Monday, May 6, 2019

The meeting of the Americanism Commission was called to order by Chairman Richard W. Anderson (CT) at 8:30 a.m., Monday, May 6, 2019, in the Meridian West Room, Lower Level of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. Victor DeSloover (IA) gave the invocation. Herbert J. Petit, Jr. (LA) led the Pledge of Allegiance. Respect was paid to those who are listed as POWs and MIAs. Chairman Anderson led the Preamble of the Constitution.

Chairman Anderson next recognized Past National Commanders Jake Comer (MA), and Daniel Dellinger (VA). PNC Comer brought greetings and remarks about youth programs, and the possibility of increasing scholarship amounts.

Chairman Anderson called upon Jill Druskis (NE), Director, Americanism Division, to conduct roll call. There were 83 members present, including members of the Americanism Council, Committee on Children & Youth, Committee on Youth Education, Baseball Committee, and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee. A quorum was present.

Chairman Anderson asked all Past National Commanders in attendance to rise and be recognized. Chairman Anderson next introduced Americanism Commission NEC liaison chairman and American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) President Dennis Boland (FL), who brought greetings and introduced the rest of NEC liaison committee. Boland discussed the government shutdown earlier in the year that affected the pay of U.S. Coast Guard members and their families and announced that CWF will be presenting a check to replenish money given to Coast Guard.

Chairman Anderson introduced each of the chairman from the committees of the Americanism Commission: Larry Price (SD), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee; Herbie Petit, (LA) Committee on Children & Youth; Gary Stone (MO), Baseball Committee; and Mike Westergren (AR), Committee on Youth Education. Chairman Anderson next introduced Beth McGinn (DE), Americanism Committee Chairman, American Legion Auxiliary, and Don Hall (MD), Americanism Commission Chairman, Sons of the American Legion, and called upon each to give greetings/remarks.

Chairman Anderson called upon Americanism Commission member Victor DeSloover (IA) to lead a remembrance of two distinguished Legionnaires and former national Americanism chairmen having gone to Post Everlasting - Gary Sammons and Joseph Caouette.

Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to accept and approve the Digest of Proceedings of the Americanism Commission meeting conducted in October 2018. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

Chairman Anderson introduced Michael Westergren (AR), Chairman of the Committee on Youth Education (COYE) for the purposes of a committee report. Chairman Westergren reported:

1. Per the funding strategy authorized in Resolution No. 1 NEC May 2016 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement, a total of $1,122,624 was made available in 2019 for American Legion Legacy scholarship awards. A total of $1,122,624 was
awarded to 57 qualified applicants demonstrating a financial need; 54 are children of disabled veterans and 3 are children of the fallen.

- A total of 1,204 applications were opened
- Of those 1,204 there were 517 who submitted a complete application
- Of those 517 complete applications, 250 demonstrated verifiable eligibility and financial need (3 children of the fallen / 247 children of disabled veterans)
- Of those 250 deemed eligible and demonstrating a financial need, a total of 57 American Legion Legacy scholarships were awarded (3 children of the fallen / 54 children of disabled veterans)
- 193 applications totaling $2,178,786 remained unfulfilled due to The American Legion meeting its financial award cap for the year

- Monetary awards:
  - Total amount awarded: $1,122,624
  - 55 awards were $20,000 each
    - Two of those were awarded to children of the fallen
  - The remaining two awards were $2,298 (fallen) and $19,826 (disabled)

2. Also in accordance with the governing Resolution No. 1 of the National Executive Committee May 2016 titled American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement, a written draft of a Policy & Procedures Manual for Administration of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship was developed and reviewed by the Committee on Youth Education. After extensive review the Committee ratified the document. And again in accordance with the governing resolution, and with 2019 being the third cycle for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship since implementation of the enhancement to include children of veterans with a VA-assigned disability rating of 50% or greater, the Committee has begun to review of trends for processes, policies and outcomes.

3. The COYE recommended Priscilla Chan-Zuckerberg and Mark Zuckerberg, co-founders and co-CEO’s, of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) as recipients of the 2019 American Legion National Education Award. CZI provides significant grants in support of working to reshape teacher training and diversify the ranks of education leaders.

4. Michele Emery, Alumni Program Development Coordinator, provided an update on the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association (EXHIBIT A).

5. The COYE considered four resolutions, making the following recommendations to the Americanism Commission:
   - Resolution No. 13 titled Remove Expected Family Contribution From Legacy Scholarship Application – Reject
   - Resolution No. 20 titled Support A Relationship with the Joe Foss Institute – Reject
   - The COYE did recommend approval of a separate resolution commending the Joe Foss Institute for its efforts as a like-minded organization with similar goals and values.
   - New resolution titled Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program - approve

6. COYE is developing a certificate for posts and districts to use to recognize veterans in the classroom at a local level.
Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to accept and approve Chairman Westergren’s COYE detailed written report (EXHIBIT B). Motion was made, seconded and passed.

Chairman Anderson stated that the COYE gave consideration to several resolutions during its business meeting. The first was Resolution No. 13 titled Remove Expected Family Contribution From The Legacy Scholarship Application (CO). Chairman Anderson asked for a motion that this resolution be rejected. Discussion for rejection included: a) by removing expected family contribution (EFC) it would no longer be a needs based scholarship – it would revert back to being merit-based. Additionally, it would increase the pool of applications, which we are currently unable to fulfill under the current policy and procedures – a move that would leave even more applicants unfulfilled. There were confusing statements in some of the Whereas clauses. The motion for the Americanism Commission to recommend rejection of this resolution to the NEC was passed.

Resolution No. 20 titled Supporting The Relationship With The Joe Foss Institute (CT) dealt with two separate and distinct items for action. The first item called for the Legion to lobby the Department of Education to urge each state to require students to pass the current citizenship test as part of the graduation requirements. Discussion included that The American Legion already has a position on this through resolution - Resolution No. 32 entitled, Urging the U.S. Department of Education to Develop a Comprehensive Outline of Instruction Covering the Rights and Responsibilities of a Loyal Patriotic U.S. Citizen that urges, “the United States Department of Education to consider developing a comprehensive outline of instruction covering the rights and responsibilities of loyal patriotic United States citizens,” and that its, “successful completion…be a mandatory requirement of high school graduation.” The second part of Resolution No. 20 asked that The American Legion foster a relationship with the Joe Foss Institute. Due to Resolution No. 20 dealing with two separate actions the Commission recommended it for rejection.

However, the Americanism Commission did recommend a separate resolution commending the Joe Foss Institute as a like-minded organization promoting education and patriotic values in their mission. The Americanism Commission recommended approval of the resolution.

A new resolution titled Updated Rules And Conditions For The Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program was next considered. This resolution was updated to include scholarship eligibility for students participating in newly established programs of American Legion D.C. Boys State and American Legion Hawaii Girls State. The Americanism Commission recommended approval of the resolution.

