

**AMERICANISM COMMISSION
DIGEST OF PROCEEDINGS
VIRTUAL SPRING MEETING 2021
May 1, 2021**

The Americanism Commission met in a virtual meeting on Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. (EDT). Following the formal opening, the roll was called; 30 members of the Americanism Commission were in attendance and a quorum declared. Following Chairman Anderson's (CT) opening remarks, welcome and greetings were delivered by National Commander of The American Legion James W. "Bill" Oxford (NC); Past National Commander John "Jake" Comer (MA); and National Executive Committeeman Dennis Boland (FL), chairman of the Americanism Commission Liaison Committee. Procedural matters for participating in the meeting were reviewed, and Chairman Anderson then called upon individual committee and subcommittee chairmen to deliver their reports.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

The members of the Committee on Children & Youth (C&Y) Committee met in a virtual meeting on Saturday, April 10, 2021. The meeting was chaired by Herbert Petit, Jr. (LA). Roll call was taken and a quorum declared.

Chairman Petit reviewed that during the meeting of the Committee on Children & Youth (C&Y) last fall, the committee identified that it has been some time since the governing resolution for the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program has been thoroughly reviewed; the governing resolution is Resolution No. 8 of the October 2017 National Executive Committee (NEC) titled "Restructure of the Temporary Financial Assistance Statement of Policy" and has the full TFA policy document incorporated into it. The committee discussed that a thorough review will allow the committee opportunity to seek greater clarity and scope in areas lacking clear intent, update any language within the document that is not gender neutral, and help department chairmen and their local investigators with more refined guidance for assessing a potential TFA case. To begin the process some committee members undertook preliminary review as an ad hoc working group on March 6, 2021. That working group developed a proposed working draft of updated TFA policies and procedures that the Committee on C&Y reviewed during this spring meeting. The committee is pleased with progress of the review and once the committee is fully satisfied with its systematic review and draft development, it will then be presented to the Americanism Commission for consideration and further vetting.

The committee next received an update on the status of TFA grants for 2021. During this current calendar year through April 1st, over \$5,946* in TFA grants have been provided to qualified veterans with minor children in the home to help with the basic needs of their child(ren). The calendar year (CY) 2020 ended with the TFA program providing over \$54,913* in assistance to 43 veteran families, thereby keeping 95 children in a stable and safe environment. The number of requests for TFA slowed during CY 2020 and has continued to be slow during CY 2021. It is felt this is due the federal government providing multiple stimulus packages to Americans to help combat unemployment and stimulate the economy in response to impact of the global coronavirus pandemic. The stimulus packages in general provided \$600 per person in January and then another \$1,400 per person in March. The most recent stimulus package extended additional unemployment benefits until September 6, 2021. (*subject to final audit)

For the good of the Legion, the Committee on C&Y discussed the 2nd annual "100 Miles for Hope" campaign that is underway; viewed the new Legion video titled "Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship"; reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020 titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion"; and discussed "April is Children and Youth Month."

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the Committee on Children & Youth (**EXHIBIT A**), with the motion having been made by Ted Howarth (NJ), and seconded by Larry Price (SD).

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Gary Stone (MO), Chairman of the American Legion Baseball (ALB) Committee reported that the ALB Committee met in a virtual meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2020, with a quorum present. The committee received an update regarding the 2021 online registration and national tournament status from Baseball Operations Program Manager Steve Cloud. As of the date of the committee's meeting, a total of 1,511 teams (962 senior teams and 549 junior teams) from 47 departments registered online for the 2021 season. Cloud further reported that he and Chairman Stone will be attending planning meetings in Shelby, North Carolina with the ALWS Shelby Executive Committee on April 21 - 23 to discuss preparations and schedules for the 2021 American Legion World Series.

The Baseball Committee reviewed a newly proposed resolution titled *“Raising Awareness of the Presumptive Service-Connected Condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Also Known as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”* and recommends its approval to the Americanism Commission. This resolution was suggested by Past National Commander David Rehbein (IA) and calls for following suit with Major League Baseball’s new annual tradition of bringing a greater awareness to the condition of Lou Gehrig’s disease - also known as “ALS”. Just as Major League Baseball teams will begin doing annually on June 2nd this summer, this resolution strongly encourages every American Legion Baseball team to observe a moment of silence before their game each year on June 2nd in memory of Lou Gehrig, who died on the same date in 1941 at age 37, and also in memory of all veterans who suffer or have died from Lou Gehrig’s disease, which is a presumptive service-connected disease. Military veterans, regardless of their branch of service, or the era in which they served, or during a time of peace or war, are at a greater risk of dying from Lou Gehrig’s disease than non-veterans. And for reasons yet unknown, veterans are in fact twice as likely to be diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease than the general population. The resolution further calls for National Headquarters to promote this observation each year in appropriate media channels; and American Legion Baseball teams and posts are encouraged to also promote this annual observance within their own local communities. This resolution has the concurrence of the VA&R Commission.

The ALB Committee next put forth an “American Legion Baseball Contingency Plan” for consideration. As the coronavirus global pandemic stretched into 2021, the importance for the ALB program to be prepared with a contingency plan in the event any ALB national tournaments were to encounter conditions in hosting departments that might require cancellation, the development of a contingency plan was deemed prudent. At the time of this report, conditions are looking favorable for having all of the ALB national tournaments this summer, so a contingency plan will likely not need to be implemented this year, but the ALB Committee feels it is still a good plan to keep in reserve should it be needed in the future.

The ALB Committee discussed the new Major League Baseball (MLB) extra inning rule whereby each extra inning starts with a runner on second. The committee recommends that the ALB program not adopt this MLB rule. The MLB plays 9-inning games, and they adopted this rule as a pace of play rule. The ALB Committee feels pace of play is not an issue for the Legion since ALB games are 7-innings.

As a result of an audit review of all the national scholarship programs, the baseball scholarships are being assessed for the 2022 season. The ALB Committee also took opportunity to review the new Legion video titled “Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship;” discussed the 2nd annual “100 Miles of Hope” campaign that is underway; and also reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled “Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion.”

The Americanism Commission, with a motion put forth by Mark Avis (MA) and seconded by Jody Moeller (NE), received and filed the written report of the ALB Committee (**EXHIBIT B**) with the exception of: 1) the resolution presented; 2) ALB Exhibit A titled “American Legion Baseball Contingency Plan”; 3) ALB Exhibit B titled “American Legion Baseball 2021 National Tournament Rules and Policies”; and 4) ratification of the ALB Committee’s recommendation to reject adopting the new MLB extra inning rule – each of these were voted upon separately. The Americanism Commission voted upon each of the recommendations put forth by the ALB Committee, voting to: 1) approve the resolution titled *Raising Awareness of the Presumptive Service-Connected Condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Also Known as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”*; 2) approve ALB Exhibit A of the written ALB Committee report (motion by Mark Avis

(MA), seconded by Larry Price (SD)); 3) approve ALB Exhibit B of the ALB Committee written report (motion by Dennis Frizzi (PA), seconded by Roberta Poulos (SC)); and 4) ratify the ALB Committee's recommendation to reject adoption of the MLB's new extra inning rule after the motion was put forth, with second by Ted Howarth (NJ).

YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Larry Price (SD), chairman of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee (YCLEC), reported that on April 14th, 2021, the YCLEC met via a virtual meeting platform. Chairman Price asked Americanism's new Youth Programs Manager, Todd Foster, to introduce himself to the committee and Foster gave a brief history of his experience and skills. The YCLEC went on to view the new Legion video titled "Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship"; discussed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion"; and discussed the 2nd annual "100 Miles for Hope" wellness campaign currently underway as a fundraiser for the Veterans & Childrens Foundation.

Chairman Price led a discussion by asking each committee member to share the status of the YCLE program in their respective home departments for this year. Chairmen Price next sought to learn if there had been any response to the letter over his signature sent out in January 2021 to departments who have a YCLE program asking them to reach out to neighboring states to offer support and generate interest. Jim Willis (OR) stated that he will be visiting with the Department of Washington, as they have indicated interest in starting a YCLE Academy and that the Department of California is considering having two YCLE Academies due to the size of its state, in the summer of 2022. Chairman Price spoke with the Departments of Iowa and Texas and they are each interested in starting a department YCLE program in the future. Americanism Commission Chairman, who was attending the YCLEC as a guest, offered a room at convention if the YCLE committee wished to invite prospective departments to facilitate a discussion.

Chairman Anderson sought a motion to receive and file the written report of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee (**EXHIBIT C**); Darell Bishop (OH) made the motion, second by Ted Howarth (NJ) and the motion then passed.

CITIZENSHIP & NATURALIZATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairman Randy Edwards (UT) reported that the Citizenship & Naturalization Subcommittee (CNSC) convened on April 16, 2020. Roll was taken with a quorum present.

The CNSC discussed the Citizenship Outreach Guide of The American Legion that was provided in advance of the meeting to review for potential updates. Last updated in 2015, the CNSC determined that the content is still relevant but moved that staff review the many web links within the document to ensure they are still working and valid.

The CNSC next moved that Americanism Division staff work with the Media & Communications Division of the National Headquarters to create a media campaign generating support for citizenship and naturalization events, as well as highlight this publication, in conjunction with Independence Day. This will link immigrants to becoming new citizens with that of America having become a new nation on July 4th.

Chairman Edwards discussed National Commander Oxford having testified before the new U.S. Congress in March 2021, wherein the commander called upon the 117th Congress to again take up a position in support of finding a path of "Citizenship for Honorable Service."

For the good of the Legion, the CNSC discussed the 2nd annual "100 Miles for Hope" campaign and reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion."

Chairman Anderson sought a motion to receive and file the written report of the Citizenship & Naturalization Subcommittee (**EXHIBIT D**); the motion was made by Ken Mueller (TX), second by Leslie Clevinger (VA) and the motion then passed.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairman Loren “Bud” Sperry reported that the Youth Activities Subcommittee (YASC) met in a virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. The roll was called, and a quorum declared.

For the first order of business the YASC reviewed the following two resolutions to make recommendations to the Americanism Commission:

- Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) 2020 DEC *Remove Assigned Topics From Oratorical Contest*
- Resolution No. 49 (OR) 2019 National Convention *Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year*

Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) titled *Remove Assigned Topics From Oratorical Contest* calls for removing the requirement for the 3-to-5 minute assigned topic speech and retaining the 8- to 10-minute prepared speech. Department oratorical chairmen discussed this resolution at the 2020 national Combined Americanism Conference, with all 29 of the department oratorical chairmen in attendance unanimously recommending rejection of this resolution. The department chairmen discussed that the purpose of the 3- to 5-minute assigned topic speech is to test the speaker’s knowledge of the constitutional amendment that’s been assigned, the extent of his or her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as it relates to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. It is felt that to eliminate the assigned topic speech would be to eliminate an important aspect for giving judges insight into each contestant’s level of knowledge, ability to research, and skill to discuss. The YASC also discussed this resolution and are in agreement with the department chairmen’s recommendation to reject this resolution.

