

**Americanism Commission
Department Headquarters
October 17, 2020**

1. Chairman Mike Carder called the Americanism Commission to order at 10:10 am October 17, 2020 at the Department Headquarters. Honors to the American Flag were conducted and the opening prayer was presented by Jimmy Nagel.
2. Commission Members present - 1st Division Mike Carder, Chairman
2nd Division Gary Steig, Vice Chairman
3rd Division John Davis 111 - Excused Absence
4th Division Jimmy Nagel
5th Division Glenn Gindler - Excused Absence Hospitalized,
Larry Miller substitute
Philip Mette, Chairman Emeritus
3. Chairman Carder distributed listings obtained from the National Americanism Office which listed all high schools and the schools sponsors who are active with National Speech and Debate Association in the State of Illinois. This data could be used by the chairmen for contestant contacts. It was also noted that Jimmy Nagel has been in contact with home schools and high school speech directors for a wider contact of students.
4. Due to COVID 19, making contact with the schools and students has been difficult and each of the chairman presented their situation. 2nd Division reported that he is having problems contacting previous contestants and contacts, which are not returning phone calls. 4th Division reported that he has contacted at least 6-8 interested students. The 1st Division reported that the districts have contacted at least one student per district. A clear census of the absent divisions couldn't be obtained.
5. The commission was visited by Department Commander Roy Weber and Senior Vice Wayne Fisher. The commander emphasized support of his special project the Illinois Emergency Relief Fund to additionally help legionnaires in Illinois. Vice Commander Fisher discussed the need for all to continue to bring in members, especially those who have not renewed their membership. Commander Weber then introduced Shandi Green who is replacing Joy Wilson in the print shop.
6. Department Adjutant Marty Conatser briefly discussed the administration of the Oratorical Contest with the absence of Joy Wilson and that he and Christy Rich would be handling most of the duties. He reconfirmed that National Headquarters stated that all oratorical contests would be held in-person and virtual contests could not be done. He also stated that the state contest site was firm and good to go.
7. All present were reminded of the Essay Contest and its title.
8. Following a closing prayer by Jimmy Nagel and the salute to the flag, Chairman Carder adjourned the meeting at 11:40am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Micheal M. Carder Chairman
Philip Mette Chairman Emeritus