A resolution rescinding several resolutions that were either obsolete, accomplished, superseded, in conflict, duplicate, or outdated was reviewed. The Americanism Commission recommended approval of the rescinding resolution.

The Americanism Commission next reviewed a resolution in which the Internal Affairs Commission was seeking concurrence titled Community Level Academic Program Engagement. This resolution strongly urges posts to take an active role in encouraging youth programs in their respective communities. The Americanism Commission concurred with recommending approval of this resolution to the NEC.

The second resolution submitted to the Americanism Commission by the Internal Affairs Commission for the purpose of seeking concurrence is titled Sports. This resolution strongly urges American Legion posts to take an active role in encouraging youth sports programs in their respective communities. The Americanism Commission concurred with recommending approval of this resolution.
Chairman Anderson next introduced Eddie Holbrook, Chairman, Executive Committee Cleveland County ALWS Baseball, Inc., to give an update on the upcoming American Legion World Series taking place in Shelby, North Carolina. Holbrook mentioned Buzz Magazine, and the fact that there was an insert recognizing the centennial celebration of The American Legion. At last year’s American Legion World Series (ALWS) sponsors alone purchased 128,000 tickets for their employees. This is up from 37,000 when the ALWS was first sited in Shelby. Holbrook noted this is proof of the buy-in from the local community, and the dedication and support they give. Holbrook expressed appreciation to The American Legion and its Legionnaires for enabling the city of Shelby and Cleveland County to do what they do to honor the young men who play Legion baseball and those who have served our country.

A second roll was completed by Jill Druskis and an announcement made regarding expense checks.

Chairman Anderson recessed the meeting so that committees and sub-committees of the Americanism Commission could convene.

**Tuesday, May 7, 2019**

The Americanism Commission meeting reconvened at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in the Meridian West Room, Lower Level, Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order and called upon Jill Druskis, Americanism Division Director, to do roll call.

Chairman Anderson called upon Maggi Van Dyk of S.A. Van Dyk, Inc., insurance agent of record for The American Legion, for brief remarks. Ms. Van Dyk expressed her appreciation for the Americanism Commission and its youth programs.

The Committee on Children & Youth report was given by Herbert Petit, Jr. (LA), Chairman. Chairman Petit reported that during calendar year 2018 that the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program gave out over $228,975 in grants helping 376 children of 179 veterans. In 2019 to date, TFA has provided over $1,054,828 to help 1,736 families and 3,163 children to date. Included in this figure is $1,000,500 that aided active duty Coast Guard members and their families during the federal government shut down earlier in the year.

The Committee on Children & Youth recommended approval of a new resolution titled *April As Official Children & Youth Month* to the Americanism Commission.

The 13th Annual Children and Youth Conference will take place at the Sheraton Hotel, in Indianapolis on September 21-22, 2019. This conference will share info with children & youth department chairmen about children’s issues and programs, so that they may take that information back to their departments and use it with in their children and youth programs.

Chairman Anderson called for a motion to approve the report of the Committee on Children & Youth *(Exhibit C)*. Motion was seconded and approved by the Commission.

Chairman Anderson next called for a motion to recommend approval of the resolution titled *April As Official Children and Youth Month*. Discussion noted that Resolution No. 537 of the 1941 National Convention of The American Legion previously designated April as Child Welfare Month, however, decades ago it began to be unofficially referred to as “Children & Youth Month”, and was never changed officially. This resolution will supersede Resolution. No. 537 in order to officially bring the moniker “April Is Children & Youth Month” up to date with the current and longstanding reference. The Commission voted to recommend approval of this resolution to the NEC.
The Youth Activities Subcommittee report was given by Loren Sperry (WA), Chairman. Sperry reported that the National Oratorical Contest was held April 5-6, 2018, at the Wyndham Hotel in Indianapolis. There were youth contestants from 53 American Legion departments who represented today’s outstanding youth. The top three national finalists were:

- 1st Patrick Junker from Iowa, winning scholarships totaling $19,500
- 2nd Caleb Maue from Illinois, winning scholarships totaling $17,500
- 3rd Eden Carnes from Tennessee, winning scholarships totaling $15,500

During the subcommittee meeting, the pairing bracket was drawn for the 2020 national oratorical contest, as well randomly selecting the assigned topics.

The 29th Annual Junior Shooting Sports Program Air Rifle Championships will be held on July 24-27, 2019 at the USA Shooting Range located in the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. During the 2019 postal elimination tournament there were 1,350 individuals and 243 teams entered.

Jaden Anderson from Utah was selected as the 2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award recipient. He will receive a $10,000 scholarship and invitation to join the Youth Champion Delegation at National Convention in Indianapolis. There were 26 applications submitted for consideration this year.

During 2018 there were 18,241 participants in American Legion Boys State programs throughout the nation. This is a participation decline of 898 from the previous year.

The Youth Activities Subcommittee reviewed the following resolutions and made recommendations to the Americanism Commission as noted:

- Res. No. 19 (CT) 2018 National Convention titled Girls Scouts of America as Official Program of the American Legion - Reject
- New resolution titled Commending Girls Scouts of USA - Approve
- Res. No. 82 (NY) 2018 National Convention titled Proposed Change To National Oratorical Contest Finals - Hold for further study

Chairman Anderson called to motion the receipt of the Youth Activities Subcommittee report. Motion was seconded and approved by the Commission. (Exhibit D)

Chairman Anderson called for a motion to recommend rejection of Resolution, No. 19 (CT) 2018 National Convention titled Girls Scouts of America as Official Program of the American Legion. Discussion noted that Girl Scouts USA do not seek chartering organizations for their troops due to the organizational model under which they operate. Rather than having community organizations run the Girl Scout program, the Girl Scouts work to connect individual leaders with youth – a Girl Scout troop cannot be sponsored by an organizational unit, such as a Legion post, Auxiliary unit or SAL squadron. An organization may help provide a Girl Scout troop with meeting space or money or volunteers, but that helping organization will not be the “owner” or sponsor of the troop, as with the Boy Scouts charter model. The Commission voted to recommend rejection of this resolution to the NEC.

Chairman Anderson called for a motion to recommend approving a new resolution titled Commending Girls Scouts of USA. Although the recommendation was to reject the previous resolution that sought to make Girls Scouts an official program of Americanism, the Americanism Commission does recognize that the Girls Scouts of the USA is an organization highly deserving of commendation for being a high-caliber youth-development organization and therefore recommended approval of the commending resolution. Motion was approved.
Chairman Anderson called for a motion to hold for further study Resolution. No. 82 (NY) 2018 National Convention titled Proposed Change To National Oratorical Contest Finals. The motion was approved by the Commission. Chairman Anderson next called forward Gary Stone (MO), Chairman of the American Legion Baseball Committee. Stone reported that as of yesterday (5 May, 2019) there were 2,227 teams who had begun their registration. It is anticipated that 1,000 more teams will complete their registration by the deadline.

