

# 100% AMERICANISM

NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

March 2018



Richard Anderson (CT)

## From the Chairman's Bunker

So many events have taken place in our nation that are aimed at destroying American lives, and that attack the very basic core values of freedom, democracy and respect for human life. I call upon each and every one of us to reflect upon what it means to be an American and to rededicate ourselves and our posts to taking action that will uphold the principle of "a 100 percent Americanism." Americanism, one of the Legion's four pillars, is simply the love of America, loyalty to its ideals and institutions, allegiance to its flag, willingness to defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and a desire to pass on the blessings of liberty to future generations. To safeguard our nation's continuing prosperity, it is vital that we ensure that our youth understand and cherish our ideals and traditions.

During the national meetings in Indianapolis last fall, Resolution No. 1 titled *Reaffirmation For A Strong America* was proudly introduced by the Americanism Commission in response to recent headlines about a divided country. As a result, the organization's National Executive Committee *unanimously* passed the resolution as a statement for reaffirming The American Legion's unwavering support for the American way of life under the U.S. Constitution. It urges Americans and freedom-loving peoples everywhere to stand united in their respect for each other and for military troops and law enforcement officials, and calls for respect of the symbols and customs that serve as tangible images of the freedom and liberties of our nation.

The American Legion remains solid upon its foundation of the four pillars and the guiding principles upon which it was founded, remains bonded together regardless of race or creed or gender and gives wholehearted support to patriotic endeavors that are for the good of our country. Please read, share, and most importantly, embody a "100% Americanism" through support of the ideals found in Resolution No. 1 located on page 8 of this newsletter.



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## Americanism 2018 Planner

### April

Children & Youth Month

### April 14-15

National Oratorical Contest

### June 14

Flag Day

### July 4

Independence Day

### July 15

Child Welfare Foundation  
grant applications due

### July 20-28

American Legion Boys Nation

### July 24-28

National Junior Shooting  
Tournament

### August 8-12

American Legion Baseball  
Regional Tournaments

### August 16-21

American Legion World Series

### September 21-23

Children & Youth and Junior  
Shooting Sports Conferences

### September 17

Constitution Day and  
Citizenship Day

### September 28-30

Combined National Americanism  
Conference

### October 14

Child Welfare Foundation  
2019 Grant Selections

## American Legion Baseball



Registration has opened for the 2018 season of American Legion Baseball! Teams can register at [baseball.legion.org](http://baseball.legion.org).

Players and coaches alike are welcome to [get involved](#) in the upcoming season, which will culminate in Shelby, NC., at the American Legion Baseball World Series. The event has continued to grow with record-breaking attendance each year. As coverage continues to expand on ESPNU, each of the final eight teams has an opportunity to play on national television.

The 2017 American Legion World Series champions, American Legion Post 40 in Henderson, Nev., were [honored guests of Major League Baseball](#) in Houston at events surrounding Game 4 of an incredible seven-game Major League Baseball (MLB) World Series, which featured notable former American Legion players. The Astros, managed by former American Legion Post 170 (Okla.) player A.J. Hinch, earned the first MLB World Series win in franchise history. Justin Verlander of American Legion Post 201 (Va.) and New Mexico's Alex Bregman played starring roles for Houston.

Before Game 4, the Blue Sox participated in a [Play Ball clinic](#) for youth at the Astros Youth Academy with Anthony Rizzo of the Chicago Cubs, gold medalist Jennie Finch, commissioner Rob Manfred, Houston mayor Sylvester Turner and Astros owner Jim Crane.

*Baseball continued on page 4*

## National Oratorical Contest

The Americanism Commission would like to extend an invitation for you to serve as a volunteer at the American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest Finals. This special event showcases our country's best and brightest youth as they present their thoughts on one of our country's most important documents in our nation's history, the Constitution of the United States of America!

The contest will take place at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. Contests quarter-finals and semi-finals will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018, with the finals to be held on Sunday, April 15, 2018.

The support of many volunteers are needed to conduct this wonderful event, which provides \$138,000 in college scholarships to contest quarter-, semi- and national finalists.

These positions are non call-in positions and all expenses related to participation would be those of the volunteer. Visit <http://www.legion.org/oratorical/volunteer> for more information.

## American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year

Since 1973 The American Legion has annually recognized the achievements of youth involved in Scouting by conducting an Eagle Scout of the Year competition. The winner of the competition receives a \$10,000 scholarship, and the three runners-up are each awarded \$2,500 scholarships.

As a reminder, department nomination forms are due at National Headquarters no later than **April 1** and can be downloaded at <https://www.legion.org/publications/223495/eagle-scout-year-nomination-form>. Thank you for your continued support of the Scouting movement and The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year scholarship program. For additional information please visit <https://www.legion.org/scouting/about>.