Resolution No. 49 (OR) titled *Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year* calls for changing the current name of “The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award” to “The American Legion Top Scouting Award of the Year Scholarship” so as to extend eligibility for receiving the award not only to Eagle Scouts, but also to youth in the Venturing and Sea Scout programs of the Boy Scouts of America organization. It also seeks to include eligibility of females. Legion department Scouting chairmen discussed Resolution No. 49 during the 2019 national Combined Americanism Conference and it was unanimously recommended by all 14 departments represented to reject this resolution as there is no good methodology for objectively comparing the pinnacle achievements of each of the three Boy Scouts of America youth programs (Eagle Scout Award in Scouting, the Summit Award in Venturing, and the Quartermaster Award in Sea Scouting) because each are very separate and distinct. It is extremely difficult to make like-comparisons among the pinnacle awards of three very different Boy Scouts of America programs in order to combine them into a single award that will adequately recognize the nuances of each. The resolution additionally seeks that Legion Scouting awards “be extended to the female gender,” however, there is nothing in the current eligibility of any pinnacle awards of the Boy Scouts of America organization limiting awards to any one gender, therefore a Legion Scouting award would not exclude female recipients. The YASC also discussed this resolution and are in agreement with Scouting department chairmen to reject this resolution.

The YASC next discussed youth program updates:

- Junior Shooting Sports: The 30th American Legion Junior Shooting Three Position Air Rifle National Championship will be held July 21 – 24, 2021, at the temporary USA Shooting range facility located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The sixth annual Junior Shooting Sports Chairmen’s Conference will be held virtually September 18 – 19, 2021.
- Oratorical: The 83rd National Oratorical Finals Contest of The American Legion were cancelled this year due effects of the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic in Indianapolis, however, a \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to each youth certified as a 2021 department oratorical winner. The scholarship was generously sponsored by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and The American Legion. The 52nd annual meeting of department Oratorical chairpersons will be held September 25 – 26, 2021, at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The 2022 National Oratorical Finals Contest will be held April 22nd – 24th at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. The certification of 2022 department oratorical winners are due to National

Headquarters no later than March 14, 2022. Assigned topics for the 2022 National Oratorical Contest are as follows:

- **Amendment III** – Quartering of soldiers
 - **Amendment VIII** – Excessive bail
 - **Amendment XIV Section 3** – Insurrection amendment
 - **Amendment XXV Section 4** – President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the Presidential office.
- Scouting: Scouting patches currently available for purchase through Emblem Sales reflects “Boy Scouts”. Because the Boy Scouts of American organization changed the name of its “Boy Scouts” youth program to “Scouts BSA”, it was recommended that consideration be given to seek having the patches changed to instead simply reflect “Scouting.” A motion was made and approved to seek approval from the Americanism Commission for staff to pursue this change. This year Eagle Scout of the Year nominations were received from 26 Legion departments. Members of the Youth Activities Subcommittee reviewed and scored those nomination applications, results were compiled, and the four top scoring Eagle Scouts were ranked from 1st to 4th, with the Eagle Scout of the Year as the first ranked and the subsequent three as runners-up. As you saw from the Youth Activities Subcommittee report the following Scouts have been put forth for the Americanism Commission to ratify:
 - John McPhie of California as the 2021 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year
 - Cale Abbott of Oklahoma as 1st runner-up
 - Thomas Kopasko of Pennsylvania as 2nd runner-up
 - Spencer Burke of Texas as 3rd runner-up

The YASC tasked staff with making changes to the ESOY application which the YASC discussed and asked staff to present a draft to the subcommittee for discussion via email this summer. The Scouting Department Chairmen’s Conference will be held September 25th and 26th at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel. Additional information will be posted.

- Boys State/Nation: In 2020 all 50 Boys State programs across the nation were heavily impacted by the coronavirus global pandemic, with the vast majority having been canceled in the interest of health and safety of everyone involved. American Legion Texas Boys State did demonstrate success in swiftly pivoting to a virtual program in 2020. For 2021 there are currently a total of 44 departments that will be having a Boys State program this year (31 in-person 13 virtual). Six departments cancelled their Boys State program for this year. Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia has confirmed it can accommodate the Boys Nation program this year.
- Risk Mitigation Measures: All national youth programs of The American Legion will be observing CDC guidelines, in addition to any applicable state and local mandates.

The YASC took opportunity to discuss the 2nd annual “100 Miles for Hope” campaign that is underway; reviewed the new Legion video titled “Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship”; and also reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled “Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion.”

With a motion by Lyman Brenner (DE), second by Ted Howarth (NJ), the Americanism Commission voted to receive and file the written report of the YASC (**EXHIBIT E**) with the exception of: 1) the two resolutions discussed; 2) seeking to change the scouting program patch currently available through Emblem Sales; and 3) ratification of the recommendations put forth for selection of the 2021 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and runners-up – each of these were voted upon separately. The Americanism Commission voted upon each of the recommendations put forth by the YASC and voted to: 1) reject Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) titled *Remove Assigned Topics From Oratorical Contest* (motion by Mark Avis (MA), second by Lyman Brenner DE)); 2) reject Resolution No. 49 (OR) titled “*Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year*” (motion made by Mark Avis (MA), and was seconded); 3) approve seeking to have patches currently sold through Emblem Sales changed to read “Scouting” (motion by Roberta Poulos (SC), second by Lyman Brenner (DE)); and ratify the recommendations put forth by the YASC for selection of 2021 American

Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and runners-up (motion by Ted Howarth (NJ), second by Lyman Brenner (DE)).

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION

Michael Westergren (AR), chairman of the Committee on Youth Education (COYE), reported that the committee met virtually on April 28, 2021. The COYE recommended the following 32 applicants as recipients of a 2021 American Legion Legacy Scholarship, totaling \$357,228.84. These applicants demonstrated both eligibility and financial need. The breakdown of 2021 applications and scholarships awards follows:

- A total of 1,075 applications were opened and started
- Of those there were 541 having submitted a complete application
- Of those there were 127 having demonstrated verifiable eligibility and financial need
- Of those a total of 32 were awarded an American Legion Legacy scholarship as detailed below (5 children of the fallen / 27 children of disabled veterans)
- 95 applications with verifiable eligibility and financial need totaling \$706,158 remained unfulfilled due to The American Legion meeting its financial award cap for the year

Children of a fallen servicemember – 2021 Legacy Scholarship awards

Endira Caldwell (IA)	\$ 20,000.00
Ahlania Davis (NV)	\$ 20,000.00
Nicole Desiree Fontenot (MA)	\$ 19,232.81
Dennis Abiola Jallah III (NC)	\$ 15,653.81
Chelsea Briggs (HI)	\$ 15,064.39

Children of a disabled veteran – 2021 Legacy Scholarship awards

Makayla Sharonne Hamlin (WA)	\$ 10,000.00
Dominique Marie Smith (OH)	\$ 10,000.00
Jared Neil Layton (PA)	\$ 10,000.00
Destiny Quinn (FL)	\$ 10,000.00
McKayla Ann Kraft (NC)	\$ 10,000.00
Katline Barrows (WA)	\$ 10,000.00
Trinity A Rivas (TX)	\$ 10,000.00
Joseph Anderson (OK)	\$ 10,000.00
Emily Anne Lewis (NY)	\$ 10,000.00
Sydney Alissa Long (NE)	\$ 10,000.00
Jerusha Patera Simmons (KS)	\$ 10,000.00
Nathan Russell Smith (AZ)	\$ 10,000.00
Axel Adrian Oquendo (GA)	\$ 10,000.00
Emma Rose Furlan (CT)	\$ 10,000.00
Xzavier Latchison (TX)	\$ 10,000.00
Dequiala D Kelly (GA)	\$ 10,000.00
Noelani Milena Allison (WA)	\$ 10,000.00
Paige Kathleen Roff (IA)	\$ 10,000.00
Hannah Elizabeth Brooks (GA)	\$ 10,000.00
Madeline Alexis Starling (PA)	\$ 10,000.00
Erin Moroney (DC)	\$ 10,000.00
Jesse Michael Pettigrew (OH)	\$ 10,000.00
Andino James-Vincenzo LaVersa (TX)	\$ 10,000.00
Sabrina Rose Starling (PA)	\$ 10,000.00
Isabel Bathke (SD)	\$ 10,000.00
Emily T Jansen (MN)	\$ 10,000.00
Mark W Kolb (MD)	\$ 7,277.83
	\$357,228.84

In accordance with Resolution No. 6 approved by the National Executive Committee in October 2011, the COYE selected S. Adam Seagrave, Ph.D. as recipient of the 2021 American Legion National Education Award. S. Adam Seagrave is associate director of the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona University. He is the author of “The Accessible Federalist”, the editor of “Liberty and Equality: The American Conversation”, and his article “Whatever Happened to Civics?” was featured in the March 2021 issue of The American Legion Magazine. In “Whatever Happened to Civics?”, S. Adam Seagrave writes that serious deficiencies in U.S. civics and history education are depriving generations of Americans of the knowledge needed to maintain our republic. “The events of recent months underscore the urgency of strengthening our civic fabric,” he writes. “There is a general acknowledgment of the fact that a constitutional democracy such as ours cannot survive on STEM alone.” The recipient of the American Legion National Education Award is invited to the national convention city each year to receive their award personally from the chairman of the Americanism Commission, and Dr. Seagrave will be invited to Phoenix this summer.

The COYE also discussed updates to The American Legion Education Guide, and draft SOP’s for the Legacy and Samsung Scholarships; discussed the 2nd annual “100 Miles for Hope” campaign; and reviewed Resolution No. 5 of the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled “Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion.”

With a motion by Herbert Petit (LA), second by Roberta Poulos (SC), the Americanism Commission voted to receive and file the written report of the COYE (**EXHIBIT F**), with the exception of ratification of COYE Exhibit A of the written report titled “2021 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Award Recipients”, which was voted upon separately. With a motion by Mark Avis (MA), second by Darell Bishop (OH), the Americanism Commission voted to ratify COYE Exhibit A of the COYE written report titled “2021 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Award Recipients.”

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the Americanism Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

The commission previewed a new video produced by the Media and Communications Division of National Headquarters titled “American Legion Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship.” The American Legion created this video to illustrate the one common denominator that all of our youth programs have – instilling responsible citizenship. The video also highlights why those who served in the U.S. military and who continue their service through membership in The American Legion have such a vested stake in our youth programs – programs that develop tomorrow’s leaders. This 7-minute video will be shown during all national youth programs, with posts and departments encouraged to do the same.