The Baseball Committee also recommended approval of the 2019 official rules for post-season play.

Requests from the Departments of Massachusetts and Virginia for Plan A Rezoning under National Rule No. 3 were recommended for approval by the Baseball Committee.

There were proposed bids submitted for regions 5 and 7 that were given consideration to host 2020 regional tournaments. The Baseball Committee recommended that the new resolution titled Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Sites For 2020 be approved.

The Baseball Committee discussed the recent passing of Senate Bill 534 which seeks to amend two federal statutes regarding child abuse in amateur youth sports. The Baseball Committee recommended that baseball staff work with the Risk Manager at American Legion National Headquarters to update policies and requirements in order to include this awareness training and to update insurance requirements. The Risk Manager will also do the same for the Junior Shooting Sports program, another amateur youth sport of The American Legion.

The Committee approved a motion to have Baseball Committee member Jacob Raile conduct a survey with the 2018 registered junior team managers for feedback. The results will be discussed during the next phone conference scheduled for July 16th.

The Baseball Committee has conducted telephone conferences on November 8, 2018, (Exhibit E) and February 5, 2019 (Exhibit F).

Chairman Anderson called for a motion to approve the written report of the American Legion Baseball Committee (Exhibit G). The report was approved.

Chairman Anderson called for a motion recommending approval of the new resolution titled Addendum To American Legion Baseball Regional Sites For 2020. Motion was seconded and approved by the Commission.

Chairman Anderson called on Alan Davis, Vice-Chairman of the Citizenship & Naturalization Subcommittee for purposes of a subcommittee report. The subcommittee gave consideration to Resolution No. 12 titled Constitution Day, giving recommendation for its approval with the inclusion of “…..of Independence in the final line of the final resolved clause so as to clearly identify the Declaration of Independence.

The subcommittee gave significant discussion to the Naturalization Ceremony being hosted by the Americanism Commission at the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis on Tuesday, August 27th. Approximately 100 new citizens will be naturalized, with another 200 family and spectators in attendance. Planning included discussions of a timeline, event set-up and break-down, security sweep, potential guest speakers, and after-events for the new citizens, such as voter registration (for Marion County, Indiana), ability to register for a social security number and opportunity for legal name change. The subcommittee concluded by conducting an onsite survey of the venue and room where the ceremony will take place.

Chairman Anderson called for a motion to approve the minutes for the Citizenship & Naturalization Subcommittee of the Americanism Commission. The report received approval of the Commission. (Exhibit H)
Chairman Anderson called for a motion to recommend approval of Resolution No. 12 titled *Constitution Day*. The resolution encourages all American Legion posts to reach out to people in their local communities to encourage participation in educating themselves and others about the contents of the U.S. Constitution, volunteer to visit schools to give students a free pocket Constitution book, and to go over the contents of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution with the students. The motion to recommend approval of Resolution No. 12 to the NEC passed.

Chairman Anderson called forward Larry Price (SD), Chairman, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee (YCLE), to give the report of the YCLE Committee. Meeting topics discussed were a review of the YCLE strategic plan, a discussion on the YCLE department suggested guidelines, and a guest speaker from Boys Scouts of America who briefed the committee about their Law Enforcement Explorers program.

Chairman Anderson called for a motion to approve the report of the YCLE Committee (Exhibit I). The report was approved by the Commission.

Jeff Hendricks provided a brief report regarding staff efforts to update language on Boys Scout of America (BSA) materials of The American Legion and Square Knot Awards to reflect the program name change of “Scouts BSA” and to reflect appropriate language encompassing both male and female gender to reflect membership changes made by BSA earlier in the year.

Jill Druskin, Director, Americanism Division, was asked by Chairman Anderson to introduce staff and their responsibilities.

Chairman Anderson closed the meeting with his final remarks and by expressing appreciation to everyone for their “100% Americanism”. Victor Desloover (IA) offered the benediction to close the meeting.

**SUMMARY OF AMERICANISM RESOLUTIONS IN THIS DIGEST OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Approve**

- Res. No. 12 (CO) *Constitution Day*
- (New) *Commending Girl Scouts Of The USA*
- (New) *Commending Joe Foss Institute*
- (New) *Updated Rules And Conditions For The Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program*
- (New) *Addendum to American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites for 2020*
- (New) *April As Official Children & Youth Month*
- (New) *Rescinding Of National Americanism Program Non-Legislative Policy Resolutions*

**Reject**

- Res. No. 13 (CO) *Remove Expected Family Contribution From Legacy Scholarship Application*
- Res. No. 19 (CT) *Girl Scouts Of America As An Official Program Of The American Legion*
- Res. No. 20 (CT) *Support A Relationship With Joe Foss Institute*
Hold For Further Study

- Res. No. 82 (NY) Proposed Change To The Oratorical National Contest Finals

Concur With Resolutions Originating from Internal Affairs Commission

- (New) Sports
- (New) Community Level Academic Program Engagement
In 2016, the Samsung American Legion Alumni Association (SALAA) was formed to engage scholarship recipients, foster goodwill and develop ambassadors for The American Legion and Samsung.

SALAA membership via our webpage is 204, with social media engagement continuing to grow. There currently 235 Facebook group members and 139 followers on LinkedIn.

The SALAA Board of Directors requested a survey be conducted to gauge areas of interest to better connect with alumni. During the month of March 2019, a fourteen question survey was sent via email, social media and USPS to the 1,682 Samsung American Legion Scholars which have listed contact information. The survey results gave us quite a bit of information representing about 20% of our past scholars – 396 responses in all. Most have shared their interests and suggestions for engagement and participation in the SALAA with about half of the respondents expressing interest in volunteering with their local American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program via being counselors, guest speakers, and sharing information with local high schools. Taking the survey results as a guide, we should be able to develop a comprehensive plan going forward.

Other ongoing strategies for engagement include developing mentoring connections between SALAA members and regular postings on social media promoting Samsung and American Legion stories of interest. Contact with department Boys State Chairmen, Girls State Directors, Detachment Commanders, and Department Adjutants has also been conducted to encourage them to explore ways to locally engage these alumni scholars.

The top Samsung American Legion Scholarship awardees of 2018 will be recognized in Washington, DC on June 4-6, 2019. The two day event will include a reception at the US Capitol Visitors Center, visiting the new Samsung Solutions Center, tours of Arlington Cemetery, The White House, and national monuments, culminating with attendance at the 75th D-Day Remembrance Ceremony.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Emery
Alumni Program Development Coordinator
The American Legion Committee on Youth Education
Spring Meetings, May 4 - 5, 2019

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Opening
At 8:30am, Chairman Michael Westergren (AR) called the 2019 Spring Meeting of the Committee on Youth Education (COYE) to order and initiated self-introductions as a means of roll call – a quorum was present. That was followed with an invocation offered by Victor DeSloover (IA), Americanism Commission Liaison to the COYE. Anselma Obremski (MD), National Education Vice Chairman to the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) and ALA Consultant to the COYE, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chairman Jim Davis (WV) of the COYE provided the POW/MIA remembrance ceremony.

