

Minutes Americanism Commission Dept of IL
4 Oct 2025
Dept of IL Headquarters, Bloomington, IL

🇺🇸 Chairman Mike Carder brought the meeting to order at 10:07 Hrs if full ceremony. Ralph Rounds offered a prayer and Norman Flowers lead the Pledge to the Flag.

🇺🇸 Present:

Mike Carder, 1st Div & Chairman
Celeste Latham, 2nd Div
Norman Flowers, 3rd Div
Ralph Rounds, 5th Div

- Other: Marty Conatser, Past Dept CC & current Dept Treasure
Diane Rounds, 23rd Dist Aux Americanism
Larry Miller, 5th Div Adjutant
- Excused: Mark Young, 4th Div.

🇺🇸 There was some discussion about the Oratorical program brochure and some needed changes. Under Contestant Certification the number of contestants for each division would be changed from three to two. It was also decided that there would be 10 total contestants at the Dept Contest. 1st through 5th would receive the normal scholarship amount as in previous contest. Sixth through 10th will receive \$500 each. This means that the 1st & 2nd place winners from the Division contest will advance to the Dept Contest. That contest will be on 7 Mar 2026 which will be at the Heartland Community College in Normal.

🇺🇸 During the meeting there was a visit from Dept Sr. Vice Celeste and Membership Dir. Michael Monroe.

🇺🇸 The Essay brochure is ready to go with no changes made.

🇺🇸 Both Oratorical and Essay are ready for print and posting on Dept. website.

🇺🇸 Next was the topic about A/I being used in the essays. Nat'l has decided to not do anything yet. It was decided to write a resolution to address the topic for the 2026 convention and see what happens with it.

🇺🇸 The Commission voted on another Americanism pin for 2026. We will order 750 pins. They will be sold for \$5 each and pending cost they could be sold for 3 for \$10. The third-choice pin was selected by those present. (See graphic)

🇺🇸 Old Business: It was discussed as to the possibility of the commission should have a booth at the 2026 Dept Convention. The concern was staffing and what we should put out on the table. The topic was set aside for further discussion.

🇺🇸 New Business: With the Oratorical contest being one day and no overnight hotel should the Americanism Commission meet twice a year (In the Fall and at Dept Convention) or continue with three meetings as previous only meet just prior to the contest. It was felt that it would be a good idea to have the meeting at the contest in place just in case it is needed. Ralph made the motion, 2nd by Celeste and it was approved.

🇺🇸 There being no further business Ralph made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by Celeste. Chairman Mike closed the meeting in full ceremony at 11:24 hrs.



Ralph W. Rounds II, Acting Secretary

