

**REPORT OF THE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
AMERICANISM COMMISSION
RICHARD W. ANDERSON (CT), CHAIRMAN
OCTOBER 4-5, 2021**

Digest of Proceedings

The Americanism Commission met at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday and Tuesday, October 4-5, 2021. The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m. each day and roll call taken. Americanism Commission members answering the roll were: Chairman Richard Anderson (CT); Mark Avis (MA); Darell Bishop (OH); Alan Davis (MN); Victor DeSloover (IA); Dennis Frizzi (PA); Randy Goodman (GA); Douglas Huffman (ID); Kenneth Mueller (TX); Kenneth Persson (WY); Larry Price (SD); Loren Sperry (WA); Gerald Theriot (LA); and Kirk Thursday (ME). Following opening remarks and introduction of distinguished guests, the Digest of Proceedings from the 2021 Spring commission meeting, and the report of the 2021 pre-national convention Americanism Commission meeting were each received and filed.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE

The Americanism Commission was privileged to receive a report on the 2021 American Legion Baseball World Series from Eddie Holbrook, Chairman, Cleveland County American Legion World Series (ALWS) Committee. Mr. Holbrook, who joined the commission meeting virtually, reported on significant drainage improvements to the field at Keeter Stadium in Shelby. He also reported the Cleveland County ALWS Committee having been considerably delayed this year when public health restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic were not lifted by the governor of North Carolina until late April, leaving only 3½ months to then coordinate for the 2021 American Legion World Series tournament; the committee did persevere despite the delay and a 2021 tournament successfully took place.

Mark Avis (MA), Vice-Chairman of the American Legion Baseball (ALB) Committee reported that the ALB Committee met Sunday, September 26, 2021, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, in conjunction with the 61st annual American Legion Department Baseball Chairmen's Conference.

During its meeting on September 26th, the ALB Committee received a recap of the 2021 season: 22 departments maintained or increased their team participation from 2019; there was a total of 2,975 certified teams (1,866 senior teams and 1,109 junior teams) representing 49 Legion departments.

The ALB Committee recommended the following changes to the 2022 American Legion Baseball Rule Book:

- Rule 1.R.3. Pitching Rule - remove the word "scheduled" from "multiple games scheduled on the same day" and to read "If a pitcher throws 45 or fewer pitches in game one of multiple games on the same day, he may return to pitch in game two, up to 105 pitches total for the day. If a pitcher were to throw more than 45 pitches in game one, he would be ineligible to pitch in game two." The word "schedule" makes the statement a little ambiguous and removing it clarifies the rule.
- Rule 1.J. Fake Tag – to read "A fake tag is an act by a defensive player without the ball that simulates a tag. A fake tag is considered obstruction." This new rule is added for player safety and sportsmanship in preventing possible retaliation for attempts at applying a fake tag.

- Rule 3 & 4 Player Recruiting – Combined total enrollment of high schools cannot exceed 7,500 for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. An increase for high school enrollment was suggested by department chairman during their conference, however they unanimously rejected increasing the enrollment to 9,000. This increase of high school enrollment from 6,000 will assist with player recruiting efforts by opening up a larger recruiting pool for each team.
- Rule 9.A. National Tournament Registration – establishes the 2022 deadline date for departments to certify their department winner. New rule to read “The department championship team must be certified to the Americanism Commission by the authorized department baseball official no later than 11:59 p.m. July 30, 2022. However, departments that fly to regional sites must certify their department champion no later than 11:59 p.m. July 28.”
- Rule 9.J.2. Suspended Games – add paragraph “2. Pitch Count Rule 1.R. applies to suspended games.” Adding this paragraph clarifies the pitcher’s availability to return as a pitcher in the event of a suspended game.
- Rule 9.K. Minimum Active Players – change the word “transfer” to “bring up” so rule will read “Teams with fewer than 12 players are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team in order to have 12 players but may not bring up a player to exceed 12 players.” This clarifies the rule for coaches when and how to bring up Junior players to their senior team for national tournament play.

The Baseball Committee recommended that Brandon Woodruff of the Milwaukee Brewers be awarded the 2022 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year award. Woodruff played American Legion Baseball for the 2011 American Legion World Series Runner-up Tupelo Post 49 in Mississippi.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the ALB Committee (**Exhibit A**) with the exception of ratification of recommended rules changes effective with the 2022 baseball season and the nomination for the 2022 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year award, which were each voted upon separately. The Americanism Commission voted unanimously to accept the recommendations put forth by the ALB Committee and ratified the recommended rules changes effective with the 2022 baseball season as detailed above, and the nomination Brandon Woodruff of the Milwaukee Brewers for the 2022 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year award.

The ALB Department Chairmen’s Conference took place 24-26 September 2021. Gary Stone (MO) chaired the conference with 65 attendees representing 41 departments. Congratulations were extended to the Department of Idaho for laying claim to its back-to-back American Legion World Series championship title when the team sponsored by American Legion Post No. 56 in Idaho Falls took the series in Shelby, North Carolina, in August 2021. Congratulations were further extended to the runner-up team of Honolulu, Hawaii, and recognition was given to all of the teams winning their respective regional tournament. Major topics included review of the single sign-in registration and online team registration process; discussion of feasibility for a U13 program; caucus discussions for making recommendations to the ALB Committee on proposed 2022 baseball rule changes above.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the of the 2021 Baseball Department Chairman’s Conference (**Exhibit B**).

JOINT MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH AND YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee on Children & Youth Committee met on Monday, October 4, 2021, in the Michigan Room, 21st Floor of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. The meeting was chaired by Chairman Herbert Petit, Jr., (LA). Chairman of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE) Committee, Larry Price (SD) represented the YCLE Committee.

Vice President of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), Peggy Moon, provided the joint Children and Youth and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement committees with an update. Now in its 67th year, CWF just awarded \$639,325 in 17 grants to 14 youth-serving non-profit organizations for the 2022 calendar year.

Vice-President of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, James Koutz, provide the joint Committee on Children and Youth and the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee with an update. During the 2020 calendar year the Endowment Fund transferred \$145,589 in interest to The American Legion to fund the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) grant program. He also reported on the success of the 100 Miles of Hope campaign the past two years.

The Committee on Children and Youth is continuing its in-depth review of the TFA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual and plans to endorse its recommendations for consideration next spring. For the current calendar year January 1st through September 28th over \$7,036 in TFA grants have been provided to qualified veterans with minor children in the home to help with the basic needs of the child(ren). The number people requesting TFA continues to remain lower this year due to the global coronavirus health pandemic spanning into 2021. Enhanced federal benefits ended in September, as well as the eviction moratorium, so there may soon be rise in the number of TFA requests within the next few weeks or months.

Larry Price, Chairman of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE) Committee provided a brief history on the creation of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program. The goal of the American Legion Law Enforcement Program Committee is to promote, sponsor, coordinate, and foster activities to ensure the continued development, sustainability, growth, and viability of the American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program. Law enforcement communities have been receptive in supporting programs such as the Legion's YCLE, primarily due to their growing need for future personnel to join law enforcement fields.

The 2020 program season did not allow for any youth law cadet programs to be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the 2021 season saw the return of some department youth law cadet programs. A few departments found it difficult to conduct their programs this year due to their state's law enforcement training centers being overloaded trying to fulfill training requirements. Chairman Price reported that he has visited four departments who are giving strong consideration to implementing a new YCLE program, and he is providing guidance and encouragement to do so. Any department interested in exploring a YCLE program are encouraged to reach out to their nearest Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee member if they have any question about the program or wish to discuss how to get one started.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the joint meeting of the Committee on Children & Youth and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee (**Exhibit C**).

The 15th annual national Children & Youth (C&Y) Department Chairman's Conference was conducted virtually on Saturday, September 18, 2021, as a program conference segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference of The American Legion. There were 37 members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), Sons of The American Legion (SAL), and guests in attendance.

Conference attendees received updates and presentations on use of The American Legion Emblem; the new American Legion logo; and Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) training; Father Flanagan's Boys Town National Hotline and National Autism Association (the latter two are 2021

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipients); and updates to ALA and SAL C&Y programs. ALA reported focusing on the Good Deed award, Youth Hero award, and the new Caregiver award that showcase outstanding youth who have contributed within their communities. The SAL reported focusing developing some new ideas, all the while staying #SALStrong. C&Y department chairmen shared subject-matter expertise insight and brainstorming of recommendations for enhancing Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program policies and procedures which may provide greater clarification and uniformity to TFA program administration. The Committee on Children and Youth discussed the department chairmen's feedback at its 2021 fall committee meeting.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the of the 2021 Children & Youth Department Chairman's Conference (**Exhibit D**).