The Commission next reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee titled “Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of The American Legion,” discussing that its purpose is to provide The American Legion clear guidance about who we are and what we wish to stand for. The vision and mission statements, along with the value principles and motto, helps define the purpose of our organization; provides guidance for aligning our organization’s resources toward a successful future; provides clear and effective decision-making guidance; helps formulate strategic planning; and publicly communicates our message. This resolution should serve as a guide when assessing if a topic, position, or initiative is aligned with the Legion’s organizational purpose.

Commission members were encouraged to participate in 2nd annual American Legion “100 Miles for Hope” virtual 100-mile walk, run, ride challenge that promotes promote wellness by encouraging people to get active and to invigorate donations for the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation.

RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY

At the virtual meeting of the Americanism Commission on May 1, 2021, a total of seven resolutions were considered. In addition to discussions regarding resolutions noted earlier in this report, the Americanism Commission further discussed the following resolutions:

Register Resolution No. 2799 titled *Seek Clarification From the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America Concerning Their Letter to Scout Leaders Concerning Racism Dated July 15, 2020* (MN). This resolution calls for the national leadership of The American Legion to seek clarification from the National Council of The Boy Scouts of America regarding its position on the Black Lives Matter movement. The Americanism Commission voted its recommend to handle this resolution administratively. It is the opinion of the Americanism Commission that because Legion departments possess autonomy provided them by the Congressional Charter of The American Legion, a national resolution is not necessary for a Legion department to work directly through their respective Boy Scouts of America district, council, or region to seek specific information from the Boy Scouts of America's national organization.

Register Resolution No. 2803 titled *Department of Alabama Offers To Host The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Championship* (AL). In this resolution the American Legion Department of Alabama is seeking permission to present a proposal to the Americanism Commission and to the National Executive Committee to host The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Championship at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's Air Gun Competition Center for a three-year probationary period. The Americanism Commission voted to recommend holding this resolution for further study, in accordance with the Americanism Commission's traditional custom and protocol to first consult American Legion department youth program chairman for their thoughts and insight regarding their respective youth programs. Junior shooting sports department chairmen are scheduled to meet during the annual national Combined Americanism Conference in September 2021.

Proposed resolution titled *Authority to Temporarily Amend, Delay or Suspend Rules or Policies of National Youth Programs*. This resolution calls for authorizing the Americanism Commission, with concurrence of the national commander, to temporarily amend, delay or suspend any established rule or policy of a national youth program when a program is subject to the occurrence of certain extenuating circumstances beyond control of The American Legion. The impetus for this resolution came through the far reaching and enduring impact of the 2020 - 2021 global coronavirus pandemic. It illustrated the need for having a degree of measured flexibility for amending national youth program rules and formal policies in the interest of benefitting youth to the greatest extent possible under extenuating circumstances. The commission voted to recommend approval of this resolution.

Proposed resolution titled *Applicability of Resolution No. 28 Titled "Citizenship, Residency, Or Visitor Status For Youth Participation In American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level"*. The catalyst for initiating this clarifying resolution occurred when confusion arose by a department oratorical chairman regarding the applicability of currently existing Resolution No. 28 of the Spring 2018 NEC with that of official oratorical contest rules. This proposed resolution clarifies that Resolution No. 28 of the 2018 Spring NEC is intended solely to ensure that youth participants of national-level youth programs are adhering to the law by being in the United States in a legal status prior to their participation and is not intended to supersede or replace any official youth program rules. The commission voted to recommend approval of this resolution.

The following is a comprehensive summary of action the Americanism Commission voted to recommend to the National Executive Committee for consideration:

Approve

- *Raising Awareness of the Presumptive Service-Connected Condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Also Known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease"*
- *Authority to Temporarily Amend, Delay or Suspend Rules or Policies of National Youth Programs*
- *Applicability of Resolution No. 28 Titled "Citizenship, Residency, Or Visitor Status For Youth Participation In American Legion Youth Programs at the National Level"*

Reject

- Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) 2020 Department Executive Committee *Remove Assigned Topics from Oratorical Contest*
- Resolution No. 49 (OR) 2019 National Convention *Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of The Year*

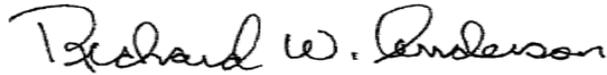
Handle Administratively

- Register Resolution No. 2799 (MN) 2020 Department Executive Committee *Seek Clarification From the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America Concerning Their Letter to Scout Leaders Concerning Racism Dated July 15, 2020*

Hold for Further Study

- Register Resolution No. 2803 (AL) 2021 Department Executive Committee *Department of Alabama Offers To Host The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Championship*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard W. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

RICHARD W. ANDERSON, Chairman
Americanism Commission

**REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
TO THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION
HERBERT J. PETIT, JR. (LA), CHAIRMAN
APRIL 10, 2021**

The Committee on Children and Youth (C&Y) met virtually on April 10, 2021. The meeting was convened at 11:00 p.m. EDT. Chairman Petit led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, POW/MIA remembrance and the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared. Committee on Children & Youth Chairman Herbert Petit, Jr., brought greetings and thanked the committee for being available.

The following special guests were also in attendance and brought greetings and remarks before the Committee on Children and Youth: Richard Anderson (CT), Chairman of the Americanism Commission for The American Legion; Lisa Williamson (AK), Children and Youth Chairman for the American Legion Auxiliary; and William Clancy (NY), Children and Youth Chairman for the Sons of The American Legion.

Resolution No. 5 (Email 2020) Titled: *Vision, Mission, Values and the Motto of The American Legion*

Chairman Petit brought before the Committee on Children and Youth Resolution No. 5 (Email 2020) titled *Vision, Mission, Values and the Motto of The American Legion* to share an awareness that formally sets forth the vision, mission, and value principles of our organization. The resolution embodies the principles of what The American Legion stands for. (C&Y Enclosure A)

Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship

The Committee on Children and Youth watched the new “Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship” video created by The American Legion. This video is vitally important to our mission to help create the future leaders for tomorrow. The video highlights how those who have served in the U.S. military continue to serve through their American Legion membership and engagement with the Legion’s youth programs, teaching leadership, respect, citizenship, and mutual helpfulness. The video may be found online at: [American Legion Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship video](#).

Continued Review of the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) Policy and Procedures

The Committee on Children and Youth continued their review of the proposed working draft of update to TFA Policy and Procedures manual. At the conclusion of the discussion Chairman Petit recommended that the Committee on Children and Youth take the following steps moving forward regarding the proposed working draft TFA Policy and Procedures:

1. If the committee cannot come to a majority consensus on the proposed working draft TFA Policy & Procedures, then the committee continue to hold this as a business item for discussion at each formal meeting until the committee ultimately achieves a majority consensus.
2. Once the committee is satisfied with a proposed working draft of a TFA Policy and Procedures document, the committee would next move on to drafting, reviewing, and coming to a majority consensus on a complementing resolution, wherein the TFA Policy and Procedures manual would no longer be incorporated into a resolution, but would instead be a stand-alone document for the flexibility of making updates to policy and procedures without the need for updating an entire resolution.
3. Once the committee has achieved both a draft resolution and draft TFA Policy and Procedures manual it is satisfied with, both documents would then be presented together to the Americanism Commission for its further consideration.

With the committee making no changes to the proposed working draft of the TFA Policy and Procedures document, Chairman Petit entertained a motion to accept the proposed working draft of the TFA Policy and

Procedures document as presented and to accept the steps outlined above. Ronald Holcomb (MD) made the motion. Sidney Damsgard (FL) seconded the motion. Unanimous consent was used to approve the motion to accept the proposed working draft TFA Policy and Procedures document and the steps for continuing to move forward.

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) Program Update

For this current calendar year through April 1st, over \$5,946 in TFA grants have been provided to qualified veterans with minor children in the home to help with the basic needs of their child(ren) (C&Y Enclosure B). For the 2020 calendar year, TFA provided over \$54,913 in assistance to 43 veteran families, thereby keeping 95 children in a stable and safe environment. The number of requests for TFA assistance has continued to be slow during 2021 due the federal government providing two stimulus packages to the American people to help combat unemployment and help stimulate the economy. The stimulus packages offered an extra \$600 per person in January and then another \$1,400 per person in March to American people. The stimulus packages also provided additional support in unemployment benefits until September 6, 2021.

For the Good of The Legion

It is currently “April is Children and Youth Month.” Find new and creative ways to conduct or participate in children and youth events and activities.

The upcoming 15th annual national Children and Youth Conference will be held September 18th -19th, 2021. Look for announcements to start rolling out mid-June.

All children and youth brochures are available online at www.legion.org/publications and may be downloaded by posts and departments for local reproduction. Digital availability of publications allows the national organization to maintain the most current information within the documents, as well as allowing posts and departments immediate access to the publications.

The Legion’s 2nd annual “100 Miles of Hope” kicked off on April 1st and runs through September 6th. The fundraiser has two missions: to get people active again and to raise funds for the Veterans and Children Foundation that helps support veterans and their children.

All department Children and Youth certificates and citations are located online at MyLegion.org under department forms in the general folder. Departments now have immediate access to create and print Children and Youth certificates and citations for presentation to their members.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) booth at national convention will be looking for volunteers this summer. The booth offers volunteers the opportunity to interact with fellow Legion Family members and help raise funds for CWF. Please consider donating an hour or two of your time to help with worthy cause.

With no other business before the Committee on Children & Youth, the committee stood in recess at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Herbert J. Petit, Jr., Chairman
Committee on Children and Youth

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Resolution No. 5: Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of The American Legion

Origin: Finance Commission

Submitted By: Finance Commission

(As amended by National Executive Committee Resolution No. 38, October 14-15, 2020)

WHEREAS, The American Legion was chartered by the United States of America on September 16, 1919, with the initial primary organizational purposes enumerated in 36 USC§21702; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion founders expanded these initial purposes into the American Legion's Preamble which communicates to the organization the principles of The American Legion and the purpose of the Constitution of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Current modern business practices have evolved since The American Legion originated and it is leadership's goal to stay abreast of such evolutions; and

WHEREAS, One such business practice is an organization's use of a vision statement, a mission statement, value principles and a motto; and

WHEREAS, A vision statement is a short succinct public statement of an organization's future and long-term directional goals; and

WHEREAS, A mission statement is a short succinct public statement of how an organization intends to fulfill its vision; and

WHEREAS, Value principles guide the organization's business decisions and actions; and

WHEREAS, A motto is a reiterated phrase that encapsulates the vision and mission of an organization; and

WHEREAS, The vision and mission statements, along with the value principles and motto, help define the purpose of an organization, align the organization's resources toward a successful future, provide clear and effective decision guidance; form part of a business's strategic planning tool and publicly communicate the message; and

WHEREAS, In order that The American Legion has clear guidance to act in these turbulent times; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion by electronic mail vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That The American Legion adopt the following vision statement: "*The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America*"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adopt the following mission statement: "*To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness*"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adopt the following value principles:

- ***A VETERAN IS A VETERAN*** – which means The American Legion embraces all current and former members of the military and endeavors to help them transition into their communities.
- ***SELFLESS SERVICE*** – which means The American Legion celebrates all who contribute to something larger than themselves and inspires others to serve and strengthen America.
- ***AMERICAN VALUES AND PATRIOTISM*** – which means The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States Constitution, equal justice and opportunity for everyone and discrimination against no one, youth education, responsible citizenship and honoring military service by observing and participating in patriotic and memorial events.

