

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

Richard Anderson

Connecticut

Chairman

Jill K. Druskis

Nebraska

Director

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and fathomless love for the principles that led our forefathers to found this country. The following are highlights of the Americanism Commission:

Committee on Children & Youth

Herbert J. Petit Jr.

Louisiana

Chairman

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) provides financial assistance to children of active-duty servicemembers and current American Legion members when their household experiences difficulty in meeting their basic needs. During calendar year 2019 non-repayable grants totaling over \$1.1 million touched the lives of 3,277 children of 1,777 veterans throughout 44 states. Within those grand totals, 2,767 minor children of 1,539 U.S. Coast Guard servicemembers received nearly \$1 million in cash grants during the longest federal government shutdown in our nation's history.

Committee on Youth Education

Michael Westergren

Arkansas

Chairman

In 2019 there were 57 American Legion Legacy scholarships awarded to youth totaling \$1,122,624; three were awarded to children of fallen servicemembers and 54 to children of post-9/11 veterans assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Other events from the past year:

- The Samsung American Legion Scholarship fund has awarded more than \$6.5 million to American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State recipients since its inception in 1996.
- In 2019, 10 Samsung American Legion national scholars were selected. Several of those scholars were recognized by National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford at Commander's Call during the Washington (D.C.) Conference in February 2020. Hosted by Samsung Electronics and The American Legion, the scholars attended breakfasts and dinners, toured the capitol's monuments and headed to Capitol Hill to meet with their representatives and senators.

American Legion Baseball Committee

Gary Stone

Missouri

Chairman

American Legion Baseball (ALB) was founded in 1925. Shelby, N.C., continues to be the proud home of the American Legion World Series since 2011.

- The team from Idaho Falls, Idaho, sponsored by American Legion Post 56, won its first-ever ALB World Series in 2019. As national champions, the team attended the 2019 Major League Baseball World Series in Washington D.C., as guests of The American Legion and Major League Baseball.
- Trevor Marsh, playing for American Legion Randolph County Post 45 in North Carolina was the 2019 George W. Rulon Player of the Year.
- Eighty-two American Legion Baseball alumni are enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.
- The captain of the 2019 ALB All-Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports was Kenshawn Dixon of North Carolina.

Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee

Larry Price

South Dakota

Chairman

The Americanism Commission is concerned that law enforcement is not always regarded with the respect it deserves. Through the American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program young people are empowered to realize that peace officers stand as staunch supporters for moral and legal rights, and that the dedication and impact they have within local communities, state and nation should be regarded with respect and appreciation. The program also serves as an influential steppingstone for high school students considering a law enforcement career. Twenty-one American Legion departments currently sponsor a program.

Youth Programs

- Patrick Junker of Iowa won the 2019 American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Caleb Maue of Illinois placed second and Eden Carnes of Tennessee placed third.
- Jaden Anderson of Utah was selected 2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year. Runners-up were N’Jhari Jackson of Florida; Trevor Burke of Texas; and Rhylan Peterson of Minnesota.
- Makenzie Sheffield of Texas and Jaden-Ann Fraser of Tennessee captured the Precision and Sporter championship titles respectively at the 2019 American Legion 3-Position Air Rifle National Championship held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.
- The Francis Redington Sportsmanship Award was presented to Samantha Louie of California during the 2019 American Legion 3-Position Air Rifle National Championship.
- Lou Acevedo of Massachusetts and Thomas Penley of Montana were elected president and vice president respectively of the 2019 American Legion Boys Nation Senate.