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION

The Committee on Youth Education (COYE) met on October 2-3, 2021, on the 21st floor of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel. The committee was chaired by Michael Westergren (AR). The COYE selected and recommended a list of students as recipients of 2021 Samsung American Legion Scholarships. In 2021, there were 2,320 scholarship applicants.

With national youth programs of The American Legion having been canceled in 2020 due to the global coronavirus pandemic, time was available this past year to undertake an in-depth review of the criteria, processes, and governing resolutions pertaining to all of the Legion's national youth scholarships and compare them to industry standards. The national treasurer, chairmen of the Finance and Americanism Commissions, executive director, and staff found the collation of information and extensive research invaluable for validating several existing policies and practices, as well as polishing some areas for greater refinement and efficiency. To that end, an ad hoc working group of the COYE worked for the past 10 months to develop a proposed Samsung American Legion Scholarship SOP. Additionally, the Americanism Commission solicited insight and feedback from Boys and Girls State directors during their recent annual conferences held the past weekend; it was felt imperative to gain insight and buy-in of Boys/Girls State directors, as they are the front line to the success of the application, scoring, and selection processes of the Samsung Scholarship at the department program level, which in turn feeds into the national final selection process. Boys/Girls State directors offered some insightful suggestions, which were incorporated into the SOP document. The COYE voted to recommend its approval of the Samsung American Legion SOP document to the Americanism Commission.

The COYE discussed and endorsed the pursuit of an initiative which is temporarily being referred to as the "2026 Curriculum Project". The broad aim of this educational project is for the Legion to be at the forefront of getting civics back into schools by developing, offering, and promoting a nationally available curriculum endorsing a nonpartisan, patriotic study of American civics. Relationships with other like-minded institutions and organization will be fostered so the curriculum will not only envelope the resources and programs that The American Legion has to offer, but also those of the other like-minded institutions and organizations. The intention is to have this initiative fully launched in conjunction with America's 250th anniversary in 2026, with each year between now and then increasing deliverables in hopes of creating anticipation. The first step of this long journey is development of a scope management plan, so as to begin turning this vision into a plan of action.

The COYE discussed undertaking update of *The American Legion Education Development Guide*. 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 share 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 that end, the COYE is identifying an Education Development

Guide working group to review updates in-depth, bring forth ideas for modernizing this publication that are in line with the getting civics into the classroom, and ensuring that these methods are in line with intention of The American Legion and are in the best interest of the youth who will benefit.

Guest presentations were provided by Michele Emery, Membership Engagement and Training Coordinator, Internal Affairs Division, regarding an update on the Samsung American Legion Scholarship alumni association and Mark Clark (MO), Chairman, American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, discussed the 2021 Legacy Run and Legion Riders support of the Legacy Scholarship.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the COYE (**Exhibit E**), with the exception of ratification of the list of 2021 Samsung American Legion Scholarship award recipients and the Samsung American Legion SOP, which were each voted upon separately. The Americanism Commission voted unanimously to ratify the 2021 Samsung American Legion Scholarship award recipients listed with the COYE report. The Commission endorsed the proposed Samsung American Legion Scholarship SOP presented by the Committee on Youth Education, with it now being forwarded to the Board of Trustees of The American Legion's Samsung Trust for review and final approval, or other appropriate authority as determined by the National Judge Advocate's office. The Americanism Commission also voted unanimously to also give its endorsement in pursuit of the temporarily named "2026 Civics Curriculum Project," with a more permanent name to be determined at a later date

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE DIRECTORS CONFERENCE

The 86th annual Conference of American Legion Boys State Directors was conducted September 24-26, 2021, as a program segment of the 23rd annual national Combined Americanism Conference at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. There were 162 Boys State directors, chairmen and program staff registered. Nine departments were not represented this year. California Boys State Chief Counselor and Boys Nation staff member Timothy Aboudara (CA) served as the Boys State Conference chairman this year. Chairman Aboudara's theme for the conference this year was *Boys State 2022: Rebounding From The Pandemic*.

The conference opened with a comprehensive review and update of online processes and procedures of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship presented by Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks, Americanism Division, American Legion National Headquarters. With national youth programs of The American Legion having been canceled in 2020 due to the global coronavirus pandemic, time was available during that time to undertake an in-depth review of the criteria, processes, and governing resolutions pertaining to all of the Legion's national youth scholarships, including the Samsung American Legion Scholarship, and compare them to industry standards. Boys and Girls State directors offered some viable suggestions for incorporation as added enhancement.

Presentations included those from: NFP Insurance; Sons of The American Legion National Commander Michael Fox; and program presentations from Boys State staff of Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Boys State directors also engaged in breakout group discussions, followed by discussion dialog among the entire group.

On Sunday Mark Seavey, Senior Legal Counsel in the National Judge Advocate's office, presented on Emblem and Trademark Protection, emphasizing why trademark protection is so vital to our organization and the role that members and programs have in helping safeguard that protection.

An overview of 2020 and 2021 Boys State participation was provided. In 2020 all but two Legion departments (TX and UT) found it necessary to cancel its Boys State program due to significant public health concerns related to the global coronavirus pandemic.

The effects of the global pandemic continued to linger well into 2021, more prevalently in some regions of the United States than others, and as a result there were 14 Legion departments again unable to conduct a Boys State program in 2021 due to public health concerns. Conversely, 36 Legion

departments were successful in sponsoring a Boys State program during 2021, with 24 returning to a live format and 12 hosting a virtual program.

An overview of the American Legion Boys Nation program was next provided. With it necessary to cancel Boys Nation in 2020 due to the global pandemic, innovation again came to forefront in 2021 when the Americanism Commission sought to maximize the Boys Nation experience for as many young men as possible, and was therefore determined to still host 100 delegates to the 2021 Boys Nation program in Washington D.C. As such, the Commission felt the best approach was to hold a random drawing of the alternate Boys Nation delegates from departments having conducted a 2021 Boys State program, in order to backfill Boys Nation vacancies resulting from cancelled programs. In doing so the delegates that were selected to backfill a Boys Nation vacancy did not represent their home state when the Boys Nation Senate was in session, but instead participated in senate proceedings as a “senator” of the state for which they were backfilling a vacancy. The young men who might not have otherwise had occasion to attend Boys Nation had they not been selected as a vacancy backfill were thrilled to have the opportunity, and the Americanism Commission was gratified to accommodate.

The meeting concluded with an overview of the American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation resolutions portfolio as refresher and refamiliarization.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the of the 2021 Boys State Department Chairman’s Conference (**Exhibit F**).

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAINS CONFERENCE

The annual national department chaplain’s conference was held September 18, 2021, on a virtual platform. National Chaplain Stanley Hamamoto (CO) led the conference segment and spoke on his theme of communication.

Immediate Past National Chaplain Edward Harris, Jr., (IN) read his end-of-year report into the record, highlighting accomplishments of his tenure. Chaplain Harris is The American Legion’s longest serving national chaplain, with his tenure extended an additional year when the global coronavirus pandemic necessitated cancellation of the annual national convention of The American Legion in 2020

Past National Chaplain Norris Keirn (IN) provided an excellent presentation on “*How to be a Chaplain of The American Legion*”, providing the basic fundamentals of being a good Legion chaplain, with emphasis upon the intra-faith aspects of the position. The in-depth briefing provided excellent foundational development for new chaplains, and also an excellent refresher for experienced chaplains.

It was determined there is a need and desire to include new department chaplain training at all future conferences, as well as continuing professional and ecumenical development for sitting chaplains.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the of the 2021 Department Chaplain’s Conference (**Exhibit G**).

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN’S CONFERENCE

The 7th annual American Legion Junior Shooting Sports (JSSP) Chairperson Conference was held virtually September 18, 2021. Ida Jewell (IN) served as the Junior Shooting Sports Conference chairman. There were 23 departments were represented by either their Junior Shooting Sports department chairman or designee; a total of 27 attendees were present.