- ***FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT*** – which means The American Legion meets the unique needs of local communities.
- ***ADVANCING THE VISION*** – which means The American Legion educates, mentors, and leads new generations of Americans.
- ***HONORING THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US*** – which means The American Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations.; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adopt the following motto: *“Veterans Strengthening America.”*

The American Legion National Headquarters
Americanism Division

TFA Department Disbursement January 1 - April 1, 2021

(*2020 numbers are subject to final
audit)

DEPARTMENT	2019	2020*	2021
AK	11,200.00	0.00	0.00
AL	26,003.63	318.50	0.00
AR	0.00	0.00	0.00
AZ	21,613.58	0.00	0.00
CA	84,100.00	4,138.08	0.00
CO	12,700.00	7,275.00	0.00
CT	14,700.00	3,000.00	0.00
DC	600.00	0.00	0.00
DE	9,000.00	0.00	0.00
FL	143,821.00	1,500.00	0.00
GA	10,100.00	0.00	0.00
HI	24,000.00	0.00	\$1,500.00
IA	1,100.00	0.00	0.00
ID	0.00	0.00	0.00
IL	17,031.33	3,800.00	0.00
IN	26,127.20	7,992.51	2946.52
KS	3,800.00	0.00	0.00
KY	13,502.50	0.00	0.00
LA	43,400.00	0.00	1,500.00
MA	52,500.00	0.00	0.00
MD	17,300.00	0.00	0.00
ME	11,100.00	0.00	0.00
MI	34,929.97	0.00	0.00
MN	6,821.69	1,424.26	0.00
MO	3,100.00	0.00	0.00
MS	6,600.00	0.00	0.00
MT	3,904.00	1,000.00	0.00
NC	87,662.50	2,155.00	0.00
ND	0.00	0.00	0.00
NE	600.00	0.00	0.00
NH	4,400.00	0.00	0.00
NJ	39,000.00	0.00	0.00
NM	0.00	0.00	0.00
NV	0.00	0.00	0.00
NY	28,200.00	0.00	0.00
OH	19,500.00	2,860.00	0.00
OK	1,489.63	622.67	0.00
OR	42,718.00	3,000.00	0.00
PA	9,400.00	0.00	0.00
PR	12,300.00	0.00	0.00
RI	7,300.00	0.00	0.00
SC	29,300.00	0.00	0.00
SD	550.23	2,254.29	0.00
TN	38,778.00	8,541.95	0.00

TX		89,068.03	4,119.03	0.00
UT		0.00	0.00	0.00
VA		74,500.00	0.00	0.00
VT		0.00	0.00	0.00
WA		47,003.77	0.00	0.00
WI		8,300.00	0.00	0.00
WV		2,778.54	912.13	0.00
WY		0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS		1,141,903.60	54,913.42	5,946.52

**REPORT TO THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION
VIRTUAL SPRING MEETING – May 1, 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE
Gary Stone (MO), Chairman**

The American Legion Baseball Committee met in a virtual meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. EST. Those in attendance were Gary Stone (MO), Chairman; Mark Avis (MA), Vice Chairman; Committee members Mark Cauble (NC); Rick Cash (AR); Dennis Frizzi (PA); and James Grenier (VA). Also, in attendance were consultants to the Baseball Committee, Frank Calandrillo (NJ) and William Haase (NY); Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson; and national headquarters staff Jill Druskis, Director, Americanism Division, Steve Cloud (IN), Baseball Operations Program Manager, Americanism Division; and Administrative Coordinator, Tina Dunn.

The Baseball Committee reviewed Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled “Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion.” This resolution formally sets forth the vision, mission, and value principles of our organization – it is an outstanding resolution – it concisely captures who we are and what we stand for as an organization. Chairman Stone encouraged members to please take time to become thoroughly familiar with the resolution and share it with others.

The Committee also viewed the new video titled “American Legion Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship.” This video is available through the Legion's YouTube channel. It highlights how The American Legion's youth programs instill responsible citizenship among its youth participants and why developing future leaders is so important to members of The American Legion. American Legion departments and posts are highly encouraged to share this video with their youth program participants. This video will become part of team orientation at all the regional and world series tournaments.

Your Committee received updates on the 2021 online registration and national tournament status from Program Manager Steve Cloud. The Committee is pleased to report that 1,511 teams (962 senior teams and 549 junior teams) from 47 departments have already registered online for the 2021 season as of the date of this meeting.

Cloud also reported that he and Chairman Stone will be attending in-person planning meetings with the ALWS Shelby Executive Committee on April 21-23 to discuss preparations and schedules for the 2021 American Legion World Series.

The Baseball Committee recommends that a new resolution titled “*Raising Awareness of the Presumptive Service-Connected Condition Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Also Known as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”*” be approved.

Your Committee submits the proposed **ALB Form #7 – “American Legion Baseball Contingency Plan In The Event Of Legion Department(s) Unable To Field A Team Within A Regional Tournament Or Loss Of Regional Tournament(s)”** (ALB Exhibit A) with recommendation for adoption. This contingency plan for national tournaments was developed in response to possible situations that may arise as the impact of the 2020-2021 coronavirus pandemic continues across the country, as well as any other future situations that may arise.

The Baseball Committee recommends to the Americanism Commission that American Legion Baseball not adopt the new Major League Baseball (MLB) extra inning rule whereby each extra inning starts with a runner on second. This rule was adopted as a pace of play rule for MLB, which plays 9-inning games. Your Committee feels this is not a pace of play issue for our ALB program since games are 7-innings.

Your Committee received an update from Program Manager Cloud regarding the ALB scholarship resulting from an audit review of all the national scholarship programs that began during the 2020 off season. Cloud reported that there are no changes to the scholarship process planned for the 2021 season, however,

updates to the process will be assessed for the 2022 season. ALB member Dennis Frizzi (PA) volunteered to assist members of the Committee on Youth Education with updating the ALB Scholarship program for 2022.

Your Committee also reviewed and recommends adoption of the 2021 American Legion Baseball National Tournament Rules and Policies for 2021 post season tournament play (ALB Exhibit B).

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary A. Stone", is written in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background.

Gary Stone, Chairman
Baseball Committee



**The American Legion
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206**

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL CONTINGENCY PLAN
IN THE EVENT OF LEGION DEPARTMENT(S) UNABLE TO
FIELD A TEAM WITHIN A REGIONAL TOURNAMENT OR
LOSS OF REGIONAL TOURNAMENT(S)**

OVERVIEW

Regional tournaments: A 64-team field comprises the 8 regional tournaments, with each region having no greater than 8 teams. No single department may have greater than 2 teams playing in a regional tournament.

The breakdown of the 64-team field of regional tournaments is as follows:

- One team each from 50 departments
- One additional team each from the eight regional hosts
- One team from each of the top 6 departments nationally having the highest total number of registered senior teams AND who do not already have 2 teams represented in their regional tournament (these second teams are identified as (B))

ALWS tournament: A total of 8 teams are required to conduct an American Legion World Series (ALWS). The championship team from each of the 8 regions advance to play in the ALWS.

LEGION DEPARTMENT(S) UNABLE TO FIELD A TEAM WITHIN A REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

The contingency plan when Legion department(s) is/are unable to field a baseball team in a regional tournament.

If a team must drop out of a regional tournament:

- The affected department may seek to put forth a runner-up team as backfill.
- If the affected department cannot field a team, a team from another department within that region having the greatest total number of registered senior teams may backfill provided that department does not already have two teams represented.

If other teams drop out of a regional tournament the process above is repeated as necessary until such time the 2 team per department limitation would prohibit backfilling a vacancy

When the two team per department limitation prohibits backfilling a vacancy, this is illustration of extreme circumstances, in which case that two team limitation would be waived, with approval of the chairman of the ALB Committee and Americanism Commission chairman, and remaining departments as defined above would be afforded opportunity to provide a third team to backfill a vacancy. This would occur until such time the 3 team per department limitation would prohibit backfilling a vacancy.

A regional tournament is maxed at 8 teams but may be played with no less than 5 teams. If only 5 to 7 teams are playing in a regional, any unfilled team vacancies at the start of the regional tournament would be considered a forfeit.

If in extremely unusual and highly unlikely circumstances only 4 or fewer teams are left in a regional tournament, the regional tournament would be canceled, and those 4 (or fewer) teams would be relocated to an adjacent regional tournament.

- Teams needing relocated would be moved to an adjacent regional tournament having a (B) team (defined above)
- That relocated team then replaces that (B) team, thereby reducing the department who initially had the (B) team back down to one participating team in the regional tournament.
- If there are more than one (B) team in a regional tournament that is receiving a relocated team, the department with a (B) team having the lower number of registered senior teams would give up their (B) team in favor of the relocated team.

LOSS OF REGIONAL TOURNAMENT(S)

In the very unlikely event of a regional tournament(s) must be canceled. However, as noted above, using the three-team waiver provision as defined above will most likely negate ever having to cancel a regional tournament.

In the event the extreme should happen, and a regional tournament must be canceled, 7 teams would be remaining for competition in the American Legion World Series (ALWS). The proposed contingency for ensuring a field of 8 teams required to conduct an ALWS is:

- The 7 remaining regional tournaments are conducted, thereby identifying each regional championship team and each regional runner-up team.
- The championship team from each of the 7 remaining regional tournaments advance to the ALWS as usual.
- The runner-up team from each of the 7 remaining regional tournaments will be placed “in a hat” for a blind draw.
- The runner-up team selected from that blind draw will advance to the ALWS to round out the field of 8 teams required to conduct an ALWS tournament.

In the highly remote possibility that there be a loss of multiple regional tournaments, the process above for a blind draw would be repeated among the remaining regional tournaments in order to assure a field of 8 teams advancing to the ALWS tournament.



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

2021 National Tournament Rules and Policies

INTRODUCTION

Since 1925, The American Legion has sponsored youth baseball as a national program for the primary purpose of teaching good sportsmanship (win or lose), teamwork and good citizenship, while providing competitive supervised recreation. Listed on the next several pages are various tournament rules and policies of The American Legion. These policies and rules are reviewed and approved annually by the National Americanism Commission. The Commission is a group of American Legion volunteers from many different Departments (states) who give of their time and service to supervise the youth programs of The American Legion.

