Spotlight on Americanism- Americanism Awards
submitted by Danny Smith, chairman

The National Americanism Commission presents several annual awards in conjunction with the Sons of The American Legion National Convention, and although the convention may still be several months off, now is the time to start preparing.

The **Atwood-Beyea-York Memorial Award** is presented to the top Detachment, District and Squadron for their work falling under the Americanism Pillar of service. The Americanism Award was renamed after the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center in honor of three Sons of The American Legion members, two of whom were first responders and one that worked in the North Tower. Award recipients are selected from information submitted on the consolidated report form and reviewed under the newly adopted guidelines that were submitted by resolution during the fall NEC meeting. The selection criteria will be posted on the webpage for all to utilize when preparing their reports. A sample consolidated report form along with other information and instructions to assist those that fill out the consolidated report, is located on the Sons webpage under "FORMS".

Please keep in mind that although this is an award, it is not a contest, it is about accurately reporting your activity and service under the Americanism Pillar of service. Everyone that fills out and submits their consolidated report form to the National Organization, by the due date, will be reviewed on a per capita basis, giving all squadrons, districts and detachments an equal opportunity to receive this award. Start keeping accurate records now to ease with the process when you fill out the report next year.

The second group of awards that the Americanism Commission is involved with is the **Community Service Scrapbook Contest**, with three divisions for entries; Detachment, District and Squadron. As the name suggests this is a contest and those that enter are judged by a set of adopted rules and scored accordingly. The rules and scoring sheet can be found on the Sons webpage under "PUBLICATIONS", in the 2014 Administrative Manual.

When assembling your scrapbook keep these things in mind:

Follow the instruction to the letter; adding information that is not related to the contest may count against the entry.

Check and double check your work; look for small grammatical and spelling errors and fix properly, these add up as minor deductions.

Enter you work correctly; state on the entry form that you are entering the Scrapbook Contest, the National Organization also has a History Book contest which has its' own rules and scoring. We judge based upon how the submission is entered and cannot move from one contest to the other.

If you need assistance or desire further information please contact any of the Americanism Commission Members.