Register Resolution No. 2803 submitted by the Department of Alabama calling to hold The American Legion’s JSSP National Championship in Anniston, Alabama starting in 2023 was reviewed. Mr. Megnin provided the synopsis of the resolution and the recent conversations about there being a possibility of having an open bid period allowing all interested departments the opportunity to seek hosting this event. A discussion on this was solicited; no feedback was offered by those in attendance.

Chairman Jewell next solicited discussion on current COVID restrictions and conditions in the geographic areas represented at the conference. The majority of those attending and who responded

stated that most areas were getting back to some type of normalcy, with some still having mask mandates in some locations. Schools in some areas harder hit by the pandemic are still not back in the classroom. A question was posed if anyone had a club meeting in a post, and two departments that stated that they were allowed to have post activities as long as they were following their state's COVID protocols.

A review of the 2020 – 2021 JSSP season was provided. The national postal tournament had 88 clubs and 596 competitors that returned first round target sets; 34 Sporter and 71 Precision competitors received second round targets. Due to COVID-19 concerns by the U.S. Olympic Training Center (USOTC) preventing the Legion having its 2021 JSSP National Championship on the USTOC campus, USA Shooting was able to establish a temporary range in a vacant Macy's building in Colorado Springs. The 2021 national Sporter winner is Maya Cameron from Nations Ford MCJROTC, affiliated with Post 34, The American Legion Department of South Carolina. The national Precision winner is Natalie Perrin, Grand Rapids Rifle and Pistol Club, affiliated with Post 154, The American Legion Department of Michigan.

Information regarding the new 2020 – 2022 National Standard 3 Position Air Rifle Rules and the 2021 – 2022 Official Match Program available online was provided, along with a detailed explanation of the current registration process for the 2021 – 2022 National Postal Tournament. Also discussed was yearly risk management requirements and the need to utilize the affiliation form in the registration process.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the of the 2021 Department Junior Shooting Sports Chairman's Conference (**Exhibit H**).

The Americanism Commission next considered **Register Resolution No. 2803 (AL) titled *Department of Alabama Offers To Host The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Championship***; the Commission voted unanimously to **hold for further study** at this time. The Americanism Commission next discussed and voted unanimously to inaugurate a bid process giving full and fair assessment to determining the feasibility and potential benefits for relocating the site of the National Junior Shooting Sports Championship Tournament from its current location at the U.S. Olympic Training Center (USOTC) in Colorado Springs. A bid process will allow other Legion departments who might also be interested have opportunity to bid for hosting the tournament. During the Commission's discussion to inaugurate a bid process, it was noted that having an open bid process affords equity, fairness, transparency, and allows bidders to be evaluated by the same "measuring stick" criteria, thereby ruling out unintentional bias. Bid processes were used in 2009 when Shelby, North Carolina became home to the American Legion World Series, and again in 2021 when it was necessary to relocate the National Oratorical Contest when the university upon which the contest was located closed its facilities. And a bid process is regularly used every two years for siting American Legion Baseball regional tournaments.

After the Americanism Commission voted to approve inaugurating a bid process, Chairman Anderson announced that he will be seeking some members of the Americanism Commission to serve on a small ad hoc committee to lead development of bid criteria and a bid packet, promote the bid opportunity to Legion departments, assess incoming bids, and make recommendations to the Americanism Commission for its consideration. Chairman Anderson established the goal of 2023 Spring meetings for the Americanism Commission to determine its final recommendation.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN'S ORATORICAL CONFERENCE

The 52nd annual conference of American Legion Oratorical department chairmen was held September 25, 2021, as a program conference segment of the annual national combined Americanism Conference. David King (KY) served as conference chairman. This conference segment shared information and provided networking opportunities for 28 department oratorical chairmen and/or other representatives that attended representing 61 departments.

An overview of the Oratorical Chairman's Guide was conducted, most specifically Chapters 3, 4, and 5, along with a review of scoring, tabulation, the three-way tie breaker, and contest staff and contestant briefings. A discussion on current COVID-19 restrictions and conditions in the geographic areas represented at the conference next ensued, and potential affect to oratorical contests in 2022. Resources available to department Oratorical chairmen online were given thorough review. Use of the National Speech and Debate (NSDA) Local Contest Request Form was reviewed to ensure that departments have the ability to obtain additional information on NSDA member schools and district leaders in their area.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the of the 2021 Department Oratorical Chairman's Conference (**Exhibit I**).

The Americanism Commission gave consideration to **Register Resolution 2811 (IL) titled *Amend Oratorical Contest Rules Regarding Oration Time And Number Of Assigned Topics*** and voted unanimously to **hold for further study** so that the Youth Activities Subcommittee of the Americanism Commission and department oratorical chairman at their annual conference may provide their thoughts and insights for the commission's consideration.

AMERICAN LEGION SCOUTING DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN'S CONFERENCE

The annual national department scouting conference was held September 29, 2021, as a virtual program conference segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference. Americanism Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks (IN) served as staff facilitator of the conference segment. There were 28 attendees present, making this the largest assembly present at a Scouting department chairman's conference.

A presentation was provided by the Scouting chairman from the Department of Texas on how they have revamped their Scout programs and is promoting a *Pack in every Post* program. They have been able to increase membership at their local post level by engaging Scouting parents who are Legion eligible, bringing in younger veterans in the organization. This led to further discussion on different ways to increase Legion participation in various Scouting aspects, as well as different thoughts on how to increase participation in the Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship.

Mark Seavey, Senior Legal Counsel in the National Judge Advocate's office of The American Legion, spoke about the current litigation surrounding the bankruptcy of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization and how it may or may not impact local Legion posts. This allowed attendees to have a fact-based discussion surrounding what Legion posts, districts, and departments should keep in mind when they are making their own decisions moving forward.

Attendees also discussed a new merit badge that BSA National Headquarters asked for the Legion's opinion and feedback from Scouting department chairmen. The focus of the *Citizenship in Society* merit badge is to provide information on diversity, equity, inclusion, and ethical leadership. One learns why these qualities are important in society and in Scouting, as well as how to understand how to always help others and serve as a leader and an upstander. Initial discussion and feedback seemed positive – awaiting final determination.

The Americanism Commission received and filed the written report of the of the 2021 Department Scouting Chairman's Conference (**Exhibit J**).

RALLY 'ROUND THE FLAG

Cameran Richardson, Editor, Media & Communications Division, provided a presentation on the Legion's *Rally 'Round the Flag* initiative it has been leading at the behest of the Citizens Flag Alliance for invigorating pride and respect for the U.S. flag. Since last March, The American Legion has been building awareness about why the U.S. flag matters, to help instill pride and respect for the flag. As part of the initiative the Legion has asked people to share what the flag means to them, along with photos, so they then may be shared on Legion.org. Using the hashtag *#rallyaroundtheflag*, people

also can share their flag moments on social media. Fifty *Rally Around the Flag* messages were created featuring historical notes, fun facts, and voices from history about Old Glory that can be shared on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The Media & Communications Division developed an outstanding *Colors of Our Country* large standing display giving the history and meaning of the flag. It's appeared at national convention, the combined Americanism Conference, and is on display here at the Sheraton Hotel.

Richardson shared what innovative steps are next as part of the continued initiative to invigorate pride and respect in Old Glory: creating U.S. Flag Code social media graphics; youth education of the flag in digital format through the creation of a digital coloring book app that tells the story of the U.S. flag as kids color along, a flag education curriculum for various levels of readers – possibly a flag app, and a flag-folding video with kids and adults that explains what each fold means; and update of the Legion's current flag education video *For Which it Stands*, perhaps into an animated video that highlights the history of the American flag, how to raise/lower the flag, how to properly fold the flag, what the Pledge of Allegiance means and how to recite it, and how to conduct a flag retirement ceremony.

The Americanism Commission gave consideration to **Resolution No. 4 (CO) titled *Flag Code Amendment For Disposal Of Unserviceable Flags*** and voted unanimously to **hold for further study** so the commission may take opportunity to seek some supporting information from the originating department.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forth.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was given to the history and thoughts about The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Unity Awards from the mid-1980's. Some attendees noted their department has similar awards established.

