

MINUTES
AMERICANISM COMMISSION
MEETING OF
AUGUST 2, 2024, at 10:00 A.M.
DEPARTMENT LIBRARY

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- NOT PRESENT
Thomas Tierney, 2nd District Chairman- PRESENT
Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman- PRESENT
Henry Knight Jr, 4th District Chairman- PRESENT
Sheryl MacDonald, 5th District Chairwoman- PRESENT
William Little, 6th District Chairman- PRESENT
Bill Frost, 7th District Chairman- 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- EXCUSED
Jake Marx, 14th District Chairman- PRESENT

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator
Stan Oren, Department Commander
Mike Kennedy, Department Sgt-At-Arms

6. Reading of Previous Minutes

Jake Marx, 14th District Chairman moved, seconded by Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

MOTION PASSED

7. Approval of Committee Rule

Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman motioned, seconded by Robert Schmoll, 8th District Charman to approve the rules of the Committee.

Discussion was had about Reimbursement #3- adding per Commander's approval for lodging allowance.

MOTION PASSED

8. Testing Dates

- a. October 27- October 31, 2025
- b. November 3-7, 2025 Make-up dates

William Little, 6th District Chairman motioned, seconded by Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman to approve the testing dates.

MOTION PASSED

9. Trip dates

- a. March 2-6, 2026
- b. March 9-13, 2026

Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman motioned, seconded by William Little, 6th District Chairman to approve the trip dates pending availability for Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

MOTION PASSED

10. Selecting Essay Question

Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman discussed voter registration requirements. Sheryl MacDonald, 5th District Chairwoman discussed having students envision themselves over 18 years old and out of high school and ask them what constitutional amendment they think would affect their life the most. The Commission had deep discussion on both topics.

Jake Marx, 14th District Chairman motioned, to approve the essay question as written, "Invision yourself over 18 and able to vote, which of the constitutional amendments is the most impactful to you? Please explain your answer", seconded by William Dittebrand, 9th District Chairman.

MOTION PASSED

11. Unfinished Business

12. New Business

- a. Alice Friedman Memorial Award- Discussion was had about Districts and Posts not sending in nomination forms and narratives for the awards. Posts need to start doing their CPR's earlier. The districts need the nominations by their District Spring Conventions. Chairman Rowe asked that Department send a constant contact email to all Post Commanders with the CPR Award packet and remind them to do it.

- b. Mickeal J Golato Memorial Award- Same discussion as the Alice Friedman Award
- c. A&G Trip- SAL- The SAL had mentioned that they would like to be included in the A&G Trip. If they want to participate, they will need to financially contribute.

Jake Marx, 14th District Chairman motioned, to add the SAL to the A&G Trip with the following criteria. The Detachment 1st Vice Commander and 1 guest may join the trip; The Legion, Auxiliary and SAL will be sponsors of the test; SAL has to participate in administering the tests and promotion of the tests; SAL will need to help grade the tests at the post level; the SAL will need to contribute to 1/3 of the cost of the total trip; and pending approval of SAL DEC before Dept Finance, and DEC ratification; Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman seconds.

MOTION PASSED

13. Good of the Legion

- a. Discussion was had about not receiving A&G Tests from their Posts.

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

15. Adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 11:18 A.M.