

MINUTES
AMERICANISM COMMISSION
MEETING OF
MARCH 22, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.
VIRTUAL- ZOOM

1. Call to Order 10:00 A.M.
Chairman Rowe opened the meeting of the Department Americanism Commission at 10:00 A.M.
2. Salute the Colors
The Colors were saluted.
3. Invocation by Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman.
4. Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Rowe led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Roll Call: Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

Members present:

Harold Landis, 1st District Chairman- PRESENT
Thomas Tierney, 2nd District Chairman- PRESENT
Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman- PRESENT
Henry Knight Jr, 4th District Chairman- EXCUSED
Cheryl MacDonald, 5th District Chairwoman- PRESENT
Roy Terry, 6th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Bill Frost, 7th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
Robert Schmoll, 8th District Chairman- NOT PRESENT
William Dittebrand, 9th District Chairman- PRESENT- IN PERSON
Richard Houp, 10th District Chairman- PRESENT
Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman- PRESENT
Tom Rowe, Americanism Commission Chairman- PRESENT
Kevin Conlan, 13th District Chairman- EXCUSED
John Life, 14th District Chairman- PRESENT

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

6. Reading of Previous Minutes

Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman moved, seconded by Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

MOTION PASSED

7. A&G Trip Recap- Christie White, Department Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator gave a brief recap of the A&G Trip 2 weeks ago. She stated that it was the best group of students Department has ever had. They wanted to see and read everything, they listened well, and they were great Young Leaders. They made their Posts and Districts very proud!

8. Eagle Scout of the Year
 - a. David Visocky
 - b. Vaughan Zimmerman

Commission discussed both applicants and they thought both had amazing Eagle Scout projects. Commission was leaning towards one because he is a senior and the other is a sophomore and still has chances to apply. They are encouraging the Sophomore to apply next year.

- D1- Vaughan Zimmerman
- D2- Vaughan Zimmerman
- D3- Vaughan Zimmerman
- D5- Vaughan Zimmerman
- D9- Vaughan Zimmerman
- D10- Vaughan Zimmerman
- D11- Vaughan Zimmerman
- D12- Abstain
- D14- Vaughan Zimmerman

Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman motioned, seconded by Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman to accept Vaughan Zimmerman as the Department Eagle Scout of the Year.

MOTION PASSED

9. Unfinished Business
 - a. Educator of the Year- Edit Packet- Commission was happy about the packet. The dates just need changed.

10. New Business

- a. A&G Procedures
 - i. Test percentages to send to District/Department- Discussion was had about if the Commission wants to accept all tests scores, regardless of the score from every District so they are represented, or if the commission wants to set a cut-off score.

Thom Stan, 11th District Chairman motions to disregard any tests that are less than 70%. There is no second.

Discussion was had that the Districts should set their score level, and not Department. Standards have been lowered in the school so much, students are becoming mediocre, so it is hard to demand excellence. The Commission was encouraged to send their District Minutes to Department if they vote on only accepting a certain percentage for A&G Tests. Commission chairs were directed to discuss and address this at their District conferences.

- ii. Districts contacting students- Discussion was had about Districts being in contact with their District winners and letting them know when Department is judging and keeping them up to date so they get their paperwork turned in on time.
- iii. Winning tests mailed to Department- Commission still has an issue with getting the winning District tests to Department on time. Discussion was had about sending all District winners with a tracking number to Department so the tests can be tracked.

District chairs also should encourage their Posts to send it to them with a tracking number. Commission discussed mailing hard copies versus scanned or emailed copies. Commission was encouraged to stay in constant contact with the Posts in the Districts that are giving tests to make sure they reach each level before the due date. Commission needs to stick with the dates they select.

- iv. District 1 A&G 100% Test- There was an email sent to Department by a parent of a 11th Grade Female that had 100% on her tests. The parents insist that their daughter be sent as a winner next year because she scored 100% this year but her test never made it to the District level. Commission discussed that deadlines are deadlines for a reason. Posts, County, and Districts have individual deadlines and need to abide by them. Districts need to be more involved with the Posts. It was suggested that the District does something one on one with the school for the student, and the student retest next year. There are previous students that have not been taken on the trip because deadlines were not met. The Commission voted years ago to only accept tests that were turned in by the deadline. The Districts are responsible for communicating with the Posts in their District that give the tests.

Thom Stan 11th District Chairman motioned, seconded by Richard Houpp, 10th District Chairman, to disregard the test because the schools should not have graded the test and the test was not received at the next level by the required deadline.

MOTION PASSED

A letter will be sent to the parent letting them know the Commissions Decision.

11. Good of the Legion- Districts are encouraged to reach out to their Young Leaders that attended the trip and let them know that they made their Districts proud.
12. Benediction. Benediction was given by Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairwoman
13. Adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 A.M.