

## Americanism Commission Minutes

The Americanism Commission met Friday, March 1st at the Crown Plaza in Springfield. All five commission members were present which includes Department Commander Mike Carder. Also present were Department SV Commander Roy Weber, Department Adjutant Marty Conatser, and oratorical program coordinator Joy Wilson. Joy reported eighteen contestants were registered for the contest, which is a decrease of three from 2018. The Third Division had no contestants this year, due to indifference and a lack of participation by post and district leadership.

Seventeen contestants competed in the department high school constitutional speech semi-finals contests on March 2nd at the Crown Plaza. Five advanced to the finals held Saturday afternoon. The results are as follows:

First place, Caleb Maue, home schooled junior from Homer Glen, 2nd Division

Second place, Regan Macwan, senior from Naperville, 2nd Division

Third Place, John Toft, senior from Downs, 4th Division

Fourth place, Abril Hunter, senior from Belleville, 5th Division

Fifth Place, William Meanes, senior from Fairview Heights, 5th Division

Caleb Maue will represent Illinois in the National quarter finals on April 5-7 in Indianapolis. It was noted the Macwan family has participated in the oratorical program for the past eleven years. The March Department Newsletter contains the names and information of our outstanding contestants complete with photos. The Americanism Commission thanks all the American Legion family volunteers, the department staff, and other volunteers who helped run the contest.

Americanism essays are being judged by the respective district Auxiliary Americanism chairs, and then the first-place winners will be advance to the division and department levels.

The commission encourages posts to recruit candidates for Premier Boys State and Illini Girls State. Both are held in June at EIU Charleston.

The Americanism Commission will next meet on July 10 at the Department Convention.