All National Tournaments will be played under the policies and rules established by the National Americanism Commission. All disputes and questions shall be referred to the on-site National Tournament Director appointed by the National Commander. Any situations not specifically covered by National Rules or the tournament regulations will be referred to the National Americanism Division, whose decision shall be final.

It is important that the coaching staff read and understand these instructions, tournament rules and policies. There are many policies which are designed to provide for the safety of the players and provide a level playing field.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT TEAM/PLAYER CERTIFICATION

National Tournaments will comprise of a 64-team field across 8 regional tournaments, with each region having no greater than 8 teams. No single department may have greater than 2 teams playing in a regional tournament.

The breakdown of the 64-team field of regional tournaments is as follows:

- One team each from 50 departments
- One additional team each from the eight regional hosts
- One team from each of the top 6 departments nationally having the highest total number of registered senior teams AND who do not already have 2 teams represented in their regional tournament.

The championship team from each of the 8 regions advance to play in the American Legion World Series.

All Americanism Commission supervised tournaments will be eight team double elimination tournaments with the exception for the American Legion World Series.

The Team Manager and the Department Chairman are responsible for ensuring the following items are sent via email to the national office (baseball@legion.org), immediately following the conclusion of the Department Championship Tournament, Official Certification of Champion (**Form #18**), Tournament Housing List (**Form #25**), and team photograph with Photo ID (**Form #10**).

It is critical that forms reach national office immediately following the completion of the department tournament. Completed forms should be emailed to baseball@legion.org.

NOTE: The team roster will be downloaded from the national baseball website baseball.legion.org. Department Chairman will verify that the team manager and coaches have successfully passed mandated risk management requirements.

The Team Managers **will hand carry** and deliver to the onsite Regional Tournament Director the following forms:

1. For each Player, a state-issued driver's license that complies with the Federal Real ID Law; **or**
 - a. Original or State Certified Birth Certificate; **or**
 - b. An American Legion Baseball ID card produced by Department Headquarters; **or**
 - c. A military ID, dependent ID, a US passport.
2. Signed copies of each Player's Emergency Information (**Form #2**).
3. Signed copies of applicable Player's **Form #76** or **Form #77**.

Failure to deliver the proper paperwork can disqualify a player and/or the team from competing in the regional tournament.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PROTESTS

Eligibility protests of players involved in national tournaments must be in writing and provide proof of ineligibility. They must be filed with the National Tournament Director at each tournament site (Department, Regional, and World Series) no later than 9:00 a.m. local time on the first day of the tournament involved, except when there is a discovery of a rule's violation. When a rules violation is discovered, the eligibility protest and a written description of the alleged violation must be filed immediately. (National Rule 9.D)

Should a player eligibility rule violation be discovered and confirmed after the first day deadline, that team manager/head coach in violation shall be suspended for the remainder of all post season tournament games.

All other protests concerning game situation shall be filed as specified in the Official Baseball Rules and National Rule #1.

GAME PROTESTS

Each tournament shall have a Tournament Rules and Protest Committee with at least three members. The Committee shall consist of the Tournament Director and two individuals, not affiliated with any team on the field. These members shall be appointed by the Tournament Director, who will chair the Committee. Protests will be handled and settled by the Tournament Rules and Protest Committee at the time they are lodged.

TOURNAMENT RULES and POLICIES

1. Teams competing in American Legion Baseball senior national tournaments must always have nine players available for participation at a national tournament. Teams with fewer than 9 players, are permitted to transfer players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to

the senior team to have 12 players but may not transfer a player to exceed 12 players. Any senior team that does not have nine players will forfeit its right to participate and the National Americanism Division, in consultation with the Department Baseball Chairman, shall determine a suitable replacement team. (National Rule 9.K.)

2. No team shall be required to play more than two games in one day.
3. Playing days may begin after 8:00 a.m. local time.
4. No tournament game shall start after 11:00 p.m. local time.
5. All State, Regional and World Series games are seven (7) innings. 10-Run mercy rule after five innings of play or 4 ½ innings if the home team has the last at-bat.
6. All games shall be played in accordance with National Rule 1 of the American Legion Baseball Rulebook.
7. Official Baseball Rules - Designated Hitter (DH) rule (pitcher only) will be used in tournament play as outlined in the Official Rules of Baseball.
8. The American Legion does **NOT** permit any type of re-entry rule during tournament play.
9. The American Legion does **NOT** permit courtesy runners during tournament play.
10. Suspended games will be completed from the point of suspension.
 - a. A suspended game completed on a second day will not count toward the two games in one-day rule. Teams that complete a suspended game can still play an additional two (2) full games.
11. In the case of rain, games may be moved to other locations at the discretion of the Tournament Director on site. **Note:** American Legion tournaments have a time limitation, and Tournament Directors must make every effort to complete tournaments on time. The Tournament Director has additional instructions for rain delayed tournaments.
12. Teams will dress in the hotel or at home. No team shall dress at the ballpark unless dressing rooms are provided.
13. Any coach ejected from a game must leave the park and may not communicate with the team or return while the game is in progress. Any player ejected from a game must leave the dugout. The Tournament Director and umpire shall file an ejection report to the National Office.
14. Players removed from a game (other than ejection by an umpire) may be used as a base coach.
15. The Tournament Director must approve all batboys or batgirls.
16. At Regional and World Series competition, the National Headquarters appoints the official scorekeeper. **No team is permitted to have a scorekeeper in the dugout unless that person is in uniform and listed on the National Team Roster.**

17. The only non-uniformed personnel permitted in the dugouts are certified medical trainers or a Legionnaire stationed in the dugout at the direction of the tournament director. Tournament Directors may, at their discretion, require the medical trainer provide a copy of their certification.
18. Once American Legion Baseball national tournaments begin (State Tournament through World Series play) no player can participate in another amateur baseball event. (National Rule 6.D.)

HOME/VISITORS DETERMINATION

To determine Home/Visitors for double elimination and pool play games 1 through 12:

1. A coin toss will determine Home/Visitors for all games. A daily coin flip will be conducted at the morning coaches meeting.

To determine Home/Visitors for double elimination games 13 and 14, and pool play semifinals:

1. The undefeated team in double elimination will have choice of Home/Visitors.
2. The divisional champion in each pool will have choice of Home/Visitors.

To determine Home/Visitors for double elimination and pool play championship game 15:

1. In double elimination play, a coin toss will determine the Home/Visitors.
2. If both semifinal winners are divisional champions, a coin toss will determine the Home/Visitors.
3. If both semifinal winners are divisional runners-up, a coin toss will determine the Home/Visitors.
4. If teams are from the same division in semifinal games, the divisional champion will have the choice of Home/Visitors.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT - ON FIELD CONDUCT

The umpires are instructed to monitor, promote, and enforce the following:

1. Only one on-deck batter will be out of the dugout. Other personnel are to remain in the dugout, bullpen, or coaches' box. Umpires are also instructed to keep players off the dirt around home plate after a home run.
2. Except for lengthy delays, the pitcher will be limited to five (5) warm-up throws between innings. (Official Baseball Rules)
3. When warming up a pitcher in the bullpen, the catcher (coach or player) must wear a mask and if needed, a third player must protect the bullpen from line drives and foul balls.
4. Shirrtails are to be tucked in.
5. Do not "charge" an umpire.
6. List the first and last names along with uniform numbers of all players, including non-starters, on the line-up cards.
7. The umpires are expected to keep the games moving at all times, so expect verbal encouragement from them.
8. Any player, coach, manager, or party accompanying a team may be ejected for the remainder of the game from the time of the rule infraction if they:

- a. Use profane language in any manner.
- b. Make any unnecessary gestures or comments in protesting an umpire's decision. (Only the team manager or coach may ask for a clarification of a rule, but never argue.)
- c. Throw bats or any other equipment.
- d. Make unnecessary gestures or comments to fans, opposing players or coaches.

If an umpire ejects a player or a coach from the game, the ejected person shall be suspended for the remainder of the tournament, unless reinstated by the Tournament Director.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT - CONDUCT OFF THE FIELD

1. All persons traveling with an American Legion Baseball team are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will, at all times, reflect credit on their community, state, and the American Legion Baseball program.
 - a. Any player, manager, or team official, whose conduct may be considered detrimental or injurious to others, or the program, may be suspended for the remainder of the tournament and returned home by means of the first available transportation. A parent, coach or other team official will escort offending players home. The Department Baseball Chairman will be notified of such action.
 - b. If a team's conduct creates an embarrassment to The American Legion, the Tournament Director has final authority to suspend the team and or the Team Manager for two or more games.
2. Team Manager/Head Coach will be required to house with their players at the host hotel as part of their team's room block.
3. Team managers and coaches are responsible for player conduct at all times. Disrespect to facility staff and/or property, pushing, shoving or unnecessary playfulness in hotels, restaurants and other public areas will not be tolerated.
4. Teams are required to place a **security deposit of \$200.00** with the hotel. (A check, cash, or credit card is necessary.)
 - a. Any damaged or unclean rooms may cause their deposit to be forfeited. Hotel rooms are inspected prior to a team's arrival. Rooms are checked for damages and cleanliness prior to the team's departure. Discrepancies will be brought to the attention of the team manager.
5. Curfew will be 12:00 midnight, unless the team is involved in a late game, in which case the team will have two (2) hours after the completion of their game. Any player missing curfew may be sent home on the next available transportation at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Players must be always accounted for. Any player not with the team **OR** any player that must leave the immediate area must obtain prior permission from the Tournament Director. **(Teams must stay together and be under a coach's supervision.)** The team will travel as a group. A release/waiver form must be completed by the Tournament Director if a player wishes to depart the tournament site early or separate from the team.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. While in uniform, team members are expected to keep as neat as possible. Shirts will be buttoned, zipped, and tucked in at waistline.
2. At the team orientation, each certified player and two coaches will be provided a souvenir shirt.

3. Dress Code: Tournament Hosts often host a banquet or picnic for players and coaches the first evening prior to tournament play. The banquet or pre-tournament picnic is the host's option. The dress code is typically casual; however, teams are required to have dress or golf shorts of an appropriate length and clean athletic shoes. Most teams will be instructed to wear their baseball jersey to the pre-tournament social or banquet.
4. While in street clothes, players are encouraged to dress in a manner that would reflect credit upon their team, sponsor, and their community and the American Legion Baseball program.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT TIE BREAKER - Form #8

1. The American Legion is committed to giving each participating team an equal opportunity to win the tournament on the field. However, over the past nine decades we have experienced several game delays.
2. Rain, fog, hurricanes, power outages and other acts of God have required The American Legion and tournament personnel assigned to the tournament to take extraordinary measures to ensure teams are given equal opportunity.
3. It must be understood that there are times in which a champion cannot be crowned on the field because of the weather. If rain or other acts of Mother Nature cause a serious delay in a game(s) or tournament. The Tournament Director is authorized to:
 - a. Change the schedule and require teams to play games at a back-up facility.
 - b. Move the tournament to another community (and ballpark) to complete the tournament.
4. If for unforeseen reasons we cannot crown a champion on the field of play or determine a "pool" winner, The American Legion will determine the winner by the following formula:

If two teams remain:

1. Head-to-head competition between teams
2. Fewest runs allowed overall
3. Most runs scored overall
4. A coin flip.

If three or more teams remain:

1. Fewest runs allowed overall
2. Most runs scored overall
3. Coin flip (first "odd-man" out wins)

NOTE: No team will be required to play three games in a day. The 11:00 p.m. "start time" may be suspended if all teams agree in writing to waive the "start time."

