history, poetry, and songwriting. I currently work for Lincoln City's Parks and Recreation department as a lifeguard.



District 12: William Powell

I am a senior at Oakland High School. I am a three sport athlete, I participate in varsity football, wrestling, and track. I am also a part of FBLA, Knowledge Bowl, National Honors Society, and the OHS Student Government. I have been accepted into Lewis and Clark College, I plan to study economics or political science and play football.



District 10: Caroline Sherwood



Caroline Sherwood is in her senior year of high school and loves learning new things and giving back to her community. She is a leader in the FCA club at Bend High and in her youth group. After graduation, she is planning on attending

Northwest Nazarene University to pursue a degree in nursing.

District 13: Gerard Morton



Gerard Morton is grateful that his home-based education has helped him learn a good work ethic and allowed

him to discover many of his interests. While he enjoys working with farming/building tools and equipment, as well as working with dairy animals, he especially likes developing his martial arts skills, playing classical piano, baking and snowboarding. In the future, he hopes to explore computer science and expand his culinary skills.

District 14: Ellie Bemrose

My name is Ellie Bemrose, and I am one of four daughters in my family. I was born and raised in Oregon, and I am a senior at West Salem High School. I enjoy outdoor activities, as well as learning about business through work experience. I plan to attend Oregon State University after I graduate where I will major in Business



District 15: Justin Thomas

My name is Justin Thomas, and I am an Eagle Scout and Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 423. Community service is important to me, and I am a member of the Tigard Youth Advisory Council where we help make the city a better place to live. Math and science are my favorite subjects in school, and I am pursuing an education and career in a STEM field and my goal is to graduate as a valedictorian. I both play and referee soccer, and enjoy ceramics, painting, technology, and spending time with friends



District 16: Sanya Surya

Sanya Surya is a junior at Westview High School in Beaverton, OR. While she enjoys challenging herself academically, she is also extremely active in her school's all female acapella group and advanced choir, theatre, and multiple styles of dance. Sanya is passionate about youth-led activism and education, and she participates in various forms of community service in hopes of creating a more well-rounded, loving, and educated future generation. As part of community service, she even traveled to Puerto Rico in 2019 on a medical mission trip for public health work. After high school, she plans on attending a four-year university and continuing higher education in medicine.



Patriot's Pen

Each year more than 111,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$900,000 in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.

Introducing the 2020 Department of Oregon's State 1st place Patriot Pen Winner

Out of District 14 William Brewer

William (Liam) Brewer is a 7th grader from Salem, Oregon. His interests include robotics, computer technology, reading and art, particularly drawing. He also competes on the cross country, basketball, and track teams for his middle school.

In addition, he plays the trombone in the school band. As the son of a former Army surgeon, Liam has lived in 4 different states and enjoys travel, especially exploring large cities.



Teacher of the Year

Without our nation's veterans, America wouldn't be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions and the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America.

The VFW Teacher of the Year award contest recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. Each year, a certified/licensed elementary, junior high and high school teacher whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics can be nominated for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

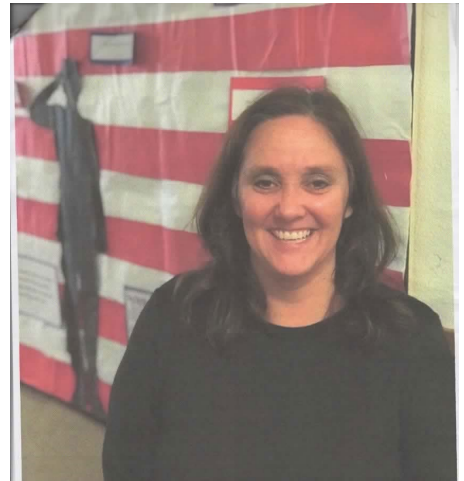
Introducing the 2020 Department of Oregon's State 1st place Teacher of the Year Winners

K-5 (Grade School)

Out of District 16 Tara Hessel

Tara Hessel of the Bethel Academy in McMinnville for 9+ years.

This award goes to **her** for **her** dedication and innovation in educating our youth & community in the importance of



remembering those who have fought for our freedoms; honoring those who have and are serving the U.S. armed forces; and what it means to be a good citizen in these United States. **Mrs. Hessel** volunteers for the Portland USO instructs citizenship classes to adults in the community and created a database of fallen Oregonians who have fallen since World War I. **She** has preschoolers through 8th graders in flag ceremonies and Salute to Veterans Programs. **She** created a non-profit foundation for the Oregon Gold Star Parents. **Her** passion is to educate this generation on the importance of our freedoms. **Tara** takes **her** student for field trips placing flags at cemeteries during the Memorial Day and many more throughout the year.