Committee members, liaisons, and consultants included: Michael Westergren (AR), Chairman COYE; James Davis (WV), Vice Chairman COYE; Glenn Patterson (KS), COYE Committee member, Robert Perham (VT), COYE Committee member, Carl Radosevich (NM), COYE Committee member, William Kearsing (NY), National Commander's Representative; Gary Gifford, (MD) COYE Consultant; Hugh Holmes COYE Consultant; Victor DeSloover (IA), Americanism Commission Liaison; Roberta Poulos (SC), Americanism Commission Liaison; Anselma Obremski (MD), COYE Consultant & ALA National Vice Chair; Linda Feezer (WY), COYE Consultant & ALA Committee Member; and Linda Williamson (AK), COYE Consultant & ALA National Chairman of the Executive Committee, Education Committee Chairman (Saturday only).

Guests included: Chairman Richard Anderson (CT), Americanism Commission; Chairman Robert Sussan (VA), Chairman of the American Legion Rider’s Advisory Committee (Saturday only), Chairman Annette Johnson, Department of Colorado Children and Youth chairman (Saturday only); Director Jill Druskis (NE), Americanism Division; Development Coordinator Michele Emery (IN), Samsung Alumni Program (Saturday only); Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks (IN), Americanism Division; and Rose Pescinski (IN), Administrative Assistant to Youth Education, Americanisms Division.

Welcome and Greetings
As this meeting marked the first led by Chairman Michael Westergren, all those in attendance introduced themselves, their background, and their purpose on the COYE. Chairman Westergren provided review of initial purpose for the meeting. He then yielded the floor to Linda Williamson who brought greetings on behalf of the ALA. Afterwards the floor was yielded to Chairman Anderson, who spoke about past history and commitment to Americanism of the COYE and
presented a 100% Americanism pin to William Kearsing. The floor was then yielded to Jill Druskis who brought greetings on behalf of the Americanism Division staff and presented background of Scott Wynn the incoming Youth Education Program Manager in the Americanism Division.

**Review and Approval of Agenda and Previous Report**

The committee then reviewed and approved the Agenda for the 2019 Spring Meeting of the Committee on Youth Education. The agenda was approved unanimously without correction or discussion.

The committee then reviewed and approved the report from the 2018 Fall Meeting of the Committee on Youth Education. The report was approved unanimously without correction or discussion.

**Samsung American Legion Alumni Association Report**

See Attached SALAA Report as provided by Development Coordinator Michele Emery, Samsung Alumni Program.

**Resolutions**

The committee had four resolutions to consider this year. One dealing with Legacy Scholarship rule changes, two regarding the Joe Foss Institute, and one amending the Samsung Scholarship rules.

The first resolution considered, Resolution 13 entitled, *Remove Expected Family Contribution From Legacy Scholarship Application*, was recommended for rejection by unanimous vote. The COYE had requested clarifying information from the originating department, however, that information was not submitted. The COYE recommended rejection because: a) by removing expected family contribution (EFC) it effectively would no longer be a needs based scholarship – it would revert back to being merit-based. Additionally, as will be noted later in this report about discussion of the 2018 Legacy Scholarship award methodology, it would increase the pool of applications, which we are currently unable to fulfill under the current policy and procedures – a move that would leave even more applicants unfulfilled. There were confusing statements in some of the Whereas clauses.

The next resolution considered, Resolution 20 entitled, *Support A Relationship with the Joe Foss Institute*, was recommended for rejection by unanimous vote. This resolution dealt with two separate and distinct items for action. The first item called for the Legion to lobby the Department of Education to urge each state to require students to pass the current citizenship test as part of the graduation requirements. However, The American Legion already has a position on this through resolution - Resolution No. 32 entitled, *Urging the U.S. Department of Education to Develop a Comprehensive Outline of Instruction Covering the Rights and Responsibilities of a Loyal Patriotic U.S. Citizen* that urges, “the United States Department of Education to consider developing a comprehensive outline of instruction covering the rights and responsibilities of loyal patriotic United States citizens,” and that its, “successful completion…be a mandatory requirement of high school graduation.” The second part of resolution 20 asked that The American Legion
foster a relationship with the Joe Foss Institute. Due to the resolution dealing with two separate actions, it was recommended for rejection, however, the COYE did move forward with a separate resolution to commend the Joe Foss Institute.

That resolution is entitled, *Commending the Joe Foss Institute*, and was recommended by the COYE for approval by unanimous vote. This resolution commends the Joe Foss Institute for its efforts as a like-minded organization with similar goals and values.

The last resolution that was considered is entitled, *Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program*, and was recommended for approval by unanimous vote of the COYE. This resolution only amends the current rules to include the brand new programs of The American Legion Boys State of the Department of District of Columbia and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State of the Department of Hawaii into consideration for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program.

**Discussion regarding promotion of Legionnaires in the Classroom.**

An open discussion was had among those in attendance about how the committee can promote the concept of getting Legionnaires into youth classroom to discuss topics as urged by the Constitution of The American Legion as well as by resolution and the on our table of authorizations.

Members discussed how a few years ago the COYE exhibited at various education organizations’ conventions. While this gave us the ability to talk to the between 3,000 and 4,000 attendees (educators, and administrators of primary and secondary education programs) directly about our programs we found that it was not connecting these individuals at the local level, which is where they need to develop that cooperation and deep connections. Additionally, because of this mismatch, it was determined that The American Legion was not receiving enough of a value proposition to warrant continued involvement at these national conventions.

Additional attempts for youth education include Flag Etiquette programs, but again these needs to be approached more so at the grass-roots level by committed posts to follow through with the initiatives. Anselma Obremski reiterated how developing a one-on-one relationship with a teacher opens new relationships with other teachers and new teachers. She continued that this interpersonal approach is the best method at developing contact to expand all programs. She explained how the ALA use it to work it into a Social Studies class and the teachers and students can produce an accessible products.

At 9:35 we broke for a lunch recess.

At 12:00 the COYE reconvened.

**American Legion Legacy Scholarship Discussion**

After lunch the COYE broke into a robust discussion regarding the Legacy Scholarship. That discussion had three parts as enumerated below:

a) **Methodology and approval of 2019 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Awards Selection**
Jeff Hendricks reviewed the methodology used for reviewing the pool of applications to determine recipient eligibility for receiving an American Legion Legacy Scholarship award using the online system within the parameters of the resolution.

The 2018 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Awardees and their corresponding award amounts list was unanimously approved by the COYE. See the attached Legacy Report.

b) Approve Legacy SOP Policy Manual
Jeff Hendricks presented the final changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual for Administration of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship to the COYE. This encapsulates all instructions of the past 10 years of work by the COYE. The COYE voted unanimously to recommend approval of the policy and procedure manual. See attached Legacy Report.

c) Discussion for Future Legacy Scholarship Changes
Now that the enhancement to the Legacy Scholarship just completed its third cycle, a discussion ensued regarding review of processes, procedures and outcomes. The discussion led to some insights into current state of the scholarship and established a direction for further study.