Discussion was also given to the Americanism Commission's desire for again having an academic institution of higher learning as a backdrop for the National Oratorical Contest

AMERICANISM RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY

At the meeting of the Americanism Commission at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 4-5 October, 2021, a total of three resolutions were considered. The Americanism Commission discussed and agreed upon recommending the following action for consideration by the National Executive Committee:

Hold For Further Study

- **Register Resolution No. 2803 (AL) *Department of Alabama Offers To Host The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Championship***
- **Resolution No. 4 (CO) *Flag Code Amendment For Disposal Of Unserviceable Flags***
- **Register Resolution No. 2811 (IL) *Amend Oratorical Contest Rules Regarding Oration Time And Number Of Assigned Topics***

**REPORT TO THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION
FALL MEETING – October 5, 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE
Mark Avis (MA), Vice Chairman**

The Baseball Committee met on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in conjunction with the 61st Annual Conference of Department Baseball Chairmen. Those in attendance were Gary Stone (MO), Chairman; Mark Avis (MA), Vice Chairman; Committee members Tom Drury (NM); Mark Cauble (NC); Jeral Howard (AR); Dennis Frizzi (PA); Jody Moeller (NE); Carl Hennell (MT); James Grenier (VA) and consultants William Haase (MI) and Jay DeSantis (WV). Also in attendance were Steve Cloud (IN), Program Manager, Americanism Division; Tom Starnes (IN), Assistant Program Manager, Americanism Division and Baseball Administrative Assistant, Tina Dunn.

Your Baseball Committee received a recap of the 2021 season from Program Manager Steve Cloud. There were 22 departments that maintained or increased their team participation from 2019. There was a total of 2,975 certified teams, 1,866 senior teams and 1,109 junior teams from 49 departments that participated this year.

The committee recommends the following changes to the 2022 American Legion Baseball Rule Book.

Rule 1.R.3. Pitching Rule - remove the word “scheduled” from “multiple games scheduled on the same day” and to read “If a pitcher throws 45 or fewer pitches in game one of multiple games on the same day, he may return to pitch in game two, up to 105 pitches total for the day. If a pitcher were to throw more than 45 pitches in game one, he would be ineligible to pitch in game two.” The word “schedule” makes the statement a little ambiguous and removing it clarifies the rule.

Rule 1.J. Fake Tag – to read “A fake tag is an act by a defensive player without the ball that simulates a tag. A fake tag is considered obstruction.” This new rule is added for player safety and sportsmanship in preventing possible retaliation for attempts at applying a fake tag.

Rule 3 & 4 Player Recruiting – Combined total enrollment of high schools cannot exceed 7,500 for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. An increase for high school enrollment was suggested by department chairman during their conference, however they unanimously rejected increasing the enrollment to 9,000. This increase of high school enrollment from 6,000 will assist with player recruiting efforts.

Rule 9.A. National Tournament Registration – establishes the 2022 deadline date for departments to certify their department winner. New rule to read “The department championship team must be certified to the Americanism Commission by the authorized department baseball official no later than 11:59 p.m. July 30, 2022. However, departments that fly to regional sites must certify their department champion no later than 11:59 p.m. July 28.”

Rule 9.J.2. Suspended Games – add paragraph “2. Pitch Count Rule 1.R. applies to suspended games.” Adding this paragraph clarifies the pitcher’s availability to return as a pitcher in the event of a suspended game.

Rule 9.K. Minimum Active Players – change the word “transfer” to “bring up” so rule will read “Teams with fewer than 12 players are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated

Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team in order to have 12 players but may not bring up a player to exceed 12 players.” This clarifies the rule for coaches as to if and how to bring up Junior players to their senior team for national tournament play.

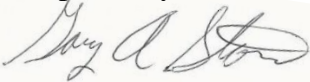
Your Baseball Committee recommends that Brandon Woodruff of the Milwaukee Brewers be awarded the 2022 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year award. Woodruff played American Legion Baseball for the 2011 American Legion World Series Runner-up Tupelo Post 49 in Mississippi.

The committee held follow-up discussions from the Department Baseball Chairmen Conference regarding the U13 Program project and the approved motion from department chairman for the Committee to develop a draft resolution expanding the program’s age eligibility for their review and recommendations at next year’s department chairman’s conference.

Your committee held discussions regarding developing a department baseball chairman mentorship program to pair newly appointed department chairman with experienced department chairman. Committee members were asked to nominate potential department chairman to serve as possible mentors.

The Baseball Committee’s next virtual meeting will be scheduled for early November. The committee meeting recessed at 12:05pm.

Respectively Submitted,

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

Gary Stone, Chairman
American Legion Baseball Committee

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FALL MEETING – October 4-5, 2021
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Mark Avis (MA)
Vice Chairman, American Legion Baseball Committee

Steve Cloud (IN)
Assistant Director, Americanism Division

61st ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMEN

The 61st annual Conference of Department Baseball Chairmen was held September 24-26, 2021, at The American Legion National Headquarters and the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana as a program segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference. Gary Stone (MO), Chairman, American Legion Baseball Committee, served as the conference chairman. Forty-one departments were represented by either their baseball program chairperson or designee; there were sixty-five attendees present.

An opening session was held Friday evening in the Panorama Ballroom, Sheraton City Centre Hotel. The invocation was given by baseball committee member, Thomas Drury (NM). Sons of The American Legion National Commander, Michael Fox extended welcome and greetings to the conference attendees.

Presentations of the Ford C. Frick award were made by Conference Chairman, Gary Stone to The American Legion Department of Hawaii for having the national runner-up team, and the Howard P. Savage award to The American Legion Department of Idaho for having the 2021 national champions, Idaho Falls Post 56.

Program Manager Cloud recapped the 2021 American Legion Baseball Regional tournaments and the need for bids to host the 2023 Northwest Regional tournament with the attendees. Additionally, American Legion Baseball Committee consultant and umpire assignor, Jay DeSantis discussed with chairmen the nomination process for submitting umpires within their department for consideration to serve as national regional tournament umpires.

Chairman Stone opened Saturday morning's session held in the National Executive Committee room at National Headquarters.

Program Manager Cloud provided a complete review of the single sign-in registration, online team registration submission, review, and approval process, highlighting items of importance for our chairman to assist team managers with their applications and rosters.

Chairman Stone held a follow-up discussion regarding the junior program and possible expansion of the program's age eligibility. A review of the U13 Program project charter created by Committee members James Grenier and Jody Moeller outlined the objectives and strategies to provide opportunity for youth under 13 years old to learn citizenship through sportsmanship. A motion was made and approved by department chairman for the Baseball Committee to develop a draft resolution expanding the program's age eligibility for their review and recommendations at next year's department chairman's conference.

The chairmen broke into caucuses by regions to discuss and recommendations on proposed 2022 baseball rule changes. The caucusing allowed the chairmen to offer their department's position and/or recommendation and to provide a consensus of the region for the group.

Chairman Stone began formal discussions of the proposed rule changes for 2022 following the caucus discussions held by the department chairmen. The eight regional caucuses recommend the following rule changes

Rule 1.R.3. Pitching Rule - to remove the word “scheduled” from “multiple games scheduled on the same day” The word “schedule” makes the statement a little ambiguous and removing it clarifies the rule.

Rule 1.J. Fake Tag – to add and read “A fake tag is an act by a defensive player without the ball that - simulates a tag. A fake tag is considered obstruction.” This new rule is added for player safety and sportsmanship to prevent possible retaliation for applying a fake tag.

Rule 9.A. National Tournament Registration – to read “The department championship team must be certified to the National Americanism Commission by the authorized department baseball official no later than 11:59 p.m. July 30, 2022. However, departments that fly to regional sites must certify their department champion no later than 11:59 p.m. July 28.” This rule establishes the 2022 deadline date for departments to certify their department winner.

Rule 9.J.2. Suspended Games – add paragraph “2. Pitch Count Rule 1.R. applies to suspended games.” Adding this paragraph clarifies the pitcher’s availability to return as a pitcher in the event of a suspended game.

Rule 9.K. Minimum Active Players – to read “Teams with fewer than 12 players are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team in order to have 12 players but may not transfer a player to exceed 12 players.” This clarifies the rule for coaches as to if and how to bring up Junior players to their senior team for national tournament play.

The Sunday morning session was held at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Lower Level. Tom Drury (NM) conducted a ceremony in memory of those baseball chairmen and volunteers that have been transferred to Post Everlasting since our last conference.

Chairman Stone thanked the attendees for their attention and participation during the conference. The 62nd annual conference of American Legion Baseball Chairmen will be held in conjunction with the 23rd annual National Combined Americanism Conference on September 23–25, 2022.