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT TEAM TRAVEL

The National Headquarters will arrange transportation for teams traveling to and from the Regional and World Series National Tournaments.

- a. The local tournament host is required to provide local transportation at the tournament. Questions concerning local transportation need to be directed to the local host committee.

NOTE: Several teams in the Midwest, Northwest and Western United States will be required to fly to a regional tournament site by commercial airline. **Due to the Federal Aviation Administration security alert**, team members are required to show and present a PHOTO ID at check in.

The American Legion annually purchases 500 airline tickets to fly players and coaches to Regional and World Series Tournaments. These airline tickets are nonrefundable and expensive. Tickets are purchased for those players from the housing list submitted following the completion of the state tournament. Unfortunately, The American Legion National Headquarters has purchased airline tickets for players who sometimes choose not to attend the tournament. **The American Legion will no longer absorb this cost. The team will be responsible to reimburse The American Legion for any unused airline ticket(s).**

1. **Team Travel – 60-mile policy:**

- a. Participating out-of-state teams that live within 60 miles of the Regional or World Series Tournament site may be authorized housing but will be required to provide their own transportation.
- b. Participating teams that are required to fly to a national regional tournament must provide their own transportation to the airport.
- c. Any team within a 60-mile radius of the airport shall provide their own transportation to and from the airport and the team will not be reimbursed for mileage.
- d. Any team outside a 60-mile radius of the airport shall provide their own transportation. However, the Tournament Director shall reimburse the team for mileage at \$1.50 per mile for a single round trip.

IMPORANT NOTE: The American Legion will make every effort to return teams to the nearest major airport. HOWEVER, because many flights are often full it then becomes necessary to fly teams' home to another nearby airport. Again, teams must make their own travel arrangements home from the airport

2. **Team Travel:** The National Office shall determine the nearest airport for departure. Because of the high cost of airline tickets flying from small regional airports, The National Office shall determine the most economical airport for the transportation of teams to and from a national tournament.

- a. The National Office may utilize commercial buses for transportation to the national tournament sites (Regional and World Series). Any team that wishes to use their own team bus shall be reimbursed at \$3.00 per mile for a single round trip, if authorized by the National Office.
- b. Each year, a few players must report directly to college from a national tournament. It is the parent's or legal guardian's responsibility to make transportation arrangements to the college.
- c. National Headquarters is **NOT** responsible for team meals while traveling to or from the national tournament site.

3. Our liability insurance will not permit us to transport unauthorized team personnel. Only personnel listed on the National Team Roster, or those who have been approved by the National Headquarters, are permitted to be transported to the tournament site. Parents, batboys or batgirls, local Legion Officers, sponsors, scorekeepers, and wives etc., must make their own travel, housing, and meal arrangements. National Headquarters will not be financially obligated for any unauthorized personnel.

4. Meal allowances while at a national tournament will be:

Breakfast	\$6.00
Lunch	\$6.00
Dinner	\$6.00

5. The American Legion is not responsible for miscellaneous hotel charges such as movies, phone calls, meals, roll-a-way beds, etc. These charges will be the responsibility of the team.
6. Airline Luggage Reimbursement Policy: The American Legion's policy for checked luggage and carry-on bags is as follows:
 - a. Team members can check up to **TWO BAGS** per coach (two coaches only) and player listed on National Form 1 Roster. Example: 13 players and 2 coaches – 30 pieces of luggage; 18 players and 2 coaches – 40 pieces of luggage).
 - b. The team is financially responsible for equipment bags and overweight items and will not be reimbursed.
 - c. It is the participant's responsibility to ensure that the luggage checked is within prescribed weight limits. The participant is responsible for paying any fee levied for their overweight bags. **Please be sure to get receipts and provide those receipts to the tournament director at your regional site.** Team will be reimbursed at the tournament site by the tournament director.
 - d. It is the participant's responsibility to ascertain what is allowed as a carry-on and to pack accordingly. Baseball bats are never permitted as carry-on luggage.

AMERICAN LEGION FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The National Americanism Commission will arrange and be financially responsible for the certified players **listed on the National Team Roster** (not to exceed eighteen {18} players and two {2} adults traveling to and from national Regional and World Series tournaments).

- a. National Headquarters will be responsible for housing and meals while at the national tournaments (Regional and World Series).
- b. No substitutions of coaches are allowed, unless authorized by the National Office. Any substitute players, batboys/batgirls, official scorekeepers, or extra coaches traveling, collecting meal monies, or being housed at American Legion expense will disqualify your team from further competition.
- c. Teams are responsible for arranging additional accommodations, travel, and banquet tickets for the extra coaches, trainers, equipment managers, team scorers, batboys, or batgirls, etc.

**The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee
Virtual Spring Meeting, April 14, 2021.**

Opening

At 12:00, Chairman Larry Price (SD) led a salute to the flag of the United States and called the 2021 Spring Meeting of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee (YCLEC) to order. Richard Neville (NC) then offered an invocation. Chairman Price (SD) led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the POW/MIA remembrance ceremony, he then conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present.

Committee members included: Chairman Larry Price (SD), Vice Chairman Richard Neville (NC), Jim Willis (OR), Lawrence Maggi (PA), William Feasenmyer (VA)

Guests included: Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson (CT), NEC-man Michael Strauss (SC), Jeff Hendricks (NHQ), Todd Foster (NHQ), Consultant Jerod Keyes (OH)

Welcome and Greetings

Chairman Larry Price opened the meeting by greeting those in attendance. As there were no other greetings before the committee, the committee then addressed the business at hand.

Introduction of New Program Manager Todd Foster

New Youth Program Manager, Todd Foster introduced himself to the committee and gave a brief history of his experience and skills.

Youth Video, Resolution #5, 100 Miles for Hope

Chairman Price read Resolution No. 5 approved by the National Executive Committee at its fall meeting in October 2020 titled: “Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of The American Legion” as a reminder for the committee of the vision, mission, and value principles of our organization and who we are and what we stand for as an organization.

The chairman then spoke about the 100 Miles for Hope challenge that started April 1st and goes through September 6th. The virtual challenge strives to promote wellness by getting people active and at the same time is raising funds for the Veterans and Children Foundation that helps support veterans and their children.

Chairman Price next had the committee review the Legion’s new video “Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship.” The video highlights how The American Legion’s youth programs promote responsible citizenship and leadership among its youth participants and the role that Legionnaires have in that vital endeavor. American Legion departments and posts are highly encouraged to share this video with their youth program participants, and it will be shown at all national youth programs of The American Legion.

Review and Approval of Previous Report

The committee then reviewed and approved the minutes for the 2020 Spring Meeting of the YCLEC. The minutes were approved unanimously without correction or discussion.

Resolutions

The committee had no resolutions to consider.

Discussion regarding Current Program Status

Chairman Larry Price led a discussion by asking each committee member to share the status of their respective home department’s YCLE program for this year. Richard Neville (NC) shared that North Carolina will not have a program for 2021 and Lawrence Maggi (PA) shared that Pennsylvania will not have a program this year either. Todd Foster (NHQ) shared that he received an email from Kansas and that conveyed they are having a program. Jim Willis (OR) shared that they are having a virtual program in Oregon this year. William Feasenmyer (VA) shared that Virginia will have a program. Jerod Keyes (OH) shared that Ohio will decide by

May 1st if they will be able to have a program. Chairman Price then shared that Illinois and South Dakota are each planning have a program.

Chairmen Price next asked if anyone had received feedback from the letter that was sent out to departments in January 2021 asking them to reach out to neighboring states (YCLE Enclosure 1). Jim Willis (OR) stated that he will be visiting with the Department of Washington, as they have indicated interested in starting a YCLE Academy and that the Department of California was thinking about starting two YCLE Academies due to its size, in the summer of 2022. Chairman Price has spoken with the Department of Minnesota who is not interested in discussing a program at this time. Chairman Price also spoke with the Departments of Iowa and Texas and they are each interested in starting a department YCLE program in the future.

For the Good of the Subcommittee and the American Legion

Then Chairman Larry Price asked if there were any other items for the committee and The American Legion, Americanism Chairman Richard Anderson spoke and thanked the committee for what they were doing but expressed disappointment the program has not been better received and asked committee member to think about ways to grow the program. William Feasenmyer (VA) noted the FBI currently has a youth academy and that the Department of Virginia was talking with them on how to work with them, but covid stopped the discussions for now. Chairman Anderson offered a room at convention if the YCLE committee wanted to invite prospective departments to facilitate a discussion. He also suggested that YCLE committee members staff the Americanism booth at convention to drum up support as well.

Recess

Chairman Larry Price made his closing remarks and asked Vice Chair Richard Neville to give the closing benediction. Chairman Larry Price then called upon those present to salute the colors and then announced the YCLEC stood in recess (1:05pm)

TO: Leadership of American Legion departments currently sponsoring a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program

DATE: February 1, 2021

FROM: Larry Price (SD), Chairman, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee

SUBJ: YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM RESOURCES

Greetings fellow Legionnaires. As you know, our American Legion has been a strong supporter of the law enforcement community. I would like to thank you and your department for sponsoring a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE) program in your state. Whether you call it Youth Cadet Law Enforcement, Student Trooper or State Police Youth Week, it is a consummate blend of leadership, citizenship and respect for the law, and some departments have sponsored a program for many, many years. I don't need to tell any of you just how important each of your programs are to your state and to the youth of your state who have had the opportunity to attend your program. The law enforcement community and our nation's youth have never needed our support more than they do right now.

As you also may know, the National Commander annually appoints members to the YCLE Committee, which is tasked with helping this very important program grow throughout the nation. Currently, 21 American Legion departments sponsoring a YCLE program have helped hundreds and hundreds of young men and women reach their goals in life and become better citizens, and at the same time, countless numbers of those young folks have joined the ranks of law enforcement and/or the U.S Armed Forces.

Our committee is encouraging those departments without a program to strongly consider sponsoring one, and our committee offers assistance in getting them started. Initially, we had great success with several departments developing a program, however, we are now down to only a couple that are in the process. We have a long way to go.

