

MINUTES
AMERICANISM COMMITTEE
MEETING OF
JULY 11, 2020
10:00 A.M. Department Library

1. Call to Order 10:00 A.M.

Chairman Rowe opened the meeting of the Department Americanism Committee 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:

Stan Oren, 1st District Chairman
Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman
Jerry Wilson, 4th District Chairman
Roy Terry, 6th District Chairman
Bill Frost, 7th District Chairman
Frank Adley, Fill in for 9th District Chairman
Richard Houp, 10th District Chairman
Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman
Thomas Rowe, Americanism Committee Chairman
John Murphy, 13th District Chairman
John Life, 14th District Chairman

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator
Brad Teis, Department 2nd Vice Commander

6. Reading of Previous Minutes

John Life, 14th District Chairman moved, seconded by Stan Oren, 1st District Chairman to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

MOTION PASSED

7. Approval of Committee Rules

Jerry Wilson, 4th District Chairman motioned to approve the Committee Rules. Motion was seconded by John Murphy, 13th District Chairman.

MOTION PASSED

8. Communication-
 - a. Grading Rules- Americanism Chairman Rowe read the Judging committee rules to the committee. Jerry Wilson, 4th District Chairman, asked to change the wording from Chairwoman to Chairperson.
 - b. Packing materials with test- Deadline dates were discussed. Posts need to send the tests to the County Commander by November 27th, 2020. County Commander needs to send the tests to the District Commander by December 11, 2020. District Commanders need to send the tests to Department Headquarters by January 8, 2021. Jerry Wilson, 4th District Chairman asked who has the responsibility to make sure that 100% tests are sent to Department. The integrity of the program should be in favor of the student. If the District does not do their job, the student shouldn't be penalized. Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman, asked what happens in real life if someone loses your application? You just resubmit it; it is nobody's fault. It happens. You rectified the problem by selecting a new District Chairperson. Chairman Rowe, what is done is done, we must move forward. Stan Oren, 1st District Chairman, we need responsible people as the district chair. Jerry Wilson, 4th District Chairman, the District screws up, the committee should have the right to change it. John Life, 14th District Chairman, stated that the system was not breaking on our level, it was broke on the District level. The District fixed it by choosing a new chairman. John Murphy, 13th District Chairman, made the suggestion that if it happens again, District needs to contact Department and explain what happened. John Life, 14th District Chairman, suggested that if Department does not receive the test prior to the deadline, Department should call the District and remind them to turn their forms in. Dick Houpp, 10th District Chairman, stated deadlines are deadlines, you can't keep reminding them to turn their forms in and extending deadlines. Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator will call Districts the day before the winners are due to Department to make sure they turn them in.
9. Testing dates –
 - a. November 2-6, 2020
 - b. November 9-13, 2020 make-up dates

John life, 14th District, asked how it will work if schools are not open or students are attending limited days. Bill Frost, 7th District Chairman, said teachers won't want to give up their face to face time if they attend limited days to take the test. Dick Houpp, you can always bring the students to the Post to take the test. We set the dates and be flexible. Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator, stated she can email a spreadsheet of all the posts that have turned in tests. That will give the Districts accountability to see what Posts are ordering tests.
10. Trip Dates- March 1-5, 2020
11. Chaperones- Auxiliary is giving the other officers an opportunity to go. Committee thinks the 1st Vice should still be allowed to go.
12. Selecting Essay Question Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman, states the subject should be how

the coronavirus effects the constitution. People keep saying things are unconstitutional, so that should be the direction of the essay question. Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman, suggests the essay focus on desecration of veteran's monuments. Question- What are your thoughts on the desecration, removal or vandalism of Historical Monuments/Statues? 300 words maximum, no minimum. As long as they support what they think.

Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman, motions for the test question to be "What are your thoughts on the desecration, removal, or vandalism of Historical Monuments/Statues?". Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman seconds the motion.

MOTION PASSED

13. Unfinished Business- Resolution on Eagle Scout of the year was rejected. Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman, recommends changing all wording to Scouts BSA instead of Boys Scouts. Committee suggests sending it back to Post 171 to reword it and then resubmit it. Needs to be consistent with Nationals rules. Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman, stated the point of the resolution is to see if we will open up the award to any Troop that is sponsored by any civic organization, not just sponsored by The American Legion Post. Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman, suggests changing the grading of the Eagle Scout award to a point system. We currently must follow Nationals rules. John Life, 14th District Chairman, suggests creating an ad-hoc committee to write a resolution to add a point system to the application grading. Chairman Rowe suggests sending the Resolution back to Post 171 to change their wording in their current resolution 19-25 and then the committee will review grading at a later date.
14. New Business- Online Grading. Chairman Rowe received an email from Past 4th District Chairman about a school that used an online grading system to score their tests. That was not signed off on by the Committee, Department Executive Committee or officers. They need permission to do so. We understand technology, but how do we secure the test? There are reasons why we have eyes on the test. Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman, we are not to copy the tests, if they use a scantron who is transcribing them, who is copying the answers down. We do not know if they are fixing the answers or not. The answers need to be written on the test to ensure the integrity. Jerry Wilson, 4th District Chairman, asked the name of the school so he can visit them personally and make sure they are not grading the test online or altering the test in order to give it online.
15. Good of the Legion- Civics are not taught in schools much anymore. We need to get Americanism back into the schools and educate the younger generation. Committee needs to read over the packet "Inspired to Serve". The committee will discuss at the next meeting and prepare a resolution in order to present it to the DEC.

Dick Houpp, the District Chairman, motioned to discard the old Americanism Program fact sheet, and move to the new booklet. Malissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman, seconds the motion.

MOTION PASSED

16. Benediction
17. Adjourned- Meeting was adjourned at 11:40AM