Respectively Submitted,



Gary Stone, Chairman

Conference of Department Baseball Chairmen

**REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
AND YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
TO THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION
HERBERT J. PETIT, JR. (LA), CHAIRMAN
OCTOBER 4, 2021**

The joint meeting of the Committee on Children and Youth and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee met Monday, October 4, 2021, at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The meeting was convened at 10:30 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared, followed by salute to the flag, Pledge of Allegiance, and Invocation. Herbert Petit, Jr. (LA), Chairman, Committee on Children and Youth, and Larry Price (SD), Chairman, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee were both present.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.

Created by The American Legion in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. (CWF), is a separate 501(c)3 corporation. Its philanthropic priority is to support worthwhile youth-serving projects and to assist in the dissemination of information to the general public and specific target groups. From 1955 to date, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., has awarded more than \$18 million to organizations to assist children of this country.

Vice President of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Peggy Moon, provided the joint Children and Youth and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement committees with an update. Now in its 67th year, CWF just awarded \$639,325 in 17 grants to 14 youth-serving non-profit organizations for the 2022 calendar year. These grants were determined during the annual meeting of the board of directors, held on Sunday, October 3, 2021.

American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation

In 1925, World War I veterans, widows and children continued to struggle to return to a regular life. The members of The American Legion, aware of the vital responsibilities entrusted to them by those who had served, knew the time had come to act. In 1925 more than 900,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and other American citizens joined a campaign, raising nearly \$5 million to establish the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, today doing business as the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF).

Vice-President of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, James Koutz, provide the joint Committee on Children and Youth and the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee with an update. During the 2020 calendar year, the Endowment Fund transferred \$145,589 in interest to The American Legion to fund the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) grant program. Since the National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 7 (Fall 2019) titled “American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation Authorization”, the Legion has hit the ground running with their 100 Miles for Hope campaign. The 100 Miles of Hope has had two purposes; first to promote wellness by encouraging people to get active during the recent COVID-19 pandemic; and invigorate donations to the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. The first 100 Miles of Hope was such a huge success that the campaign was brought back for a second year with new and improved enhancements.

Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee

Larry Price, Chairman of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE) Committee provided a brief history on the creation of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program. The goal of the American Legion Law Enforcement Program Committee is to promote, sponsor, coordinate, and foster activities to ensure the continued development, sustainability, growth, and viability of the American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program. Law enforcement communities have been receptive to support programs such as the Legion's YCLE, as this due to the growing need for personnel to join law enforcement fields.

The 2020 program season did not allow for any youth law cadet programs to be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the 2021 season saw the return of some department youth law cadet programs. A few departments found it difficult to conduct their programs due to their state's law enforcement training centers being overloaded trying to fulfill training requirements.

Departments are encouraged to reach out to their nearest Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee member if they have any question about the program. The [Youth Cadet Law Enforcement](https://www.legion.org/juniorlaw) website at <https://www.legion.org/juniorlaw> provides a myriad of resources such as photos, videos, how to start a program, and how to participate in a program. Enclosed is the up-to-date listing of departments along with the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee contact information (YCLE attachment 1).

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

The Committee on Children and Youth took up for review a proposed working draft of a resolution to accompany a draft TFA Policy and Procedures manual. The Committee on Children and Youth have been giving an in-depth review to the TFA Policy and Procedures manual the past 12 months and plans to endorse its recommendations for an update to the Americanism Commission next spring for consideration. It is still very much a work in progress and the Children and Youth Committee today made motions to give the drafts even greater refinement and definition.

TFA Update

For the current calendar year January 1st through September 28th, over \$7,036 in TFA grants have been provided to qualified veterans with minor children in the home to help with the basic needs of the child(ren). The number people requesting TFA continues to remain lower this year due to the global coronavirus health pandemic spanning into 2021. The extra \$300 a week in unemployment benefits from the U.S. Government stimulus packages came to an end in September. The eviction moratorium has also just expired. Departments may start to see a rise in the number of TFA requests in the next few weeks or months. TFA disbursement by department report for 2019 to date may be found in (TFA attachment 1).

All Children and Youth brochures have been updated and place online over the course of this year. All brochures are available for download from the Legion.org website.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Americanism Commission, the joint Committee on Children and Youth and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee thanks you for your continued support of these important programs. Working together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of young people across this nation.

Respectfully submitted,

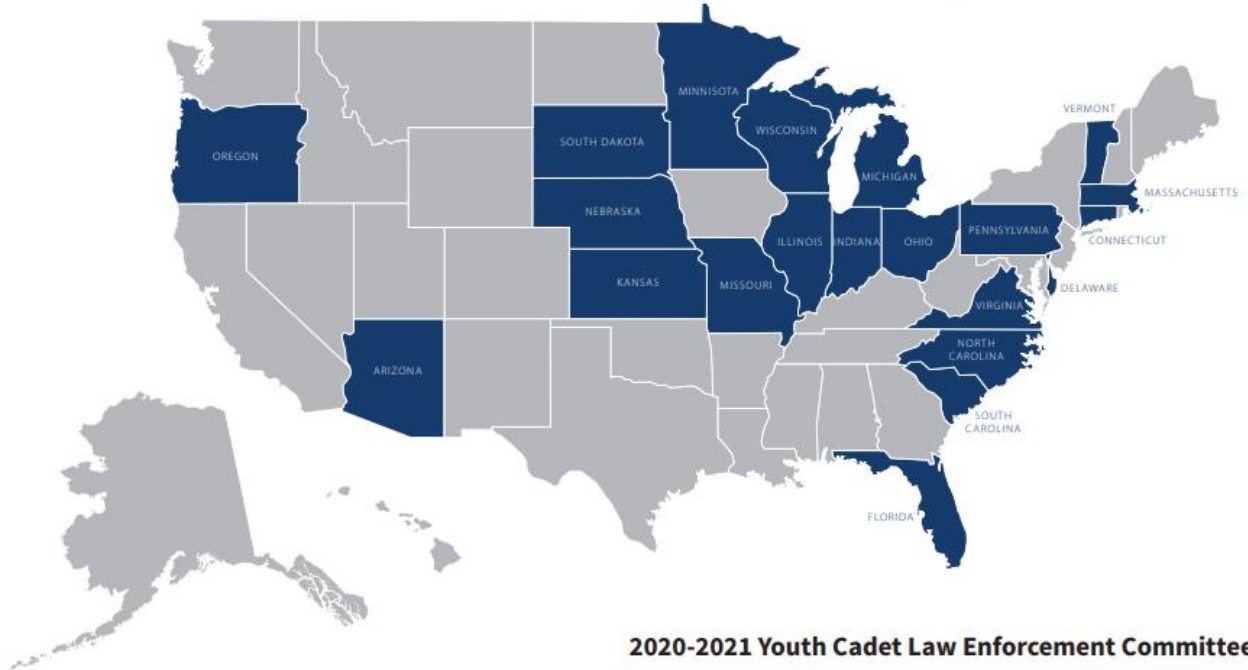
Herbert J. Petit, Jr., Chairman
Committee on Children and Youth

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Price, Chairman
Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee



States with Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Programs



If your state does not currently have a Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program and would like one, contact the committee member closest to your state.

2020-2021 Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee

Name	State	Email
Larry Price	SD	larryprice@hotmail.com
Richard Neville	NC	rwnevil@aol.com
Delmar Buske	IL	delmarbuske@yahoo.com
Jerod Keyes	OH	jlkeyes@dps.ohio.gov
William Feasenmyer	VA	billfeas2@comcast.net
Lawrence Maggi	PA	maggil@co.washington.pa.us
Gaylord Sanneman	KS	gaylord6340@att.net

**The American Legion National Headquarters
Americanism Division
TFA Department Disbursement January 1 - September 28, 2021**

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	2,946.52
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	1,090.17
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	7,036.69

**Report to the Americanism Commission
Committee on Children & Youth
Fall Meeting October 4-5, 2021**

**2021 Children & Youth Department Chairmen's Conference
Herbert J. Petit, Jr. (LA), Conference Chairman**

The 15th annual national Children & Youth Department Chairman's Conference was conducted virtually on Saturday, September 18, 2021, as a program conference segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference of The American Legion. There were 37 members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and guests in attendance.