I would like to seek your assistance with getting your neighboring departments without a YCLE program on board. I'm asking that you reach out to your neighboring department(s) who still need to get involved and invite them to visit your YCLE program this summer – a map is attached. I am convinced that when they see it in action and witness first-hand the benefits of sponsoring or cosponsoring a Legion YCLE program with their State Police, they will want to get started right away.

If you have questions about reaching out to other departments, please let us know. Our committee members, many of them experienced law enforcement officers themselves, are willing to provide their subject-matter expertise, guidance, and assistance to help get interested departments organized. And we can provide you information to assist in your outreach efforts. National Headquarters has made many [resources](#) available, such as the [YCLE program webpage](#) that includes an informational brochure, a promo video, program samples from various departments and a contact list of YCLE Committee members is attached.

Our goal: 100% YCLE participation = 100% Americanism!!

Thank you for your consideration.

**Virtual meeting of the
Citizenship and Naturalization Subcommittee of the Americanism Commission
Spring Meetings, April 16, 2021**

Opening

At 7:00pm, Chairman Randy Edwards (UT) led a salute to the flag of the United States and called the 2021 virtual Spring Meeting of the Citizenship and Naturalization Subcommittee (CNSC) to order. Gerald Theriot (LA) then offered an invocation and Deb Davis (CO) led the Pledge of Allegiance, while the chairman provided the POW/MIA remembrance ceremony. Americanism Division Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks (IN) conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present.

Subcommittee members present included: Chairman Randy D. Edwards (UT), Deborah Davis (CO), Ken Mueller (TX), Gerald Theriot (LA), Leslie J. Clevinger (VA), Frank F. Gee (NY), and Douglas Huffman (ID).

Guests included: Chairman of Americanism Richard Anderson (CT), Americanism Division Director Jill Druskis (NE), Youth Programs Manager Todd Foster, IT Division Deputy Director David Yoder.

Welcome and Greetings

Chairman Edwards opened the meeting by greeting those in attendance and allowed Chairman Anderson to bring greetings on behalf of the Americanism Commission and bring everyone up to date as to the status of Americanism program in 2021.

As this was Chairman Edwards' (UT) first meeting leading this body, he opened with an introduction of all members and how they are involved in The American Legion. 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 2021 Spring Meeting of the CNSC. The agenda was approved unanimously without correction or discussion.

The subcommittee next reviewed and approved the report from the 2021 Fall Meeting of the CNSC. The report was approved unanimously without correction or discussion.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions before the CNSC for discussion.

Increasing Legion participation in citizenship and naturalization events at the post level.

Chairman Edwards inquired within the subcommittee to see what new ideas the CNSC had about generating support for citizenship and naturalization events at the post and department levels. He discussed an event held in Utah in coordination with Freedom Festival, a local holiday, where he had been invited to raise awareness of how great America really is. He recommended getting posts involved to get the ceremonies set up and if nothing else, give them a facility to provide classes on citizenship and naturalization into the United States. Gerald Theriot brought up an event held in New Orleans. He mentioned there is a need on how to contact media and how to set it up a Citizenship and Naturalization ceremony. The Subcommittee determined that the best way to get the information out was to promote The American Legion's Citizenship Outreach Guide.

The Citizenship Outreach Guidebook updates

The CNSC was provided copies of the guide to review and discuss potential changes. Last updated in 2015, the CNSC determined that the content is still relevant but moved that staff review the many weblinks in the document to determine that they are still valid.

The CNSC moved that staff work with the Media & Communications Division of the National Headquarters to create a media campaign generating support for citizenship and naturalization events as well highlight this publication in coordination with Independence Day. This will link immigrants to becoming new citizens with that of America (a land of immigrants) having become a new nation on July 4th.

For the Good of the Subcommittee and The American Legion

For the subcommittee's general awareness Chairman Edwards discussed pending legislation that is before Congress. While H.R. 1078 - the Repatriate Our Patriots Act - was before the 116th Congress, it died at the end of the last session. When National Commander Oxford testified before Congress in March 2021, he called upon the 117th Congress to take up the position again in support of finding a path of "Citizenship for Honorable Service."

Additionally, Chairman Edwards discussed the contents of Res. No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020 titled "Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of The American Legion." Chairman Edwards explained to the CNSC the importance of this resolution and its contents as we navigate these times to ensure that we remain focused on the purpose of The American Legion.

Lastly, Chairman Edwards discussed National Commander Oxford's 100 Miles for Hope program, discussing how to enroll, how to donate to the program, and how he is already moving forward on his own goals. He recommended that the CNSC do the same.

Closing

Chairman Edwards then made his closing remarks and asked Gerald Theriot to give the closing benediction. Chairman Edwards then called upon those present to salute the colors and thereby announcing that the CNSC stood in recess (7:50pm).

**REPORT TO THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION
SPRING MEETING – May 1, 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
Loren Sperry (WA), Chairman**

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

The Youth Activities Subcommittee (YASC) met on Wednesday, April 21st, 2021, virtually. 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; Lyman R. Brenner (DE); Michael Donnelly (NC); Victor J. Desloover (IA); Randy Goodman (GA); Theodore J. Howarth Jr. (NJ); Philip H. Mette (IL); Kenneth Persson (WY); Roberta C. Poulos (SC); and Kirk Thurston (ME). A quorum was declared.

Staff members in attendance were Program Manager Bill Megnin (IN), Program Manager Todd Foster, Division Director Jill Druskis (NE), and Administrative Coordinator Kimberley Shriver.

Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson was in attendance, and gave remarks regarding the upcoming program year, thanking and encouraging staff and volunteers.

RESOLUTIONS

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

Reject

- Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) 2020 DEC: ***Remove Assigned Topics From Oratorical Contest***
- Resolution No. 49 (OR) National Convention 2019: ***Changes to The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year***

Department oratorical chairmen discussed Register Resolution No. 2779 (AR) during the 2020 Combined Americanism Conference, with all 29 of the department oratorical chairmen in attendance unanimously recommending rejection of this resolution. Register Resolution No. 2779 calls for removing the requirement of the 3-5 minute assigned topic speech, while retaining the 8 to 10-minute prepared speech requirement. The purpose of the 3 to 5 minute assigned topic speech is to test the speaker's knowledge of the constitutional amendment that's been assigned, the extent of his/her research, and the ability to discuss the topic as it relates to the basic principles of government under the Constitution. It is felt that to eliminate the assigned topic speech would be to eliminate an important aspect for giving judges insight into each individual contestant's level of knowledge, ability to research, and ability to discuss.

Resolution No. 49 (OR) calls for changing the current name of "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award" to "The American Legion Top Scouting Award of the Year Scholarship" and extending eligibility for receiving the award to females of the Scouts BSA, Venture, and Sea Scout youth programs of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization. Legion department Scouting chairmen discussed Resolution No. 49 during the 2019 Combined Americanism Conference; it was overwhelmingly recommended by the 14 departments represented to reject this resolution as there is no good methodology for objectively comparing the pinnacle achievements of each of the three BSA youth programs (Eagle Scout Award in Scouting, the Summit Award in Venturing, and the Quartermaster Award in Sea Scouting) as each are very separate and distinct programs of the BSA organization – it is likened to comparing apples to oranges; they are similar in that they are both fruit, but they are still vastly different and distinct in a majority of other ways. Making a

like comparison and a single award recognition that adequately encompasses the nuances of each of the three BSA youth programs is difficult. The resolution additionally seeks that Legion Scouting award(s) “be extended to the female gender,” however, there is nothing in the current eligibility of any pinnacle awards of the BSA organization limiting the award to any one gender, therefore a Scouting award in the Legion would not exclude female recipients.

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

The 30th American Legion Junior Shooting Three Position Air Rifle National Championship will be held July 21 – 24, 2021, at the temporary USA Shooting range facility located in Colorado Springs, Colorado; 686 athletes entered the individual National Postal Match Competition from 88 clubs which entered the team National Postal Match Competition. There were 105 (71 Precision and 34 Sporter) second round targets distributed this season.

The sixth annual Junior Shooting Sports Chairmen’s Conference will be held virtually September 18 – 19, 2021. 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 83rd National Oratorical Finals Contest were cancelled this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. A \$5,000 scholarship was awarded to each certified 2021 department oratorical winner. The scholarship was generously sponsored by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and The American Legion.

The 2022 National Oratorical Finals Contest will be held April 22 - 24 at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. The certification of department winners is due to National Headquarters no later than March 14, 2022. The pairing bracket for the 2022 national finals is attached (Exhibit A). Assigned topics for the 2022 National Oratorical Contest are as follows:

- **Amendment III** – Quartering of soldiers
- **Amendment VIII** – Excessive bail
- **Amendment XIV Section 3** – Insurrection amendment
- **Amendment XXV Section 4** – President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the Presidential office.

The 52nd annual meeting of department Oratorical chairpersons will be held September 25 – 26, 2021, at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

AMERICAN LEGION & SCOUTING

John McPhie of California was selected the 2021 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year (ESoy) and will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Runners-up recipients of a \$2,500 scholarship are Cale Abbot (OK), Thomas Kopasko (PA), and Spencer Burke (TX).

Twenty-six ESoy applications were submitted from the following departments: Arkansas, Alabama, Maryland, Pennsylvania, France, Texas, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Virginia, North Dakota, New Jersey, Ohio, California, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, and Georgia.

Scouting patches currently available for purchase through Emblem Sales reflects “Boy Scouts”. Because the Boy Scouts of American organization changed the name of its “Boy Scouts” youth program to “Scouts BSA”, it was recommended that consideration be given to seek having the patches changed to instead simply reflect “Scouting.” A motion was made and approved to seek approval from the Americanism Commission for staff to pursue this change.

The subcommittee discussed whether or not there should be changes made to the Eagle Scout of the Year application process. Occasionally incomplete applications are submitted. Suggestions for making updates to the ESoy application were discussed in order to make requirements, guidance, and expectations clearer and more visible. Staff were tasked to make such changes to the application and present a draft to the

subcommittee for discussion. The topic of perhaps requiring photographs of the ESOY applicant and/or their project was discussed, however, no definitive decision or motion was made.

The Scouting Chairmen's Conference will be held September 25th and 26th at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel. Additional information will be posted.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE AND BOYS NATION

In 2020 all 50 Boys State programs across the United States were heavily impacted by the coronavirus global pandemic, with the vast majority having been canceled in the interest of health and safety of everyone involved. American Legion Texas Boys State did demonstrate success in swiftly pivoting to a virtual program in 2020.

For 2021 there are currently 31 departments scheduled to have an in-person Boys State, 13 departments are scheduling theirs virtually and 6 department have cancelled their Boys State for this year. Staff is currently planning for the Boys Nation program to be an in-person event in Virginia.

