

MINUTES
AMERICANISM COMMISSION
MEETING OF
OCTOBER 4, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.
VIRTUAL

1. Call to Order 10:00 A.M.
Chairman Rowe opened the meeting of the Department Americanism Commission at 10:00 A.M.
2. Salute to the Colors
The Colors were saluted.
3. Invocation by Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman.
4. Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Rowe led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Roll Call: Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

Members present:

Bruce Gardner, 1st District Chairman- PRESENT
Thomas Tierney, 2nd District Chairman- PRESENT
Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman- PRESENT
Henry Knight Jr, 4th District Chairman- EXCUSED
Sheryl MacDonald, 5th District Chairwoman- PRESENT
Keith Smigle, 6th District Chairman- PRESENT
Bill Frost, 7th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Robert Schmoll, 8th District Chairman- PRESENT
William Dittebrand, 9th District Chairman- PRESENT
Richard Houp, 10th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman- PRESENT
Tom Rowe, Americanism Commission Chairman- PRESENT
Kevin Conlan, 13th District Chairman- PRESENT
Jake Marx, 14th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator
Robert Schmitt, Alternate National Executive Committeeman

1. Reading of Previous Minutes

Robert Schmoll, 8th District Chairman moved, seconded by Melissa Fowle, 3th District Chairwoman to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

MOTION PASSED

2. Educator of the Year
 - a. D1- Matt Berman
 - b. D3- Byron Kimmel
 - c. D11- Bobbi Webb

D1- Matt Berman
D2- Matt Berman
D3- Byron Kimmel
D4- EXCUSED
D5- Byron Kimmel
D6- Matt Berman
D7- Byron Kimmel- Email Vote
D8- Matt Berman
D9- Bobbi Webb
D10- NOT PRESENT
D11- Bobbi Webb
D12- Byron Kimmel
D13- Matt Berman
D14- NOT PRESENT

Robert Schmoll, 8rd District Chairman motioned, seconded by Bruce Gardner, 1st District Charman to select Matt Berman as the American Legion Educator of the Year.

MOTION PASSED

3. Unfinished Business
 - a. A&G Trip Dates- March 2nd – March 6th, 2026. Wreath laying at Arlington will be Tuesday March 3rd at 11:15AM.
 - b. SAL A&G Trip- SAL will not be joining this year. They will revisit the idea next year when they do their budget.
 - c. CPR Packet Email- email has been sent out as requested.
4. New Business
 - a. Daniel J O'Connor Award- Ohio has won the Americanism Award for the 2nd Year in the row!!! Districts need to congratulate their posts, and let them know their hard work is paying off.
 - b. A&G Judging Selections- even year, even districts.

Americanism & Government test Judges for Mid-Winter were discussed. Since it is an even year, the judges will be District 2, District 12, District 8, and District 4, as well as the Auxiliary Americanism Chairwoman and SAL Americanism Chairman. The alternates will be, 1st Alternate- District 10, 2nd Alternate- District 6, 3rd Alternate- District 14.

Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman, motioned, seconded by Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman to approve District 2, District 12, District 8, District 4, Auxiliary Americanism Chairwoman and SAL Americanism Chairman as the judges for the A&G Tests at Mid-Winter, and District 10, District 6 and District 14 as Alternates.

MOTION PASSED

c. Square Knot Award- Mark Wexler

Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman, motioned, seconded by Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman to accept Mark Wexler's Square Knot Award application and forward it to National with Department approval.

MOTION PASSED

5. Good of the Legion

- a. Jr Shooting Sports will be coming very soon. Once we get information, we will make sure the Commission gets it.
- b. Chairman Rowe discussed flag retirement and what types of flags you can and cannot burn. District 12 is working with a company to shred down the flags safely that should not be burned and turned into pellets that can be used for energy. They included other Veterans Service Organizations. Funeral Homes are not able to incinerate flags.
- c. Alt NEC Schmitt discussed Buckeye Boys State and getting Posts involved that are not currently involved. He also mentioned National is discussing changing the Flag Code.
- d. Thomas Tiernery, 2nd District Chairman, mentioned that he has contacted local farmers to help retire flags, and his local funeral homes are upgrading their equipment so they can retire flags as well.

6. Benediction. Benediction was given by Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman

7. Adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 A.M.