Farewell Presentation
The committee recognized outgoing ALA Consultants Lisa Williams and Anselma Obremski for their three year terms by presenting them with plaques to commemorate the support they provided during their term.

Recess
At 3:00pm Chairman Westergren called the COYE to recess for the day.

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Opening
At 9:00am Chairman Westergren called the COYE back to order and yielded the floor to Victor DeSloover, who gave the opening prayer and inspirational message.

The American Legion National Education Award Nominations & Selection
Chairman Westergren led a discussion surrounding the nomination and selection of The American Legion National Education Award. The committee considered two nominees for consideration: Mary Dalheim, Editorial Director, Children’s Publications for her “Ranger Rick” youth education publications; and Pricilla Chan-Zuckerberg and Mark Zuckerberg, co-Founders and co-CEO’s of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative that works to reshape teacher training and diversify the ranks of education leaders.

Discussion stated with the discussion of the guidelines to the committee. The Ranger Rick magazine was touted by those present as a useful source through first-hand anecdotal experience. The committee was also impressed with the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative’s achievements. Committee members did express concern that recent a high profile nominee declined to receive the award in person 10 years ago and last year a high-profile recipient declined to receive the award
at all. When asked about the ability to nominate a backup as an alternative, the rules were reiterated that if the nominee does not accept the honor then there no award for that year.

The board unanimously nominated Pricilla Chan for her work with the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative as The American Legion National Education Award recipient for 2019.

**Recognition of Veterans in the Classroom**
Discussion next ensued surrounding how to recognize veterans in the classroom. Jeff Hendricks reminded the committee on where they stood from the discussion at the previous meeting last fall. That discussion surrounded, again, on not getting enough nominees and that Junior ROTC instructors were hailed as a potential source of nomination. Discussion from the committee included the possibility of including the tracking of a certificate of recognition given to veterans teaching in the classroom on the Consolidated Post Report as a box check. Additional discussion areas included: sending letters to department, district, and post adjutants get nominations; getting requirements sent out using the Dispatch; making the certificate of recognition available online for download by a department.

Currently the Americanism Division provides an online certificate to newly awarded Eagle Scouts that is fillable by department Scouting Chairmen from our webpage at legion.org Staff can establish a commiserate certificate for the recognizing veterans in the classroom

Ultimately, the committee unanimously deciding to allow the chairman and staff to develop an online certificate that allows department Americanism Chairmen and / or Education Chairmen to nationally recognize veterans in the classroom.

Discussion was given to in the future giving consideration to developing an American Legion Teacher of the Year Award. Anselma discussed the ALA’s educator award, the Crystal Apple as a potential template for the American Legion to follow in creating this award. There was significant discussion about creation of a database to begin collecting the names of veteran educators from which a National Educator could be selected. However this was ultimately decided against as we do not have a resolution calling for a national award at this time and in favor of developing the certificates of recognition for posts and departments to present to veterans teaching in the classroom.

**Continued Legacy Scholarship Discussion**
Additional concepts were discussed surrounding potential areas to study in regards to the future of the Legacy Scholarship.

**For the Good of the Committee and the American Legion**
Chairman Westergren announced that the next scheduled meeting of the COYE is at fall Meetings on October 12-13, 2019, Indianapolis, IN

Chairman Westergren asked that the new COYE members and Auxiliary members receive instructions for judging Samsung Scholarships. Additionally, he asked that staff notify all national Samsung Scholarship judges when the applications are made available to the judges to get started grading.
Chairman Westergren reiterated the need to continue working with National Education Associations.

**Amendment to the minutes and reports.**
Unanimously, the COYE approved that the national staff be allowed to adjust and make technical changes to the report/minutes of these meetings, so long as the intent of the information is not changed.

**Recess**
Chairman Westergren made his closing remarks about the good work that we did this weekend and called upon the committee to continue that work. He then yielded the floor to Victor DeSloover who provided a closing benediction. Chairmen Westergren called upon Jim Davis to retire the POW/MIA flag. He then called upon those present to salute the colors and thereby announced that the COYE now stands in recess.
REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH
TO THE
AMERICANISM COMMISSION
May 8, 2018

Herbert J. Petit, Jr. (LA), Chairman

Your Committee on Children & Youth met at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Panorama A, 21st floor in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday, May 6, 2019. The meeting was convened at 9:50 a.m. and the roll was taken. The following committee members were present. Herbert Petit (LA), Peggy Moon (MN), Kenneth Hylton (IN), Donald Suchy (NE), John Knox (MI), John Konkol (NY), Anthony Lori (NJ), Paul Bennett (MS), Eugene Brown (ID), Timothy Van Patten (NY), Sidney Shouse (KY), Cheri Stanton (IL), and Sidney Damsgard (FL). Following opening remarks, the minutes of the fall meeting were reviewed and approved.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

The board of directors of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation met on Sunday, May 5, 2019, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The following officers were elected: Dennis R. Boland (FL), president; Peggy Moon (MN) vice-president; Joseph J. Frank (MO), secretary; and Robert Turner (GA), treasurer. The administrative personnel appointed by the board were George A. Buskirk, Jr. (IN), assistant treasurer and Meagen Sweet (IN), executive secretary. Year-to-date for the 2018-2019 donation year, the foundation has received over $344,239.

Temporary Financial Assistance

The American Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program continues to provide for the basic needs of children of eligible veterans through cash grants made possible through the generosity of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation. During 2018, TFA assisted 376 children of 179 veterans throughout the United States maintain shelter, utilities, food and clothing with over $228,975 in cash grants. For the first quarter of this year, TFA has provided over $1,054,828 to 3,163 children of 1,736 veterans’ families. Included in the total grant figures, $1,000,500 aided 3,120 children of 1,713 active duty United States Coast Guard service members who were affected by the government shutdown.

Children & Youth Conference

The 13th annual national Children & Youth Conference will be held on September 21-22, 2019, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis. This conference will educate Legion representatives from 52 departments on current children’s issues and the children & youth programs of the Americanism Commission.
Conference participants will learn practical implementation strategies for conducting children & youth programs and conferences within their departments. As our children and youth programs work best due to a concerted effort from all members of the Legion family, please encourage the children & youth representatives from your Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion to consider joining us for a number of informative sessions.

