

Americanism Commission minutes

The Americanism Commission met Saturday, October 6, 2018 at Department headquarters. Chairman Mette opened the meeting at 10 am with a salute to the Colors, a prayer, and the pledge to our Flag. Present were:

Chairman Philip Mette - Fifth Division

Vice Chairman Jimmy Nagel - Fourth Division

Member Gary Stieg - Second Division.

Commission member John Davis - third division was excused due to a work conflict.

Commission member and Department Commander Mike Carder attended the meeting later as he was busy visiting other meetings.

Guests included Department oratorical coordinator Joy Wilson, Post 103 Commander Joshua Thielen of Clinton, and Linda Mette.

Department Commander Micheal Carder, and Department SV Commander Roy Weber brought greetings, and Department Adjutant Marty Conatser promoted the 4 Pillars pin and asked the commission to encourage posts and Legionnaires purchase the coins to help finance the four programs of Special Olympics, Boys State, Gifts to the Yanks, and the Oratorical Contest.

Department oratorical contest coordinator Joy Wilson reported the department signed a contract with the Crown Plaza in Springfield to hold the 2019 and 2020 department constitutional speech contests there. Joy is making some minor adjustments to better the registration and lunch. Joy stressed the importance that the contestants attend the mandatory orientation on Friday, March 1st. The department semifinals and finals will be held on Saturday, March 2nd. Each division is entitled to six contestants and the commission's goal is to have a full slate of thirty contestants competing in the semifinals.

Vice Chairman Jimmy Nagel reported on the Oratorical Chairman's Conference held in Indianapolis on September 29 and 30. Jimmy received information and ideas to recruit contestants and promote the program. In past years members Carder, Mette, and Stieg have attended the conference. The commission plans to send John Davis to the conference in 2019.

Chairman Mette reported the four commission's accounts were fully funded for 2018-19, and the commission thanks the department officers and staff for their confidence and support. Account #6850 for the oratorical scholarships was funded for \$13,225, and account #7020 for the department finals contest was funded for \$13,214.

Department Commander Mike Carder reported on the National Convention held in Minneapolis. Mike attended the convention committee on Americanism where resolution No. 111: English Language be Declared as the Official United States Language was approved. This resolution was consolidated with resolution No. 66 for Illinois.

The 2019 topic of the Americanism essay contest is “What are my Responsibilities as a U.S. Citizen?” The contest is sponsored by our American Legion family for grades 7-12. The essays are due to the posts, units, and squadrons by February 1st. The Auxiliary judges the essays at the district, division, and department levels.

The Americanism Commission encourages all Americans to vote on November 6th. Voting is privilege and a responsibility.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.