- Distinguished guests bringing greetings and remarks included:
 - Michael Fox (CA), National Commander, Sons of The American Legion
 - Richard Anderson (CT), Chairman, Americanism Commission of The American Legion
 - Trish Ward (KS), Chairman, Children & Youth Committee, American Legion Auxiliary
 - National Commander of The American Legion Paul Dillard and National President of the American Legion Auxiliary Kathy Daudistel each asked the conference chairman to convey their regrets that previous travel commitments precluded each of them from attending, and to also convey their best wishes for a successful conference.
- Conference attendees heard presentations and received insight and guidance from:
 - Trish Ward, American Legion Auxiliary Children and Youth Committee Chairman: *American Legion Auxiliary Children and Youth Program Update*
 - William Clancy (NY), Sons of the American Legion Children & Youth Chairman – *Sons of The American Legion program updates*
 - Guest presenter: Mark Seavey, Esq, Senior Legal Counsel, National Judge Advocate's Office - *Use of The American Legion Emblem*
 - Guest presenter: Ellen Roeder, Vice President, Moore DM Group – *The New American Legion Logo*
 - Stacy Cope, Youth Welfare Program Manager, American Legion National Headquarters – *Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) Training*
 - Guest presenter: Father Flanagan's Boys Town National Hotline – 2021 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient
 - Guest presenter: National Autism Association – 2021 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipient

Children & Youth department chairmen were then provided opportunity to share their insight and suggestions regarding proposed changes being given consideration by the Committee on Children and Youth as recommendations for enhancement to the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program, and its policy and procedure SOP guide. The proposed changes seek to provide a greater clarification and uniformity to TFA program administration. The Committee on Children and Youth will discuss the chairmen's response at its upcoming 2021 fall meetings to then finalize its recommendations to present to the Americanism Commission during the 2022 spring meetings of The American Legion. Chairman Petit also urged the conference participants to conduct their own children and youth training sessions in their home department or detachment.

Committee Report – Fall Meeting 2021

**Hybrid meeting of the
Committee on Youth Education of the Americanism Commission
Fall Meeting, October 2, 2021**

Opening

At 8:30 PM, Chairman Michael Westergren (AR) led a salute to the flag of the United States and called the 2021 in-person/virtual hybrid fall 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 (ALA) Representative, Melanie Taylor (CA) led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ann Byars, Program Manager, conducted a roll call and determined a quorum was present.

Committee members present in Indianapolis included: Chairman, Michael Westergren (AR); Vice Chairman, James Davis (WV); National Commander's Representative, John Murphy (NY); Americanism Commission Representative, Victor DeSloover (IA); and American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Representative and ALA National Education Chairman, Melanie Taylor (CA), ALA National Education Vice Chairman Amanda Washburn (NE), and ALA National Education Committee Member Margaret McMahon (NJ).

Committee members attending virtually included: Robert Munhall (PA), Robert Perham (VT), Consultant, Hugh Holmes (SD); Consultant, Gary Gifford (MD); Americanism Commission Representative, Roberta Poulos (SC).

Guests included: Alternate NECman H. Ownby (FR), Americanism Commission Chairman, Richard Anderson (CT); Chairman, American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, Mark Clark (MO). American Legion National Headquarters staff included: Americanism Division Director, Jill Druskis (NE); Americanism Division Deputy Director, Jeff Hendricks (IN); Americanism Division Youth Education & Civics Program Manager, Ann Byars.

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 was happy that we were able to be present.

Review and Approval of Agenda and Previous Report

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

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 incorporated 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.

The COYE recommends the updated Samsung American Legion Standard Operating Procedure for implementation starting in 2022.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Review and Recommendation

Chairman Westergren then read the National Scholars and runners-up for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. The names were accepted without debate. A complete list of Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients is attached with this document (COYE attachment 1).

2022 Samsung American Legion Scholarship Essay Topics

After a lengthy discussion, the COYE agreed on the following two essay questions for the 2022 Samsung American Legion Scholarship application:

1. How will higher education prepare you for your career and develop life skills?
2. Which clause of the U.S. Constitution is the most important to the democracy of this nation; and how does the American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary uphold that within the preamble of their own Constitutions?

The 2026 Curriculum Project

Chairman Westergren called upon Ann Byars, Americanism Division Program Manager Youth Education and Scholarships, to discuss a vision for a new American Legion initiative temporarily titled the “2026 Civics Curriculum project”, designed to be available for use nationwide Kindergarten through – 12th grade. The curriculum project will embody eight areas to help get civics back into schools, an endeavor supported by Legion resolutions. It will be a collaborative project utilizing American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units, Legion and ALA departments, divisions at Legion and ALA national headquarters, and others to promote. Additionally, relationships with other like-minded institutions and organizations will be fostered so the curriculum will not only envelope resources and programs that The American Legion offers but will seek to incorporate other available resources. This initiative will fully launch in conjunction with America’s 250th anniversary, or Sestercentennial in 2026, with smaller deliverables coming in the interim years between now and then to build interest and anticipation. A working committee will be formed to assist in a diverse and equitable development of this initiative. This committee will develop a scope and vision into an actionable plan. The COYE endorsed the 2026 Civics Curriculum Project for further development and presentation to the Americanism Commission.

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 utilizing an informal Education Development Guide Working Group that is 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 civics 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.

Guest Presentation

Michele Emery, American Legion Training and Engagement Coordinator, Internal Affairs Division, discussed the Samsung American Legion Scholarship alumni association. In 2021, there were 2,320 scholarship applicants.

Emery reported that in 2019, Samsung provided an additional \$395,000 intended for use through 2022 for development of a Samsung American Legion Alumni Association (SALAA). The alumni group has 259 members on Facebook and 141 on LinkedIn. In March 2020, recognition of the 2019 Samsung American Legion Scholars was conducted during the Washington Conference.

Guest Presentation

Chairman of the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, Mark Clark (MO) joined virtually after lunch break to discuss the Legion Riders and their impact on the Legacy Scholarship. In 2021 the Legion Riders raised over \$1 million for the Legacy Scholarship (as of meeting date). He stated appreciation for the Riders sacrifice to implement the various rides and asked the committee to develop a brief explanatory presentation regarding the scholarships' application, pedagogy, and administration.

The American Legion National Education Award

In accordance with Resolution No. 6 of the National Executive Committee (NEC) October 2011, *The American Legion National Education Award*, the COYE recommends a person for their award each year in the spring. Chairman Westergren challenged the COYE committee to submit appropriate candidates for Spring 2022.

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 retirement of the POW/MIA flag. Chairman Westergren then called upon those present to salute the Colors and thereby announced that the COYE stood in recess (12:38 pm).

SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS LIST 2021

NATIONAL SCHOLARS BY REGION: EACH RECEIVING A \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP:

Central Region –	Celeste Cummings (IL) Sadie Herring (IN)
Midwest Region –	Madison Craig (IA) Aden Extrand (MN)
Northeast Region –	Victoria Perry (MA) Malcolm Mahoney (MA)
Southeast Region –	Katie Jett (AL) Spencer Burke (TX)
Western Region –	Matthew Argyle (UT) Elizabeth Goebel (CA)

RUNNERS UP BY REGION: EACH RECEIVING A \$5,000 SCHOLARSHIP:

Central Region -	Olivia Turman (WV) Justyne Frisle (WI)
Midwest Region-	Kaitlyn Kirchner (MN) Kelsey Amick (SD)
Northeast Region -	Eamonn Slattery (NY) Olivia Lechenr (NJ)
Southeast Region -	Hannah Behrmann (SC) Avery Scott (GA)
Western Region -	George Cecil (ID) Sarah Price (AK)

SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS LIST 2021 (CONT'D)

STATE FINALISTS: EACH RECEIVING A \$1,250 SCHOLARSHIP:

David Colson Collier (AL)
David Gordon Lykins (AR)
Abigail Lynn Holycross (AR)
Claire Cheah (AZ)
Carter Jiro Kawaguchi (CA)
Lauren Nicole Elvington (CO)
Patrick Allen Blickensderfer Jr. (CO)
Marissa Mae Gnitzcavich (CT)
Jake Thomas Windas (CT)
Maya Faye Levine (DE)
Seamus Oliver (DE)
Eli Stiffel Paddack (FL)
Camryn Elizabeth Coloney (FL)
Robby Charles Donaldson (GA)
Stephanie Liegh Bittle (HI)
Nathan Joseph Steimel (IA)
Riley Carol Leonard (ID)
Lydia Madeleine Poe (KS)
Miles Raj Swaminathan (KS)
Louis George Cohn (LA)
Genevieve Emily Carter (LA)
Marcus Lore Rothera (MD)
Kendahl Jeanae Parsons (MD)
Benjamin Lerner (MI)
Alexandria Rose Davis (MI)
Joshua Michael Donaldson (MO)
Ashlin Raye McCamy (MO)
Glenn Hayden Walker (MS)
Olivia Burchfield (MS)
Cole Allen Taylor (MT)
Autumn Louise Bergum (MT)
Jackson Cary White (NC)
Kate Briana Klinger (NC)
Rylan Curtis Vibeto (ND)
Marit Ann Ellingson (ND)
Jack Morton Scioli (NE)
Avery Charlotte Wright (NE)
Michael Patrick Kelly (NH)
Grace LuRuoLei Mower (NH)
Dean Flanagan (NJ)
Eli Terry (NM)
Brenlon Daniel Dillard (NV)
Lauren Grace Dorfman (NY)
Jacob Louis Lansing (OH)
Chloe Sharon Schroeder (OH)
Cale Stuart Abbott (OK)
Lydia Michelle Schultz (OK)
Marissa Meagan Andersen (OR)
Matthew Sparling (PA)
Danika Khristine Grieser (PA)
Julia Fredericka Douglas (RI)
Valerian Alexander Bruce (SC)
Griffin Gates (SD)
Preston William Johns (TN)
Ella F Gardner (TN)
Katherine Louisa Renard (TX)
Ava Lynn Graff (UT)
Lauren Olivia Doty (VA)
Dimitrios Arthur Romilos Owen (VA)
Ian Michael Digby (VT)
Emily Grace King (VT)
James Alexander Hagen (WA)
Katelyn Marie Furman (WA)
David Edward Arthur (WI)
Lauren Morgan (WY)
Henry Robert Dickinson (WY)

REPORT OF 2021 AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE DIRECTORS CONFERENCE

September 24-26, 2021

Indianapolis, Indiana

The 86th annual Conference of American Legion Boys State Directors was conducted September 24-26, 2021, as a program segment of the 23rd annual national Combined Americanism Conference at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. There were 162 Boys State directors, chairmen and program staff registered. Nine departments were not represented this year. Last year's conference had been conducted virtually due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and while it was deemed to still have been a very beneficial and informative experience, there was a general sense of enthusiasm to reconnect together again this year. California Boys State Chief Counselor and Boys Nation staff member Timothy Aboudara (CA) served as the Boys State Conference chairman this year. Chairman Aboudara's theme for the conference this year was *Boys State 2022: Rebounding From The Pandemic*.

The conference convened on Friday evening in joint session with The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State directors. The joint session featured comprehensive review and update of online processes and procedures of the Samsung American Legion Scholarship presented by Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks, Americanism Division, American Legion National Headquarters. With national youth programs of The American Legion having been canceled in 2020 due to the global coronavirus pandemic, time was available during that time to undertake an in-depth review of the criteria, processes, and governing resolutions pertaining to all of the Legion's national youth scholarships, including the Samsung American Legion Scholarship, and compare them to industry standards. The national treasurer, chairmen of the Finance and Americanism Commissions, executive director, and staff found the collation of information and extensive research invaluable for validating several existing policies and practices, as well as polishing some areas for greater refinement and efficiency.

Saturday consisted of information sharing sessions throughout the day which included the following presentations. Girls State directors again joined the Boys Nation directors for the first two presentations.

- *Insurance Update*: Chris Phillips, Vice-President, NFP Insurance
- *Flying Flags for Heroes* service project: National Commander Michael Fox, Sons of The American Legion
- *Elevating the Experience with a Game Changing Platform*: Arkansas Boys State
- *Bridging Then and Now*: California Boys State
- *Refining the Mission*: Louisiana Boys State
- *Customizable Strategies and Tools to Build Back after COVID*: Missouri Boys State
- *Purposeful Planning*: Oklahoma Boys State

The Boys State directors also engaged in breakout group discussions, followed by discussion dialog among the entire group.

The Sunday morning session opened with the annual Boys State Memorial in memory of those Boys State staff who transferred to Post Everlasting during the past two years.

After the memorial service, Mark Seavey, Esq., Special Projects Counsel in the National Judge Advocate's office, presented on *Emblem and Trademark Protection*, emphasizing why trademark protection is so vital to our organization and the role that members and programs have in helping safeguard that protection.

Chairman Aboudara provided an overview of 2020 and 2021 Boys State participation. In 2020, the year when the coronavirus pandemic was at its height, shutting down our entire nation and the world, all but one Legion department found it necessary to cancel its Boys State program due to significant public health concerns. The one exception was Texas Boys State, who through innovation and sheer determination, conducted the first

ever virtual Boys State program. As a result of their efforts there were 659 young men who participated in Boys State in 2020.

The effects of the global pandemic continued to linger well into 2021, more prevalently in some regions of the United States than others, and as a result there were 14 Legion departments again unable to conduct a Boys State program in 2021 due to public health concerns. Conversely, 36 Legion departments were successful in sponsoring a Boys State program during 2021, with 25 returning to a live format and 11 hosting a virtual program, for which Texas Boys State had previously blazed a trail the year before. The attached graph notes that as of September 13, 2021, attendance to Boys State across the nation for 2021 was documented at 5,971 participants, with 11 departments yet unreported as of that date. It was evident that the 2020-2021 global coronavirus pandemic left an indelible imprint upon the history of American Legion Boys State in so many ways.

Chairman Aboudara next provided an overview of the 2021 American Legion Boys Nation program. Most notably, with it necessary to outright cancel Boys Nation in 2020 due to the global pandemic, innovation again came to forefront in 2021 when the Americanism Commission sought to maximize the Boys Nation experience for as many young men as possible and therefore made the determination to still host 100 delegates to the 2021 Boys Nation program in Washington D.C. As such, the Commission felt the best approach was to hold a random drawing of the alternate Boys Nation delegates from departments having conducted a 2021 Boys State program in order to backfill Boys Nation vacancies resulting from cancelled programs. In doing so the delegates that were selected to backfill a Boys Nation vacancy did not represent their home state when the Boys Nation Senate was in session, but instead participated in senate proceedings as a “senator” of the state for which they were backfilling a vacancy. The young men who might not have otherwise had occasion to attend Boys Nation had they not been selected as a vacancy backfill were thrilled to have the opportunity, and the Americanism Commission was extremely gratified to be able to accommodate such.

Director Jill Druskis, Americanism Division, American Legion National Headquarters, provided an overview of the American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation resolutions portfolio as refresher and refamiliarization.

During 2022 the 87th annual American Legion Boys State Directors Conference will be held in conjunction with the 24th annual national Combined Americanism Conference.

**REPORT TO THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION
FALL MEETING – October 4-5, 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Report on Chaplain Conference

Two short weeks ago we held our Department Chaplains Conference via an online portal. We had 60 participants from The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). By all accounts it went very well.

Unfortunately, Jeffrey L. Gibson Sr. (AL), SAL National Chaplain, could not attend, but jointly between Carol T. Robinson (OH), ALA National Chaplain, and myself we discussed the themes central to our tenures as National Chaplains to the Legion Family. There I discussed my theme of communication.

Past National Chaplain Harris (IN) read into the record his end-of-year report to the attendees at the conference.

Also, Past National Chaplain Norris Keirn (IN) provided an excellent lecture on How to be a Chaplain of The American Legion, providing an emphasis on the intra-faith aspects of the position.

Lastly, we determined, among other areas of improvement, a need to include new department chaplain training at all future conferences, as well as continuing professional and ecumenical development for existing chaplains.

(Rev.) Stanley Hamamoto, National Chaplain

**REPORT TO THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION
FALL MEETING – October 4 -5 October 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Ida Jewell (IN)
Chairman, Junior Shooting Sports Program

7th ANNUAL JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS (JSSP) CHAIRPERSON CONFERENCE

The 7th annual American Legion Junior Shooting Sports (JSSP) Chairperson Conference was held virtually September 18, 2021. Ida Jewell (IN) served as the Junior Shooting Sports Conference chairman. There were 23 departments were represented by either their Junior Shooting Sports department chairman or designee; there were a total of 27 attendees present.

Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and presided over the opening ceremonies after which Chairman Jewell presented greetings from National Commander Paul Dillard, who was unable to attend due to travel commitments for the organization.

Chairman Jewell requested that Bill Megnin, JSSP Program Manager, give an update on the status of the Register Resolution No. 2803 submitted by the Department of Alabama calling to hold The American Legion's JSSP National Championship in Anniston, Alabama starting in 2023. Mr. Megnin provided the synopsis of the resolution and the recent conversations about there being a possibility of having an open bid period allowing all interested departments the opportunity to seek hosting this event. Mr. Megnin solicited a discussion on this; there was no feedback response from those in attendance.

Chairman Jewell next solicited discussion on current COVID restrictions and conditions in the geographic areas represented at the conference. The majority of those attending and who responded stated that most areas were between getting back to some type of normalcy, with current mask mandates still in some locations. Schools in some areas harder hit by the pandemic are still not back in the classroom. A question was posed if anyone had a club meeting in a post and two departments that stated that they were allowed to have post activities as long as they were following their state's COVID protocols.

Program Manager, Bill Megnin, stepped through a review of the 2020 – 2021 season. Due to COVID concerns the national postal tournament only had 88 clubs and 596 competitors that returned first round target sets. It was announced that 34 Sporter and 71 Precision competitors received second round targets. Due to not being able to fire at the U.S. Olympic Training Center for the Legion's 2021 JSSP National Championship, USA Shooting was able to obtain and put a range in a vacant Macy's building but only had the capability to have 15 competitors on the line at a time. This meant that Sporter athletes did back-to-back 3 x 20 relays in the morning and Precision athletes did their back-to-back 3 x 20 relays in the afternoon. At the end of the competition, the national Sporter winner was Maya Cameron from Nations Ford MCJROTC, affiliated with Post 34, The American Legion Department of South Carolina. The national Precision winner was Natalie Perrin, Grand Rapids Rifle and Pistol Club, affiliated with Post 154, The American Legion Department of Michigan.

Mr. Megnin also provided information regarding the new 2020 – 2022 National Standard 3 Position Air Rifle Rules and the 2021 – 2022 Official Match Program that is available online on the JSSP Resource page of the Legion website, along with a detailed explanation of the current registration process for the 2021 – 2022 National Postal Tournament. Also discussed was yearly risk management requirements and the need to utilize the affiliation form in the registration process.

Chairman Jewell concluded by thanking attendees for their attention and participation during the conference. Everyone in attendance looks forward to the opportunity to gather in person at the 8th annual

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Chairperson Conference which is scheduled as a program conference segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference in Indianapolis in 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ida Jewell
Chairman
2021 JSSP Department Chairpersons Conference

**REPORT TO THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION
FALL MEETINGS 4 – 5 October 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

52nd ANNUAL ORATORICAL CHAIRMEN'S CONFERENCE

David King (KY), Conference Chairman

The 52nd annual Oratorical Chairperson Conference was held virtually 25 September 2021, as a program segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference. David King (KY) served as the Oratorical Conference Chairman. There were 28 departments represented by their Oratorical chairman or designee; a total of 61 attendees were present.

Chairman King called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and presided over the opening ceremony after which Chairman King presented greetings on behalf of National Commander Paul Dillard, who was unable to attend due to travel commitments for the organization. Sons of The American Legion (SAL) National Commander Michael Fox brought greetings and a commitment to increase by 10% the participation by SAL members in the oratorical contest from post to national levels. American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Chairman Norma Tramm also provided greetings and support for the program.

Chairman King then provided an overview of the Oratorical Chairman's Guide, most specifically Chapters 3, 4, And 5. Chairman King recommended that all chairmen take the time to read and review the guide so that at minimum their department final oratorical contest mirrors the national contest. There was also a review of scoring, tabulation, the three-way tie breaker, and contest staff and contestant briefings.

Chairman King next solicited discussion on current COVID-19 restrictions and conditions in the geographic areas represented at the conference and how it may affect their department's oratorical contest in 2022. Specifically, Chairman King asked how we continue the contest and keep people safe. Bill Megnin, Program Manager, reminded attendees of the national oratorical rule that a department would have to hold their department contest in-person to certify their department winner to come to the national Oratorical contest finals that is conducted each April. The following is a summary of discussion and questions that ensued:

- A few department chairmen felt that based on current conditions, they would not be able to hold an in-person department final
- Some departments are scheduling an in-person department final but may have to limit the amount of those attending the department contest, making sure to follow current COVID protocols and require masks. Those who had an in-person last year indicated they had a struggle finding a venue. They are not sure how scheduling issues might be for 2022.
- There were several departments that had hybrid in-person / virtual contests last year that they felt were successful and had the resources to be able to do it again in 2022 if needed.
 - Concerns about integrity of the contest was asked of those who conducted either hybrid / virtual department contests in 2021. The answer was that the contestants were placed with a Legion member monitoring the contestant to make sure that the contestants were not getting any prompts. Departments were able to work with local schools and other entities to have video cameras in the room so that contestants were able to present their orations like they would have at an in-person event.
- Department of France had concerns about not only being able to have contestants travel country-to-country on the European continent for their department contest, but also be able to travel from overseas to the national contest in Indianapolis and travel back home.
- Will national be having the national contest in 2022?

- If COVID-19 restrictions ramp up during late fall 2021 or early winter 2022, will the National Organization give the departments authorization to hold something other than an in-person department final and still be able to certify their department oratorical winner to come to the national contest?

Chairman King requested that Bill Megnin, Oratorical Program Manager, review the and resources that department Oratorical chairmen have available on the oratorical resource's web page <https://www.legion.org/oratorical/resources>. Mr. Megnin gave a highlight of each section and how the information and tools could be utilized. Mr. Megnin did a follow-up review of use of the National Speech and Debate (NSDA) Local Contest Request Form to ensure that departments have the ability to obtain additional information on NSDA member schools and district leaders in their area. It was noted that for 2021 this form generated 37 requests seeking additional information from NSDA, and according to those who were online during this conference, they reported having received positive feedback on their response from NSDA.

Chairman King conducted a Post Everlasting Remembrance. Mentioned during the Remembrance were Randy Fisher (KY), Ron Mahowsky (NV), Carl Bartman (MT), Bob Johnson (MA), and Sharon Neville (NC). Closing ceremony was then performed and Chairman King concluded the session by thanking attendees for their attention and participation during the conference. Everyone in attendance looks forward to the opportunity to gather in person at the 53rd annual American Legion Oratorical Chairperson Conference which is scheduled as a program conference segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference in Indianapolis in 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

David King
Chairman
2021 Oratorical Department Chairperson Conference

**REPORT TO THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION
FALL MEETING – October 4-5, 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Jeff Hendricks, Deputy Director, Americanism Division

Report on Department Scouting Chairmen Conference

Last week we held the final segment of the 2021 Combined Americanism Conference via an online portal. With nearly 30 members in attendance, this was the largest assembly of Department Scouting Conference Chairmen that we have had in many years.

This year we heard from Eric Mayer, Texas Department Scouting Chairmen. He spoke to us about how he has revamped their programs and is promoting a Pack in every Post. He indicated how they were able to increase membership at their local post level by engaging Scouting parents who are Legion eligible, bringing in younger veterans in the organization.

We had a spirited discussion on ways to increase Legion participation in various Scouting aspects as well as different thoughts on how to increase participation in the Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship. Participants were reminded that any changes to national programs require a resolution, introduced from the department level. This included changes to existing programs, scholarships, awards, or the development of new ones.

After a short break we heard from Mark Seavey, Lead Council for The American Legion. He spoke about the current litigation surrounding the Bankruptcy of the Boy Scouts of America and how it may or may not impact local posts. This allowed us to have a fact-based discussion surrounding what posts, districts, and departments should keep in mind when they are making their own decisions moving forward.

Lastly, we discussed a new merit badge that Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Headquarters asked for our opinion on. We read through the proposed badge and solicited feedback from departments. The focus of the *Citizenship in Society merit badge* is to provide you with information on diversity, equity, inclusion, and ethical leadership. You'll learn why these qualities are important in society and in Scouting, as well as how you can understand how to always help others and serve as a leader and an upstander. The initial feedback sounds positive, awaiting further results.

Several participants noted that they received a lot of good information and requested that we have these meetings more often throughout the year.