**Resolutions**

The committee considered one resolution. After review and discussion, it is the recommendation of your Committee on Children & Youth that this resolution be approved. It is intended to officially designate April As Children & Youth Month. Res. No. 537 CONV 1941, previously designated April as Child Welfare Month, and decades ago it was unofficially referred to as “Children & Youth Month”, but never changed officially. This resolution will supersede Res. No. 537 CONV 1941 in order to officially bring the “April Is Children & Youth Month” up to date with the current and longstanding reference.
REPORT TO THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION  
SPRING MEETING – May 8, 2018  
Indianapolis, Indiana

YOUTH ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE  
Loren Sperry (WA), Chairman

Staff Liaison: Bill Megnin (IN), Youth Programs Manager, Americanism Division

The Youth Activities Subcommittee met on Monday May 6, 2019, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, 21st Floor, Library Room. After opening with the Salute to the Colors, Invocation, and POW/MIA Remembrance, the roll call was taken. The following subcommittee members were present: Loren Sperry (WA), Chairman; Darell Bishop (OH), Vice Chairman; Timothy Collmer (NY); Victor J. Desloover (IA); Theodore J. Howarth Jr. (NJ); Roberta C. Poulos (SC); David S. Shore (NC); Douglas Uhrig (WY); and Kirk Thurston (ME). A quorum was declared.

Guests in attendance were: Roger Friend, Brett Thies, Jean Willson, Doug Boldt, Sy Fix  
Staff members in attendance were Program Manager Bill Megnin (IN), Division Director Jill Druskis (NE); Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks and Administrative Assistant Kimberley Shriver.

RESOLUTIONS

The Youth Activities Subcommittee reviewed the following resolutions and recommends the following actions to the Americanism Commission for its consideration:

Approve
- New Resolution: **Commending The Girl Scouts Of The USA**

Hold For Further Study
- Res. No. 82 (NY) 2018 CONV: **Proposed Change To The Oratorical Contest National Finals**

Reject
- Res. No. 19 (CT) 2018 CONV: **Girl Scouts Of America As An Official Program Of The American Legion**

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

The 29th American Legion Junior Three Position Air Rifle National Championship will be held July 24 – 27, 2019, at the USA Shooting range facility located at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado; 1359 athletes entered the individual National Postal Match Competition and 243 teams entered the team National Postal Match Competition.

The Youth Activities Subcommittee gave discussion to restructuring the recognition awards for the American Legion national postal tournament and the American Legion National 3-Position Air Rifle championship in Colorado Springs so as to provide level of
recognition commensurate to the level of achievement and, since air rifle is a competition of the U.S. Olympics, so that the American Legion’s national championship more closely aligns with the U.S. Olympic award structure. A draft proposal will be presented to department Junior Shooting Sports chairmen at their conference in September for their discussion.

The third annual Junior Shooting Sports Chairmen’s Conference will be held September 21-22, 2019, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel. Additional information will be posted on the program website. This is the same weekend as the annual Children & Youth Conference.

**AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST**

The subcommittee discussed Resolution No. 82 (NY) of the 2018 National Convention titled *Proposed Change To The Oratorical Contest National Finals*. This resolution seeks a change to the scholarship award structure for the National Oratorical Contest, and the resolution also seeks to double the number of oratorical competitors advancing from each quarter-final to the semi-final round. The subcommittee did discuss the merit of the portion of the resolution that is seeking to double the number of quarter-finalists advancing to the semi-final round and feels that that is possible and is of benefit in achieving an enhanced level of competition. The subcommittee recommends holding this resolution for further study, as it understands that a feasibility assessment for restructuring the scholarship awards is currently underway, however, not yet fully complete.

The 82nd National Finals Contests were conducted on April 5-6, 2019, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. The 53 department winners who entered the national competition were all outstanding representatives of today’s youth. The top three national finalists received contest placement and scholarship awards as indicated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Patrick Junker</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>$19,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Caleb Maue</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>$17,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Eden Carnes</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>$15,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The following competed in the semi-final contest and will receive a $3,000 scholarship ($1,500 for having competed in the quarter-final contest and an additional $1,500 for competing in the semi-final contest but not advancing to the finals): Mattilyn Winburn (GA); Alayna Lopez (ID); Isaac Bock (CO); Marissa Gertz (MO); Clayton Ward (OK); and Timothy Davis (WI). The 53 department winners who entered the National Competition were all outstanding representatives of today’s youth.

The Media & Communications Division provided a YouTube live webcast of the 2019 National Final Contest round with 947 live views and 1,524 views post-contest for a total of 2,471 views.

The 2020 National Oratorical Contest will be held on April 17-19 at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. The certification of department winners is due to National Headquarters by March 16, 2020. The pairing bracket for the 2020 national finals is attached. Assigned topics for the 2020 National Oratorical Contest are:

- **Amendment XII** – Electoral College
- **Amendment XXIV** – Citizens right to vote shall not be denied by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.
- **Amendment XXVII** – No law, varying the compensation for the services of Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.
- **Amendment XX** – terms of President and Vice President. When Congress shall assemble. Articles of Presidential succession.

  The 50th annual meeting of department Oratorical chairpersons will be held September 25-27, 2020, at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. Conference topics suggested were:
  - How to better get information into schools
  - Reaching homeschooled youth
  - Using information from other American Legion programs to contact youth

**AMERICAN LEGION & SCOUTING**

The subcommittee took opportunity to review Resolution No. 19 (CT) from the 2018 National Convention titled *Girl Scouts Of America As An Official Program Of The American Legion*. This resolution calls for making Girl Scout of America (now known as Girl Scouts of the USA) an official Americanism program of The American Legion. Research revealed that the Girl Scouts of the USA do not operate under the same charter model as the Boy Scouts of America. Girl Scouts of the USA do not seek chartering organizations for their troops due to the organizational model under which they operate. Rather than having community organizations run the local Girl Scout program, the Girl Scouts work to connect individual leaders with Girl Scout troops – a Girl Scout troop cannot be sponsored by an organizational unit, such as a Legion post, Auxiliary unit or SAL squadron. An organization may help provide a Girl Scout troop with meeting space or money or volunteers, but that “helping organization” will not be the sponsor of the troop, as with the Boy Scouts charter model. The subcommittee unanimously recommends to the Americanism Commission rejection of this resolution, and instead unanimously favored approving a resolution titled *Commending The Girl Scouts Of The USA*. That resolution seeks to commend the Girl Scouts of the USA for their mission and purpose – the subcommittee recognizes that Girls Scouts of the USA is an organization highly deserving of commendation for being the high-caliber youth-development organization that it is – and encourages American Legion posts to assist Girl Scouts of the USA within their communities in whatever manner a post may deem practicable.

Jaden Anderson of Utah was selected the 2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and will receive a $10,000 scholarship. Runners-up recipients of the $2,500 are N’Jhari Jackson of Florida, Trevor Burke of Texas, and Rhylan Peterson, of Minnesota.

Twenty-six applications were submitted from the following departments: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The scoring procedure for the 2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year selection this year was conducted more in line with how an oratorical contest is structured – rather than all subcommittee members judging all applications, the number of applications were equally divided and assigned to multiple subcommittee members for judging, taking care that a judge was not reviewing their own department’s nomination. All the scores then submitted received statistical analysis, and a winner thereby determined. The subcommittee passed a motion with majority vote to keep the same scoring procedures going forward.