6-8 (Middle School)

Out of District 12 Jason Baker

Jason Baker teaches at Joseph Lane Middle School in Roseburg. **Jason** started teaching in 2000 at 6th grade level and since 2011 has been



teaching at Joseph Lane Middle School. **Jason** teaches US & World History, Math and Science, & leadership. **Jason** encourages hands-on

learning activities Robert's Rules of Order. **Jason** helped design and participated in the federal Teaching American History Grant. **Jason** looks for educational opportunities specifically designed to teach patriotism and citizenship. **He** is innovative and seeks to keep current with the way students learn in an increasingly digital age. **Jason** is in the process of shifting all his curriculum to web-based learning and research, **he** is utilizing computers to radically change how students are taught to research and how to be informed citizens. **Community service** **Jason** coaches youth sports football, basketball, baseball all at different grade levels. Leadership panels for students on the drug/alcohol awareness. His **professional service** is State Problem-solving Scorer, District Writing Problem Scorer, Leadership Advisor at Joseph Lane Middle School.

9-12 (High School)

Out of District 10 Dan Kernion

Dan Kernion teaches at Redmond High School; **he** has been there since 2013. Before teaching

Dan was in the guitar and surfboard industry as CNC programmer and designer for over 20 years. When he started at Redmond High School there was no manufacturing program and the



welding program did not have any students for at least 10 years. **Dan** is the Manufacturing Technology teacher for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department. **Dan** started these classes 5 years by writing a grant for \$487,000 to allow the school to get specialized equipment computers, CAD program design and cost analysis, cutting and welding machines, sanding and polishing machines. **Dan** has articulated all the classes with COCC as well as Oregon Tech so that students here at RHS can earn college credits at a heavily discounted rate. Students also can enter post-secondary with almost 1 full year of credits completed towards their degree.

His class worked with many different organizations throughout the community doing hands-on projects to local fire districts, designed and fabricated custom signs for the Bend International School, built new Redmond High School signs, **Dan** teaches his students how to design and machine custom billet aluminum bullet boxes. The students that take **his** class can earn industry certifications in the CAD, Solidworks Associate Degree, Cam Mastercam Associates and with the NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills) Community recognized **Dan** by TV News Channel 21 (one class at a time) of a \$500.00 to use towards "The Bike for Life" program where RHS students created special bikes for kids to learn how to ride. **Dan** says I never in my life imagined I would be a teacher, I now cannot imagine being anything but a Teacher, I love my Job.

Top State Scholarship Sponsors

VOD		Patriot Pen		Teachers	
Name	Amount	Name	Amount	Name	Amount
District 13	1,000.00	Aux 4273	500.00	Post 293	200.00
Post 293	1,000.00	District 13	500.00	Post 10580	100.00
Aux 4273	500.00	Post 293	500.00	Post 1324	100.00
Aux 4108	375.00	Aux 4108	375.00	Post 2666	100.00
Aux 10580	300.00	Aux 10580	300.00	Post 4108	100.00
Post 4248	300.00	Aux 1324	200.00	Post 4116	100.00
Sonya Sallee	300.00	Post 1324	200.00	Post 2302	75.00
Post 1440	250.00	Post 3973	200.00		
Post 4108	250.00	Post 2666	200.00		
Aux 1324	200.00	Aux 2848	150.00		
Post 1324	200.00				
Aux 3973	200.00				
Post 2666	200.00				
Post 6881	200.00				
Aux 2848	150.00				
Aux 4750	150.00				

Honorary VOD Donors: \$100- Aux 1412, Aux 2666, Aux 293, Aux 3437, Aux 3440, Aux 3452, Aux 3473, Aux 3965, Aux 5452, Aux 584, Aux 7384, Aux 922, Aux 9448, Aux 965, Linda Rose, Post 10580, Post 3232, Post 4116, Post 4227, Post 7384, Post 922,
\$75- Post 2302 **\$70-** Aux 7847, Aux District 14
\$50- Aux 1440, District 4, District 6, Post 10626, Post 12141, Post 180, Post 2848, Post 2990, Post 3156, Post 3203, Post 3232, Post 3473, Post 3965, Post 4015, Post 4060, Post 4362, Post 661, Post 8138, Post 965,
Under - Aux 12140, Aux 9744, Aux 9745, Aux District 13,

Honorary Patriot Pen Donors: \$100- Aux 1412, Aux 2666, Aux 293, Aux 3437, Aux 3452, Aux 3473, Aux 4750, Aux 5254, Aux 584, Aux 922, Aux 9448, Aux 965, Post 10580, Post 3232, Post 4108, Post 4116, Post 922,
\$75- Post 2302 **\$70-** Aux 7847,
\$50- Aux 1440, Aux 3965, Aux 7384, Aux District 14, District 4, District 6, Post 10626, Post 12141, Post 180, Post 2848, Post 2990, Post 3203, Post 3232, Post 3965, Post 4227, Post 4362, Post 661, Post 7384, Post 965,
Under- Aux 12140, Aux 9745, Aux 9744, Linda Wilks, Aux 6057, Aux District 13, Aux 7384

Honorary Teacher of Year Donors: \$50- District 4, District 6, Post 10626, Post 12141, Post 180, Post 2848, Post 2990, Post 3203, Post 3232, Post 3965, Post 4227, Post 4362, Post 661, Post 7384, Post 965

Thank you for your generous donations!
We appreciate all your support
Dennis Pratt & Cathy Lindsay - Voice of Democracy Chairpersons
Carl G. Anderson- Patriot Pen Chairperson