

MINUTES  
AMERICANISM COMMISSION  
MEETING OF  
MARCH 21, 2026, 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 the Colors  
The Colors were saluted.
3. Invocation by Melissa Fowle, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
Thomas Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
Melissa Fowle, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Chairwoman- PRESENT  
Henry Knight Jr, 4<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- NOT PRESENT  
Sheryl MacDonald, 5<sup>th</sup> District Chairwoman- PRESENT  
Keith Smigle, 6<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
Bill Frost, 7<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- NOT PRESENT  
Robert Schmoll, 8<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
William Dittebrand, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
Thomas Barnett, 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- NOT PRESENT  
Thom Stan, 11<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
Tom Rowe, Americanism Commission Chairman- PRESENT  
Kevin Conlan, 13<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT  
Jake Marx, 14<sup>th</sup> District Chairman- PRESENT

**Guests Present:**

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator  
Robert Schmitt, Alternate NEC

6. Reading of Previous Minutes

Melissa Fowle, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Chairwoman moved, seconded by Thom Stan, 11<sup>th</sup> District Chairman to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

**MOTION PASSED**

7. A&G Trip Recap

Christie White, Department Coordinator, gave the Commission a recap of the A&G Test. Discussion was also had about the Ohio 250 History Bee.

8. Eagle Scout of the Year  
a. Audra Leadbetter  
b. David Visocky

The Commission discussed both submissions. The Commission recommended we reach out to National and suggest that they add requirements to add photos of their completed Eagle Scout Project. A vote was conducted.

Bruce Gardner- Audra  
Tom Tierney- Audra  
Melissa Fowle- Audra  
Sheryl MacDonald- Audra  
Keith Smigle- Audra  
Robert Schmoll- Audra  
William Dittebrand- Audra  
Thom Stan- Audra  
Tom Rowe-  
Kevin Conlan- David  
Jake Marx- Audra

Melissa Fowle, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Chairwoman, motioned, seconded by Robert Schmoll, 8<sup>th</sup> District Chairman to name Audra Leadbetter as the American Legion Department of Ohio's Eagle Scout of the Year.

**MOTION PASSED**

9. Unfinished Business  
a. Educator of the Year- Edit Packet

Thom Stan, 11<sup>th</sup> District chairman, motioned, seconded by William Dittebrand, 9<sup>th</sup> District Chairman, to have August 1<sup>st</sup> be the due date to the district chair and September 15<sup>th</sup> be the due date to department yearly for the "of the Year" awards that pertain to the Americanism Commission, and to remove all other dates from the Americanism portion of the "Of the Year" Awards packet, and to update the year on the main page without the need for commission review.

**MOTION PASSED**

10. New Business  
a. A&G Procedures- discussion was had about communicating with schools and students before and after testing.  
b. CPR Awards- Commission was reminded that the Americanism Awards are dependent upon the Post CPR Awards. Discussion was had about sharing the packet with Posts in their District.

11. Good of the Legion- None.
12. Benediction. Benediction was given by Melissa Fowle, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Chairwoman
13. Adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 A.M.