

MINUTES
AMERICANISM COMMITTEE
MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 29, 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 Nelson, 4th District Chairman
Sheryl MacDonald, 5th District Chairwoman
Roy Terry, 6th District Chairman
Bill Frost, 7th District Chairman
Richard Houp, 10th District Chairman
Thom Stann, 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
Luther Liggett, SAL Americanism Chairman

6. Reading of Previous Minutes

John Life, 14th District Chairman moved, seconded by John Murphy, 13th District Chairman to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

MOTION PASSED

7. New Business-

- a. Testing dates for 2020-2021. November 2nd – November 6th. Make up testing dates are November 9th – November 13th.
- b. Trip dates for 2021- First option, March 1st – March 5th, 2021. Second option- March 8th- March 12th, 2021
- c. Review shipping procedures of winning tests
 - i. Cut off dates- Chairman Houp, 10th District Chairman, said the problem was between the county and the district. It was not a problem of getting it to Department. Why are we worried about changing the rules when the district should have taken care of it? Chairwoman Fowle, 3rd District, said they may want to look into have certified mail on tests going from District to Department. The chairman can give a strong suggestion that they do it. Chairman Oren, 1st District, sends a letter to his Posts that they need to have the tests to District by a certain date. If they are not there, they do not count. Chairman Rowe, 12th District, we do not need to get involved with county and district. We need to worry about how they get to Department. Judge Advocate suggested previously that the committee adds an appeal process. Committee believes the rules are the rules, and if they do not have the tests where they need to be in time, they do not count. Chairwoman Fowle, 3rd District, mentions that we should not take scanned or emailed copies unless it is revised for a visually impaired student. Committee strongly suggests that all 100 percent tests need to be hand delivered where it needs to go. Chairman Nelson, 4th District said to take the tests to the post office and get a tracking number for the package.

Chairman Houp, 10th District motions that we do not do anything to change the procedures and keep the rules the way they are. The rules are the rules. Chairman Life, 14th District seconds the motion.

MOTION PASSED

Chairwoman Fowle, 3rd District, motions not to accept any tests that are faxed, scanned, photocopied, or emailed, unless it is a modified test for a visually impaired student. Chairman Stann, 11th District, seconds the motion.

MOTION PASSED

Chairman Oren, 1st District asked how much it costs to send an extra student. Now the bus is open for anyone to pay for an extra student to go. Districts WILL be paying for an extra student every year. Why did the committee vote if they were stomped on anyway? The decision should have been taken to the DEC. The decision was made unfairly and secretly. This should have never had happened, the committee stuck together and made the correct decision based on the

rules and integrity of the tests. We do it for one, we have to do it for all. The committee asked what's the sense of the committee is their recommendations do not matter? Luther Liggett suggests not sending a letter of displeasure to Department. Keep it verbal, do not put anything in writing. The committee says the decision was made due to favoritism.

8. Unfinished Business –

Chairwoman Fowle, 3rd District, asked how judging went at mid-winter. Chairman Houpp, 10th District said it went very well but we always need to make sure there are alternate judges there. Chairman Rowe, 12th Districts mentioned that there were a few ties, but the winning essays stood out very well. Chairman Nelson, 4th District, talks about Educator of the Year applications. He has multiple applicants that are very good, so wants to know how to start a committee in his district to review them. Chairwoman Fowle, 3rd District, suggests having district line officers review them and make the decision. Chairman Houpp, 10th District, Christie did a good job blanking out the names, posts, and essays on the tests that were judged so the judges could not see who the students were. C

9. Good of the Legion- Chairman Murphy, 13th District, would like to emphasis the fact that the committee stood together in their decision to do the right thing. He asked what's the point of the committee if their decisions are ignored. That is what is killing the Legion. The committee would much rather stay at home them waste their time. Committee chairman are debating if they want to accept the appointment next year.
10. Benediction- Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman.
11. Salute the colors
12. Meeting Adjourned. 11:08 AM