

Americanism Commission Meeting
October 5, 2019
Department Headquarters

Chairman Mike Carder called the meeting to order at 10:10am, with a salute to the flag, opening prayer, and pledge of allegiance being conducted. The following commission members were in attendance.

Mike Carder Chairman, 1st Division
Gary Steig Vice Chairman, 2nd Division
Philip Mette Chairman Emeritus
Jimmy Nagel, 4th Division
Glenn Gindler, 5th Division
Arlene Holtgreve ALA Chairwoman
Joy Wilson Oratorical Program Coordinator

John Davis III, 3rd Division - Absent

The chairman opened the meeting with a discussion of the National Oratorical Contest Chairmen in Indianapolis, Indiana September 27-29 2019. Introduced was Bill Meginn, who is the new Deputy Director of Americanism Youth Programs. Program moderator was National Vice Commander David King.

The first item discussed was NEC Resolution #28 entitled Citizenship, Residency, or Visitor Status for Youth Participation in American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level. The second resolved clause stated "That The American Legion will require proof of legal citizenship, residency, or visitor status from all potential youth participants prior to their acceptance for participation in a national-level youth program of the organization. Discussed further were examples of accepted proof of legal status. Members of the commission were advised that this resolution was for participation at the national level and not required for department contests. However, it was noted that it was suggested that the departments consider adopting the resolution sometime in the future.

A second resolution was discussed which was NEC Resolution # 82, entitled; Proposed Change to The Oratorical Contest National Finals. Commission members were advised that this resolution pertained to the National Finals only. It was explained what the resolution did was to advance the First and Second place winners in the Quarter final contests to the Semi-Final contest, which would have 6 contestants instead of the previous 3 contestants. The chairmen in attendance at the meeting were then tasked with developing a revised National Oratorical Contest format. The commission members were advised that the new format was developed by the chairmen and a finalized report will be sent forward to the National Americanism Commission and if approved it would go to the NEC for final approval.

The commission members were advised that the Oratorical Chairman's Guide would be online only and that all materials pertaining the Oratorical Contest would no longer be in hard copy. The commission members were given copies of proposed changes to the Chairman's Guide to review and compare to the existing guide. Also, each member was presented with a copy of proposed changes of volunteer duties at the National Contest. It was noted that these changes would not affect the department contest.

Joy Wilson reminded everyone that Department Oratorical Contest would be held Saturday March 7, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois and that each division was allowed 6 contestant. She further reminded the chairmen that all applications and registration fees were to be at department on January 24, 2020. She further emphasized that it was mandatory for all contestants be at the Friday Orientation.

With no further business to be discussed. A closing prayer was offered, followed by a salute to the flag and the meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

Respectfully submitted

Micheal M. Carder
Americanism Chairman