The American Legion's new "Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship" video was discussed and viewed. This video will be shown at each national youth program annually, and posts and departments are encouraged to do the same.

The subcommittee was encouraged to participate in the 2nd annual 100 Miles for Hope campaign through engagement in wellness and fitness activities.

Resolution No. 5 as amended by the National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 2020, titled "Vision, Mission Values and Motto of The American Legion" was reviewed. This resolution formally sets forth the vision, mission, and value principles of our organization. National Commander Oxford asked that committee and commission members become thoroughly familiar with the resolution and share it with others.

After the benediction and salute to colors, this meeting stood in recess at 5:03.

Respectfully submitted,

LOREN SPERRY, Chairman
Youth Activities Subcommittee

YASC EXHIBIT A - 2022 HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST PAIRINGS

23 - 24 April 2022 - Wyndham Indianapolis West
Indianapolis, Indiana

23 April 2022 - All Contests Begin at 9:15 a.m.

Quarter-Final Contest 1 (1st & 2nd place to SF-1)

Room TBD

FLORIDA	MICHIGAN	NEW MEXICO
NEW YORK	WASHINGTON	WYOMING

Quarter-Final Contest 2 (1st & 2nd place to SF-1)

Room TBD

HAWAII	MINNESOTA	MISSOURI
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NEW JERSEY	RHODE ISLAND

Quarter-Final Contest 3 (1st & 2nd place to SF-1)

Room TBD

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	KENTUCKY	MASSACHUSETTS
MISSISSIPPI	MONTANA	SOUTH CAROLINA

Quarter-Final Contest 4 (1st & 2nd place to SF-2)

Room TBD

ALABAMA	ALASKA	ARIZONA
DELAWARE	FRANCE	WEST VIRGINIA

Quarter-Final Contest 5 (1st & 2nd place to SF-2)

Room TBD

ARKANSAS	COLORADO	IDAHO
KANSAS	NORTH DAKOTA	OKLAHOMA

Quarter-Final Contest 6 (1st & 2nd place to SF-2)

Room TBD

ILLINOIS	MARYLAND	NORTH CAROLINA
TEXAS	UTAH	VIRGINIA

Quarter-Final Contest 7 (1st & 2nd place to SF-3)

Room TBD

CALIFORNIA	LOUISIANA	NEBRASKA
PENNSYLVANIA	PUERTO RICO	SOUTH DAKOTA

Quarter-Final Contest 8 (1st & 2nd place to SF-3)

Room TBD

GEORGIA	IOWA	MAINE
OHIO	TENNESSEE	

Quarter-Final Contest 9 (1st & 2nd place to SF-3)

Room TBD

CONNECTICUT	INDIANA	NEVADA
OREGON	VERMONT	WISCONSIN

23 April 2022, All Contests Begin at 2:15 p.m.

Semi-Final Contest 1 (winner to National Final)

Room TBD

Semi-Final Contest 2 (winner to National Final)

Room TBD

Semi-Final Contest 3 (winner to National Final)

Room TBD

National Finals Contest – 24 April 2022

Hall of Champions 10:00 a.m.

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Committee Report – Spring Meeting 2021

Virtual meeting of the Committee on Youth Education of the Americanism Commission Spring Meetings, April 28, 2021

Opening

At 8:00pm, Chairman Michael Westergren (AR) let a salute to the flag of the United States and called the 2021 virtual spring meeting of the Committee on Youth Education (COYE) to order. Victor DeSloover (IA) then offered an invocation, and Vice Chairman, Jim Davis (WV) honored the POW/MIA empty chair before American Legion Auxiliary Representative, Debra Albers (NE) led the Pledge of Allegiance. Americanism Deputy Director, Jeff Hendricks (IN) conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present.

Committee members present included: Chairman, Michael Westergren (AR); Vice Chairman, James Davis (WV); National Commander's Representative, John Murphy (NY); committee members Robert Munhall (PA), Robert Perham (VT), and Wayne Fischer (IL); Americanism Commission Representative, Victor DeSloover (IA); Consultant, Homer Holmes (SD); Consultant, Gary Gifford (MD); Americanism Commission Representative, Roberta Poulos (SC); and American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Representative and ALA National Education Chairman, Debra Albers (NE).

Guests included: Americanism Commission Chairman, Richard Anderson (CT); Americanism Division Director, Jill Druskis (NE); Americanism Deputy Director, Jeff Hendricks (IN); Consultant to the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, Robert Sussan (FL).

Welcome and Greetings

Chairman Westergren opened the meeting by bringing greetings to those in attendance before turning the floor over the Chairman Anderson, who brought greetings on behalf of the Americanism Commission. He also brought everyone up to date as to the status of Americanism programs in 2021. Director Druskis also brought greetings on behalf of the staff.

Review and Approval of Agenda and Previous Report

The committee then reviewed and approved the agenda for the 2021 spring meeting of the COYE and also approved the report from the 2021 fall meeting unanimously without correction or discussion.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Review and Recommendation

Chairman Westergren then turned the floor over to Jeff Hendricks (IN) who briefed the COYE on the 2021 American Legion Legacy Scholarship. He discussed the methodology and process of the scholarship, as well as quantitative data on completed applications. In short, out of the 1,075 applications started, 541 were submitted, 295 of which demonstrated eligibility, and only 127 further demonstrated a financial need. The funds available for disbursement to 2021 Legacy Scholarship recipients decreased from \$667,931 in 2020 to \$357,228.84 this year. However, due to policy changes established last fall, we were able to still service nearly the same number of applicants despite the reduced available funding; 35 in 2020 and 32 in 2021. The COYE voted to accept the listing as their recommendation to the Americanism Commission as the 2021 The American Legion Scholarship Award Recipients. A complete listing is attached to this report as COYE Exhibit A.

American Legion Scholarship Policy Review

Over the past several years the COYE has developed and refined the policy and procedures for the administration of the Legacy and Samsung Scholarships. Over the past year, in coordination with the Finance Commission, staff has looked at these policies and made some recommendations.

The COYE is seeking to incorporate updates discussed, as well as some that were directed by a review by the Americanism Commission and Finance Commission. Updates include: a standardized weighted GPA for all merit-based scholarships, a standardized grading rubric, quantifiable scoring for each criterion, removing any non-merit criteria from merit-based scholarship and merit-based criteria from any needs-based scholarships.

To ensure that these updates are led by members of this committee, the COYE is setting up an informal Scholarship SOP Working Group that will meeting monthly via Microsoft Teams. This working group will review updates in-depth, bring forth ideas for modernizing scholarship, ensuring that they are in line with intention of The American Legion and are in the best interest of the youth who will utilize them. These meetings will occur the second Wednesday of each month, starting May 12th and will include: Bob Munhall (PA), committee-member; Hugh Holmes (SD), Consultant; and Amanda Washburn (NE), ALA Consultant.

Updates to the Education Development Guide

For the past year Chairman Westergren has identified information in the Education Development Guide in need of updating. This document is intended for use by Legionnaires while attempting to get civics back into the classroom, bringing their guidance and experience as a veteran to bear. The guide assumes that classrooms have whitespace in their curriculum in which veterans may simply appear and spread their wisdom. Classrooms today, however, have tightly managed curriculum and all courses are spent preparing students to take and pass exams. This means that for a veteran to get into a classroom they would need to be in service of that goal.

To ensure that the committee moves forward with these updates, the COYE is setting up an informal Education Development Guide Working Group that will meeting monthly via Microsoft Teams. This working group will review updates in-depth, bring forth ideas for modernizing this publication that are in line with the getting civic into the classroom, ensuring that these methods are in line with intention of The American Legion and are in the best interest of the youth who will utilize them. These meeting will occur the fourth Wednesday of each month, starting May 26th and will include: Bob Munhall (PA), committee-member; an education consultant; and ALA consultant to be named later.

The American Legion National Education Award

In accordance with Resolution No. 6 of the National Executive Committee (NEC) October 2011, the COYE selected a recipient for The American Legion National Education Award. This year the COYE selected S. Adam Seagrave. He is the Associate Director and Associate Professor in the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University. His article in the April 2021 edition of the *American Legion Magazine* asks the question, “Whatever Happened to Civics?” There he makes an argument for strengthening the fabric of America through an education steeped in U.S. civics and history. It is the opinion of this committee that he embodies the ideals enumerated in the Trophies, Award, and Ceremonials (TAC) manual for this award.

For the Good of the COYE and The American Legion

Rounding out this meeting the committee discussed Resolution No. 5 of the NEC October 2020 titled “Vision, Mission, Values, and Motto of the American Legion” and the National Commander’s “100 Miles for Hope” campaign. The first of which the committee discussed the need for its creation and for the second topic discussed some of the points of how to enroll and how to donate to this worthwhile cause.

Technical Motion

Vice Chairman Jim Davis (WV) made a motion that staff be authorized to make technical corrections to resolutions, minutes, and commission report, to ensure proper spelling, wording, and format, without changing the substance of meaning or intent of the Americanism Commission. Motion was carried unanimously.

Closing

Chairman Westergren led the committee in closing remarks and just as with the opening invocation, Victor DeSloover (IA) provided the benediction and Jim Davis (WV) honored the POW/MIA flag. Chairman Westergren then called upon those present to salute the Colors and thereby announced that the COYE stood in recess (9:01pm).

2021 The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Award Recipients

Category	Name	Dept.	Amount
Fallen	Endira Caldwell	IA	\$ 20,000.00
Fallen	Ahlania Davis	NV	\$ 20,000.00
Fallen	Nicole Desiree Fontenot	MA	\$ 19,232.81
Fallen	Dennis Abiola Jallah III	NC	\$ 15,653.81
Fallen	Chelsea Briggs	HI	\$ 15,064.39
Disabled	Makayla Sharonne Hamlin	WA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Dominique Marie Smith	OH	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Jared Neil Layton	PA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Destiny Quinn	FL	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	McKayla Ann Kraft	NC	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Katline Barrows	WA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Trinity A Rivas	TX	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Joseph Anderson	OK	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Emily Anne Lewis	NY	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Sydney Alissa Long	NE	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Jerusha Patera Simmons	KS	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Nathan Russell Smith	AZ	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Axel Adrian Oquendo	GA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Emma Rose Furlan	CT	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Xzavier Latchison	TX	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Dequiala D Kelly	GA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Noelani Milena Allison	WA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Paige Kathleen Roff	IA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Hannah Elizabeth Brooks	GA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Madeline Alexis Starling	PA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Erin Moroney	DC	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Jesse Michael Pettigrew	OH	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Andino James-Vincenzo LaVersa	TX	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Sabrina Rose Starling	PA	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Isabel Bathke	SD	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Emily T Jansen	MN	\$ 10,000.00
Disabled	Mark W Kolb	MD	\$ 7,277.83
			\$ 357,228.84