

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
AMERICANISM COMMISSION

1. A meeting of the Department of Illinois Americanism Commission was held March 5, 2010 at 7:30pm at the Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria, Illinois.

2. Commission members present:

First Division – Micheal Carder – Chairman
Second Division – Dave Ralston
Third Division – Craig Fetzer – vice chairman
Fourth Division – George Love – Absent
Fifth Division – Phil Mette

Guests:

Joy Wilson – Oratorical Coordinator
William Flanagan – Department Commander
Richard Groheiring – Department Senior Vice Commander
Terry Woodburn – Department Adjutant
Mike Buss – National Assistant Director of Americanism and Children and Youth Division

3. The first topic of discussion pertained to correcting any last minute problems pertaining to the Oratorical Contest to be held on March 6, 2010. Joy Wilson reported that all preparation was going good except for some judges canceling out at the last minute. However, she did report that all contest rooms would have satisfactory judging coverage. All contestants had reported on time, with one contestant withdrawing. Joy pointed out that there was some confusion in Oratorical Brochure about the contestant reporting time. Following discussion the commission decided to review the brochure at the pre-convention meeting.
4. Discussion was then held on the number of contestants per division and following in put from the department officers the commission members voted to keep the number of contestants at 6 per division.
5. The commission then discussed with Mike Buss the contestant contacts forwarded from National Headquarters. All felt that the contacts for contestants was very profitable and made commission members aware of interested contestants not previous known.
6. Pertaining to PR for the oratorical it was felt that information being released prior to the contest was slow. However, plans for news releases at oratorical contest and after the contest were excellent. It was noted that the final contest would be recorded and prepared for a news release.
7. The final topic for discussion pertained to the location of the 2011 Oratorical Contest. Following discussion with the department officers it was learned that the yearly Department Convention would be held either in Peoria or Springfield. Therefore, it was

decided that; a) the date would remain as the first Saturday of March, b) with the 2011 department convention to held in Peoria, the 2011 Oratorical Contest would be held in Springfield and then as the convention sites would change so would the oratorical sites, c) a commission and department committee would go to Springfield following the National Oratorical Contest to review hotel and contest sites in April 2010.

8. The commission meeting was closed at 9:15 pm.
9. The Department of Illinois Oratorical Contest was held on March 6, 2010, at the Peoria Civic Center. The following contestants were the five finalists.

First Place – Matthew Schuhriemen (Naperville) (will progress to the national finals April 9 – 11, 2010)

Second Place – Melissa Lam (Bolingbrook)

Third Place – Heidi Erbsen (Pearl City)

Fourth Place – Azza Cohen (Highland Park)

Fifth Place – Heidi Schreiber (Elk Grove Village)

10. In all 15 out of 16 contestants participated in the oratorical contest. However, the overall interest in the contest was nearly double and the interest for next year was high amongst the contestants and parents who praised the one day format.

For the Americanism Team

Micheal M. Carder
Americanism Chairman