At the end of 2018, there were 2,346 Scouting units chartered by American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units, and Sons of The American Legion squadrons, serving 61,541 young men and women.
In 2018 there were 4,439 youth who were recognized by The American Legion with a certificate issued at the national level for their achievements in the Boy Scouts of America. The American Legion & Scouting Square Knot award recognizes American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program, their dedication, and work to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. In 2018, 22 Square Knot awards were issued. The 2019 conference of department Scouting chairpersons is still under development.

**AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE AND BOYS NATION**

In 2018 there were 18,241 participants in fifty Boys State programs. It is a reduction of 898 program participants from the previous year, and is an increase in the overall number of American Legion Boys State program. The Department of Washington D.C. is proud to have officially reinstituted an American Legion Boys State program last year.

Respectfully submitted,

LOREN SPERRY, Chairman
Youth Activities Subcommittee
AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
November 8, 2018
Gary Stone (MO), Chairman
Steve Cloud (IN), Program Manager, Americanism Division

The American Legion Baseball Committee conducted a telephone conference on Thursday, November 8, 2018. Those in attendance were: Gary Stone (MO), Chairman; members Mark Avis (MA); Skip Carnes (PA); Rick Cash (AR); Mark Cauble (NC); James Grenier (VA); John Hayes (IN); Jody Moeller (NE); Jacob Raile (ND); and consultants Frank Calandrillo (NJ); Jay DeSantis (WV); and Donald Hawkins (WI). Also in attendance were Steve Cloud (IN), Program Manager Baseball; and Jeremy Field (NJ), Baseball Media and Communications.

Assistant Director Cloud opened the conference with an overview of the agenda, purpose and expectations of the call and brief instructions on conference call procedures. Following Fall Meetings, five new members were appointed to the Baseball Committee, each took time to give a brief introduction and where they would like to see the program in three years.

Assistant Director Cloud provided an update regarding K&K Insurance and changes to the 2019 season. National will collect department fees, late fees, national administrative and team registration fees. Teams will be redirected to K&K Insurance’s website to purchase liability and accident insurance. General Liability premium for 2019 increased $6 for senior and junior teams, personal accident premium remained unchanged.

Advance copy of 2019 national tournament staff suggestions were reviewed and discussed. Committee members recommend that the suggested tournament staff members be submitted for vetting and approval.

Members had follow-up discussion from the Fall Baseball Chairman’s Conference regarding the junior program, which included an update regarding the department chairman’s survey and junior regional tournaments. The Committee recommends that the working group develop a draft “white paper” based on the chairman’s survey that highlights the goals, strategies, cost, and implementation of adopting junior regional tournaments for review at Spring Meetings and for presentation at the Fall Baseball Chairman’s Conference.

Assistant Director Cloud provided an update of upcoming events the program will be participating in, which include our Nevada 2017 World Series champions and 2018 World Series runner-up teams assisting with MLB Play Ball event during Winter Meetings. The program will also be exhibiting at the 2019 American Baseball Coaches Association convention in Dallas on January 3-5, 2019. In conjunction with the convention, USA Baseball will be conducting their rescheduled annual national member organization meeting which was cancelled in September due to hurricane Florence.

The next scheduled phone conference will be in mid-February.
Steve Cloud (IN), Program Manager, Americanism Division

The American Legion Baseball Committee conducted a telephone conference on Tuesday, February 5, 2019. Those in attendance were: Gary Stone (MO), Chairman; members Mark Avis (MA); Skip Carnes (PA); Rick Cash (AR); Mark Cauble (NC); James Grenier (VA); John Hayes (IN); Jody Moeller (NE); Jacob Raile (ND); and consultant Jay DeSantis (WV). Also in attendance were Steve Cloud (IN), Program Manager Baseball; and Jeremy Field (NJ), Baseball Media and Communications.

Assistant Director Cloud opened the conference with an overview of the agenda, purpose and expectations of the call and brief instructions on conference call procedures.

Jeremy Field provided an update on upcoming media and communication articles celebrating the organization’s centennial and baseball. Field also brief members on the “All Centennial ALB Team” voting ballot concept through the magazine, website and in person at the ALWS.

Program Manager Cloud provided an update regarding K&K Insurance. First report of ALB team insurance purchases from K&K to department chairman was sent January 28 and will be sent every two weeks on Tuesdays. National will collect department fees, late fees, national administrative and team registration fees.

Cloud reported that there are multiple bids to host 2020 regionals in Great Lakes and Northwest. An amended resolution will need to be submitted at Spring Meetings in May. 2019 national tournament staff invites were mailed before the holidays and tournament directors are beginning to schedule site visits with their local host committees.

Members received an update from Cloud regarding the Department of Georgia not participating in the baseball program in 2019. Notification was received by department on January 3, 2019 that they would not be participating in the baseball program until someone could be appointed to run it. To date there has been no action by the Department of Georgia. It has been suggested to the National Commander’s Advisory Committee, that the ALB Committee and staff assist with the team registration administration to ensure teams meet national deadline dates and to assist with soliciting previous team managers and Georgia Legionnaires through email to consider re-engaging in the program. The ALB Committee concur with the recommendations. This would be for the 2019 season only and the Department of Georgia has to conduct their state tournament also.

The next scheduled phone conference will be in late March following the World Series spring planning meetings in Shelby, North Carolina.
The Baseball Committee met on Monday, May 6, 2019 at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Meridian West. Those in attendance were: Gary Stone (MO), Chairman; Mark Avis (MA), Vice Chairman; Committee members John Hayes (IN); Jake Raile (ND); Mark Cauble (NC); and Committee Consultants Eddie Holbrook (NC); Don Hawkins (WI); and Frank Calandrillo (NJ). Also in attendance were Steve Cloud (IN), Program Manager, Americanism Division; and Baseball Administrative Assistant, Tina Dunn. Numerous guests were also in attendance.

Your committee received an update on the 2019 online registration status from Program Manager Steve Cloud. The Committee is pleased to report that 2,227 teams have already registered online for the 2019 season. We anticipate an additional 1000+ teams registering in the next 24 days as the high school baseball season concludes throughout the country.

Your Committee also reviewed, discussed and approved adoption of the 2019 American Legion Baseball National Tournament Rules and Policies for 2019 post season tournament play.

Requests from the Departments of Massachusetts and Virginia for changes to current district team recruiting boundaries under National Rule 3. Team Recruiting Plan “A” were presented for your committee’s review. Your committee recommend and approve the amended team recruiting boundaries of the Plan "A" Zoning Requests from Massachusetts and Virginia.

