

# AMERICANISM COMMISSION

**10/9/23 at 10:00 a.m.**

- Chairman Micheal Carder called the meeting of the Americanism Commission to order at 10:00am October 9, 2023, at Department Headquarters. Following the salute to the flag Ralph Rounds presented the opening prayer and Celeste Latham led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
- The following commission members were present:

1st Division - Micheal Carder - Chairman  
2nd Division - Celeste Latham - Vice Chairman  
3rd Division - Norm Flowers  
4th Division - John Danielson sitting in for Mark Young  
5th Division - Ralph Rounds

Guest: Christy Rich: Oratorical Contest Coordinator  
Shandi Greene - Publications Coordinator  
Carter Corsello - Webmaster

- The meeting began with a presentation by the webmaster as to his vision of the Americanism web page. A lengthy discussion followed and the inclusion of more illustrations of the Oratorical Contest was requested. Celeste Latham suggested possibly recording the Oratorical Contest finals and including a contestant's oration on the website. Christy Rich stated that she thought the department had video equipment and would search it out, it was felt by the committee that a stationary unattended camera would not violate contest rules. The webmaster was thanked for his input.
- The committee welcomed Baseball Chairman Don Wallis, who spoke about the baseball game between Illinois and Missouri Legion Baseball teams, He stated that the game was well appreciated by all who attended, and he showed the commission a uniform shirt that was designed for the game. To purchase the jersey, you may contact Joe Weir at [joe@grapplemonster.com](mailto:joe@grapplemonster.com). The jersey is \$35 + shipping.
- Commander Buske and Senior vice Joe Lampert addressed the commission and thanked them for their work for the Department and the American Legion.
- The commission discussed the errors found on the Oratorical Registration form with Shandi Greene. She stated she would make the corrections and would forward the corrected forms to the webmaster and print corrected forms as needed.
- It was noted that the minutes of the July commission meeting had not been posted on the website. Christy Rich said she would search her email and forward the minutes to the webmaster.
- Discussion was held on the American Flag distribution program presented to the commission last year. It was stated that very little interest has appeared from posts in the department. The commission felt that the program should be discontinued once the current inventory had been depleted.
- National resolution 36, CHANGE DATE OF ORATORICAL NATIONAL FINALS TO FIRST WEEKEND IN MAY was discussed and it was noted that it was referred to the Standing Committee on Americanism. Celeste Latham noted that the resolution was discussed at the National Oratorical Chairman's Conference, and it was not well received.
- Ralph Rounds discussed recruiting contestants and shared ideas for successful recruiting.
- The commission discussed the design of a pin for the oratorical contest, Chairman Carder stated that this idea had been discussed several years ago and had never been completed. Commission members were tasked with developing a sketch of a pin for review at the next commission meeting and once a sketch was approved Shandi stated that she could try different vendors for estimations of cost.
- With no further business to be discussed, Ralph Rounds offered the closing prayer, a salute to the flag was rendered. Chairman Carder closed the meeting at 11:30am.