# SAVE THE DATES

## for

### 2018 national Americanism Conferences

<p><b>Children &amp; Youth Conference</b> September 21-23, 2018</p>	<p><b>Junior Shooting Sports Conference</b> September 21-23, 2018</p>
<p><b>Combined Americanism Conference</b> September 28-30, 2018 Sessions include Boys and Girls State, Baseball, Department Chaplains and Oratorical.</p>	<p><b>Scouting Chairmen’s Conference</b> October 26-28, 2018</p>

### **Baseball** *continued from page 2*

Later that day, in front of a crowd of 43,322 the 2017 American Legion World Series championship team was [honored on the field](#). “For decades, American Legion Baseball has taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship,” the public address announcer stated to a nice ovation. “From Henderson, Nevada, here is the Post 40 American Legion team that won the 91st American Legion World Series this year. Congratulations to these guys, the 2017 American Legion World Series champions!”

The 2018 Legion Baseball season features [new rules](#), which demonstrate American Legion Baseball’s commitment to player safety and improving the quality of play. Included in the rule changes are adjustment to the pitch count rule and the adjustment to seven-inning games in postseason play.

There will now be 77 former American Legion Baseball players in the Hall of Fame after [the induction of five new players](#) in the 2018 class.

Heading to Cooperstown will be Jack Morris (St. Paul, Minn., Christie de Parcq), Alan Trammell (San Diego, Calif.), Trevor Hoffman (Anaheim, Calif.), Chipper Jones (Deland, Fla., Post 6) and Jim Thome (Bartonville Limestone, Ill., Post 979).

**To stay updated on Legion Baseball, including how to join, follow the official [website](#) , [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [newsletter](#)**

# Americanism Commission Department Awards

## O'Connor Americanism Trophy

The Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy is awarded annually to that department that has conducted the best all-around Americanism activities. The Americanism Commission will determine the three departments achieving the greatest number of percentage points based upon activities reported on the current Consolidated Post Reports. The winner will be selected from the top three departments based on the best narrative statement that shall be no less the 200 words and not more than 500 words. Submissions must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. (EDT) on July 15 annually and may be either mailed, emailed or faxed to:

The American Legion  
Attn: Americanism Division  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
[americanism@legion.org](mailto:americanism@legion.org)

## Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy

The Americanism Commission continues to award the Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., Trophy to the most deserving department with an active scouting program. Therefore, it is necessary that departments continue to provide substantiating information as outlined by the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonies Manual, which states:

*“The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., Trophy is to be awarded annually to the department that has rendered the most outstanding service during the period July 31-August 1 to the program of the Boy Scouts of America. The award, to be based on the number of troops organized, strength of existing troops and general welfare of the Scout movement under Legion sponsorship within the department based on written reports with substantiating evidence submitted to National Headquarters 15 days prior to the National Convention.”*

Departments who want to be considered for the award are required to submit a report with a narrative description of their department's efforts and accomplishments for the period July 31, 2017 through August 1, 2018. The design and length of the narrative is your decision, but we want the selection committee to have something other than statistical information to consider when they determine the winner. The selection committee has placed a very strong emphasis upon the narrative report in determining the winner.

Reports and narratives must be received no later 4:30 p.m. (EDT) on August 10, 2018, and may be either mailed, emailed or faxed to:

The American Legion  
Attn: Americanism Division—Scouting  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
Fax 317-630-1369  
[scouting@legion.org](mailto:scouting@legion.org)

# Troop & Family Support Programs

## Family Support Network

America's military continues to deploy troops in support of operations combating world-wide terrorism networks. The national Americanism Commission's Family Support Network program works diligently to ensure that military families of deployed servicemembers are aware that support and assistance is available to them through The American Legion. American Legion posts extend their support at deployment ceremonies and welcome home festivities across the nation, but the key, of course, is that Legion posts also stay in touch with military families during their servicemember's deployment. By posts maintaining contact and providing support to the families, deployed servicemembers feel secure in the knowledge that their families have support.

This was especially evident last year as National Guardsmen and Reserve servicemembers were deployed for disaster relief operations across Gulf Coast states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands when multiple hurricanes devastated a great many local communities with widespread destruction and flooding. Relief operations in the Caribbean are still ongoing. Multiple wildfires in drought stricken California resulted in the mobilization over 1,900 National Guard servicemembers. And through it all, The American Legion was there. Californian Legionnaires in Santa Rosa, Chico and Oakmont went to firefighter staging areas with water bottles, hot meals and blankets to provide those brave servicemen and firefighters a small bit of comfort. National Commander Denise Rohan proudly delivered an Operation Comfort Warriors grant to veterans at VA medical facilities in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands whose homes and families were affected by the devastating hurricanes.