Your Committee reviewed submitted bid proposals from regions 5 and 7 for consideration to host 2020 regional tournaments. Your Committee unanimously voted to pass and recommends resolution “Addendum to American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites For 2020” be approved. Region 5 and 7 sites are awarded to:

Region 5 – Elmhurst, IL  Region 7 – Gillette, WY

Your Committee discussed the recent passing of Senate Bill 534, which amends two federal statutes: (1) the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 and (2) the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. Part of the new bill includes extending reporting duties, designation of the United States Center for SafeSport, and provide consistent abuse awareness training to adult volunteers who are in contact with amateur athletes.

The current background check provider, Protect Youth Sports offers an abuse awareness training module that complies with the Senate Bill requirements and USA Baseball has also developed a baseball specific abuse awareness training module, both of these services are free. Your Committee recommends baseball staff work in collaboration with Risk Management national staff.
to update the risk management policies of junior and senior baseball to include abuse awareness reporting procedures, education and training, background screening and insurance requirements to present at the Fall Baseball Chairman’s Conference in September.

Your Committee had follow-up discussions regarding the junior baseball program and the survey results from the fifty department chairman. There are currently forty-two departments that sanction a junior program, with 1,258 teams in 2018. Only half of the departments would commit to and participate in a national junior regional tournaments, while seventeen departments would favor a national prep division. Committee member Jacob Raile (ND) offered a recommendation to conduct a survey with the registered junior team managers for feedback and comparison to chairmen. Your Committee approved a motion for Mr. Raile to conduct a survey to the 2018 junior team managers and results will be discussed at the Committee’s next phone conference call.

Since the beginning of the year, your committee conducted telephone conferences on November 8, 2018 and February 5, 2019; reports of those conference calls are attached to this report as Exhibits “A” and “B”. The next conference call for the committee is scheduled for July 16, 2019.

Respectively Submitted,

Gary Stone, Chairman
Baseball Committee
REPORT OF THE
CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE
TO THE
AMERICANISM COMMISSION
Al Davis, Vice-Chairman
Monday, May 7, 2018

The American Legion Citizenship and Naturalization Subcommittee
Spring Meetings, May 6, 2019

Opening
At 9:37am, Vice Chairman Allen Davis (MN) led a salute to the flag of the United States and called the 2019 Spring Meeting of the Citizenship and Naturalization Subcommittee (CNSC) to order. He then offered an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the POW/MIA remembrance ceremony. Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks (IN), Americanism Division conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present.

Committee members included: Allan Davis (MN), Vice Chairman; John Bowen (CO); Randy D. Edwards (UT); Ronald D. Haygood (AL); Ken Mueller (TX); Gerald Theriot (LA); Jack Youngs (ID); Leslie J. Clevinger (VA).

Guests included: Wayne Gilbertson, Americanism Council (MN); Vern Hall Asst. Sgt.-At-Arms 12th District (OH).

Welcome and Greetings
Vice Chairman Alan Davis opened the meeting by greeting those in attendance and reminding those of the passing of the CNSC Chairman, Joseph Caouette (NH). As there were no other greetings before the subcommittee, the subcommittee then addressed the business at hand.

Review and Approval of Agenda and Previous Report
The subcommittee then reviewed and approved the agenda for the 2019 Spring Meeting of the CNSC. The agenda was approved unanimously without correction or discussion.

The committee then reviewed and approved the report from the 2018 Fall Meeting of the CNSC. The report was approved unanimously without correction or discussion.

Resolutions
The committee had one resolution to consider this session. Resolution 12 entitled, Constitution Day was recommended for approval by unanimous vote with the following amendment to the final Resolved clause, “and to go over the contents of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution with the students.” Ensuring the inclusion of “of Independence,” in that clause.

Discussion regarding Naturalization Ceremony at the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis.
Jeff Hendricks led a discussion regarding a Naturalization Ceremony that will occur at the 2019 National Convention, on Tuesday, August 27th with about 300 attending (Attachment A). Room layout was provided during this briefing in the form of handouts that included a timeline; breaking down set up, security sweep, swearing-in, potential guest speakers, and after-events. Some of the events planned for immediately after the ceremony include: voter registration (Marion County, Indiana), photo opportunities with the judge and other speakers, and ability to register for Social Security Number and potential for name change opportunities. Hendricks asked for the subcommittee to provide 2-3 people to assist as ushers at the ceremony. While members of the subcommittee are welcome to attend, Hendricks reiterated that delegates to the National Convention should give first priority/consideration to business on the convention floor as this event occurs at the same time.

As the venue where the naturalization ceremony will take place is about four blocks away, Hendricks then offered to lead a site survey of the location following the subcommittee meeting to further elaborate on this event. Several members participated in that site visit.

For the Good of the Subcommittee and the American Legion

When Vice Chairman Davis asked if there were any other items for the subcommittee and The American Legion, Ron Haygood inquired about the status of the flag amendment in Congress. Hendricks responded with the most recent status of the flag amendment, as it died in committee at the close of the last U.S. Congress. However he stated that he would look into the any further developments with the Legislative Division of The American Legion and get back to him.

Vice Chairman Davis made his closing remarks and asked Randy Edwards to give the closing benediction. Vice Chairman Davis then called upon those present to salute the colors and thereby announced the CNSC now stands in recess (9:52am).
REPORT TO THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION
SPRING MEETING – May 8, 2018
Indianapolis, Indiana

MEETING OF THE YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
Larry Price (SD), Chairman

On May 6, 2019, the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee met at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel.

Members present; Committee Chairman, Larry Price (SD), Committee Vice Chair, Richard Neville (NC), Committee Member, Jim Willis (OR), Committee Member, William Feasenmyer (VA), Committee Consultant, Delmar Buske (IL), and Committee Consultant, Sgt. Jerod Keyes (OH). Guests present; National Commander Brett Reistad (VA), Americanism Commission Chairman, Richard Anderson (CT), Past National Commander, Dale Barnett (GA), NEC-man Robert Libenow (OR), NEC-man Louis Brault (MA).

Meeting topics presented and discussed included: a review of the 2018 Fall Meeting and approval of minutes by Committee Chairman, Larry Price, an update from committee members on technical assistance provided to date to departments without a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program; an update of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Strategic Plan; and a discussion on the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Department Suggested Guidelines by Americanism Program Manager, Meagen Sweet.

There was also a presentation from Chad Shrader, Exploring Director of Boy Scout Law Enforcement Exploring who provided an overview briefing of the Boy Scout Law Enforcement Exploring program (of Boy Scouts of America), involving 30,000 registered youth across the nation and Europe. His presentation included discussion of how both organizations have potential to overlay their youth law enforcement programs to identify areas for complimenting each other and reciprocally assisting in bridging gaps with finding good candidates and volunteer staff for both Youth Cadet Law Enforcement and Boy Scout Law Enforcement Exploring Programs nationwide. The Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee agreed to give the proposal consideration.

Committee meetings points of emphasis:
- The need for every department to develop a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program.
- The need for greater Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program awareness.
- Departments without a program should contact a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee member immediately for start-up technical assistance.