

Americanism Commission  
January 27, 2020  
10:00 AM  
Department Headquarters

Salute to colors  
Prayer – Glenn Gindler  
Pledge of Allegiance

Members present  
Mike Carder, Chairman, 1<sup>st</sup> Division  
Gary Stieg, Vice Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division  
John Davis III, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division  
Jimmy Nagel, 4<sup>th</sup> Division  
Glenn Gindler, 5<sup>th</sup> Division  
Philip Mette, Chairman Emeritus  
Kevin Leonard, 11<sup>th</sup> District Commander  
Roy Weber, Department Commander  
Marty Conatser, Department Adjutant  
Joy Wilson, Oratorical Program Coordinator  
Christy Rich, Oratorical Program Assistant Coordinator

As a preface to the meeting Adjutant Conatser stated that the meeting would be in two phases. Phase 1 would pertain to the 2020 Oratorical Contest and Phase 2 would pertain to the future of the Oratorical Contest.

Program Coordinator, Joy Wilson proceeded to obtain a census of contestants per division.

Contestants per Division

1<sup>st</sup> – 5  
2<sup>nd</sup> – 7 (waiting on confirmation on 1)  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 0  
4<sup>th</sup> – 0  
5<sup>th</sup> – 2  
Totaling 14

2<sup>nd</sup> Division is only one that held a contest.

Joy recommended eliminating the Semi-finals and having finals in the morning, having a lunch break, then doing the awards. Phil Mette moved to eliminate the Semi-finals contest for 2020. John Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor 10 Ayes, 1 Nay by Jimmy Nagel.

Joy discussed how the information sent to contestants will be adjusted. All paperwork stating Semi-finals will be eliminated.

### Award monies

Currently     1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$2000  
                  2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$1500  
                  3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$1200  
                  4<sup>th</sup> Place - \$1000  
                  5<sup>th</sup> Place - \$1000

Award monies changes for 2020 – from 6<sup>th</sup> place on, recipients will receive \$300 each.  
Philip Mette made a motion and a second, all in favor.

After the awards and cake reception, the contestants and families are free to leave.

Joy suggested we only have 7 judges and 2 tabulators.

We will have judges come in Friday evening for briefing during the pizza party. Department will pay for their rooms.

We will adjust the contest time to start at 8:00 a.m. By Christy's calculations it will take approximately 5 hours to complete the contest. Lunch is tentatively scheduled for 1:00 p.m. The judges will have plated meals delivered to the judge's room.

There will be an after action meeting.

For future contests

At convention we may have "Legion Programs Training" by picking some of the programs and having the Chairmen do a 20 minute presentation.

There was a discussion of the need for Oratorical PR by the Technology Committee on social media especially Facebook.

There will be an Americanism Commission booth at convention and possibly Division level training.

Joy brought up contracts for Crowne Plaza need to be signed prior to convention in order to get reduced pricing.

Adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

### Phase 2

Following a 10 minute recess the commission chairmen reconvened the commission meeting to begin discussion on the future of the Oratorical Contest.

At the conclusion of a lengthy discussion the following points were agreed upon and then presented to Adjutant Conatser:

- The Oratorical Contest should continue in the Semi Final and Final format.
- It was recommended that a Program Training session at the Department Convention would stimulate interest in the program and increase the number of contestants.
- It was agreed that an Americanism booth be established at Department Convention
- In recruiting contestants for next year's contest emphasis should be placed on homeschooled students, private school and parochial school students as well as public school students.
- The need for better publicity was deemed crucial and that better coordination between the Americanism and Public Relations Committees is needed as well as the increased use of social media and Facebook to contact today's youth.

Following a salute to the flag, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Micheal Carder, Americanism Chairman  
Philip Mette, Americanism Chairman Emeritus

MC:PM:C