## Operation Comfort Warriors

2017 concluded with a great year of support from the Legion family for the Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) grant program. Dedicated support was instrumental as it allowed OCW to expand its assistance to 17 different Veterans Affairs hospitals across 16 states and the District of Columbia, and assisted 9,100 veterans and family members. OCW also reached out to provide 13 separate individual grants that supported specific veteran needs across the nation. Those individual needs ranged from specialized computer software for a veteran in Minnesota recovering from a traumatic brain injury to a specialized custom bicycle for an Iraq War veteran recovering from several IED strikes that had compressed his spine. OCW also provided a week-long vacation at a horse farm in Virginia for five severely-wounded servicemembers and their families.

These mini-vacations gave those military families opportunity to leave the confines of Walter Reed to enjoy a respite from the medical facility and allow the family time together.

OCW asks that Legionnaires have a dual-edged sharpened focus on developing the OCW brand among younger Post 9/11 veterans so they know what The American Legion can do to aid our injured comrades, and educating communities and fellow Legion Family members about the OCW grant program. The OCW program is dependent upon charitable donations and all of OCW's administrative and marketing costs are paid from Legion membership dues, meaning that 100 percent of donated funds go directly to purchasing comfort items for the troops. OCW applications to request assistance for a veteran is available at [www.legion.org/ocw](http://www.legion.org/ocw).





The Samsung American Legion Scholarship now provides applicants an opportunity to receive an extra point on their application when providing proof that they or their parent(s) are a member of the Legion Family: American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion. Those applicants providing documentation of membership will receive one bonus point.—multiple household members does not provide extra points.

Last year alone, there were more than 5,300 applicants to the Samsung American Legion scholarship, all of whom are eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.

In another change this year, essay questions for the Samsung American Legion scholarship application were modified. This change will challenge applicants to be creative and to personalize their essays in a new way. With these new essay options available to applicants, thousands of young people across the country in American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls state programs will share their perspective about what The American Legion means or The American Legion's future priorities. Those essay questions are:

**Essay 1.** Describe any circumstances that may affect your family's ability to provide for your college education. How will this affect your long-range goals?

**Essay 2.** Choose and answer one of the following questions:

- Which of the 10 Clauses of The American Legion Preamble (11 clauses for ALA) is the most meaningful to you and why?
- After the Korean War, The American Legion worked with Congress to successfully pass the Korean War GI Bill of Rights. What issues should The American Legion prioritize as a way to help future veterans?

## ***April Is Children & Youth Month***

As Americans, we encounter tribulations on a daily basis that may be related to the environment, crime, unemployment or financial uncertainty. But in the midst of these tribulations, we need to remember our youth. Our future, hopes and dreams rest in their hands.

One of the many ways The American Legion supports youth is through its "April is Children & Youth Month" program. We encourage you to use and support the program's theme, "Children ... Our Most Precious Natural Resource," in the promotion of all your children and youth activities.

### **WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?**

To start, consider:

- Obtaining a speaker on one of our areas of concern or other pertinent topics.
- Conducting a community project with and for children.
- Forming a Community Committee on Children & Youth to discuss current problems, generate solutions and then take action.
- Sponsoring a carnival or show featuring young people to raise money for a community project.
- Using videos, if applicable, enlisting the aid of an individual familiar with the subject matter to both present it and be available to answer questions following the viewing.

Use these suggestions, or develop your own projects, **but get involved!**



**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
OCTOBER 11 - 12, 2017**

**Resolution No. 1: Reaffirmation for a Strong America  
Origin: Americanism Commission  
Submitted By: Americanism Commission**

WHEREAS, There are forces at work within our country which threaten to fray the social fabric of our great nation and our American ideals; and

WHEREAS, That we of The American Legion associate ourselves together to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism, and by this statement deplore any actions by groups, individuals, and organizations who oppose the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, Events have taken place in our nation aimed at destroying American lives, and which attack the very basic core values of freedom, democracy and respect for human life; and

WHEREAS, We disavow those dissenters in our society who use rioting, injury to others, destruction of property, disregard of the law, and blatant disrespect to America's revered symbols of freedom and liberty as a means for expressing their views; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion remains solid upon its foundation of the four pillars and guiding principles upon which it was founded; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion remains bonded together regardless of race or creed or gender and gives wholehearted support to patriotic endeavors that are for the good of our country; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 11-12, 2017, That The American Legion reaffirms its unwavering support for the American way of life under the Constitution of the United States of America; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion pledges support to the leaders of our government, armed forces and law enforcement agencies who have the duty and responsibility of providing an orderly process to our way of life; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges all Americans and freedom-loving peoples everywhere to stand united in their respect for officials at all levels of government; for military troops and law enforcement officers who place themselves in harm's way to protect our nation's citizenry, values and way of life; for those symbols and customs serving as tangible images of the freedom and liberties of these great United States of America; and for each other as fellow Americans; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That The American Legion use whatever means at its disposal to engage whatever means possible to promote a united nation and a united American people.**



## Contact Us

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