

Americanism – Spread The Word!

Submitted by Americanism Vice Chairman Jim Borgman

Americanism is one of the four pillars the American Legion was founded on. We all need to do a better job to get Americanism programs addressed in each Squadron's meetings. The info everyone receives in the Detachment meetings, mailings, via email, and other means is a great start, but how much of this info is discussed, or even mentioned during a Squadron meeting? How many Squadron members, those that need this information the most, know about our programs?

District Commanders/Adjutants

These are questions that have been bothering me for quite some time and I'm not saying I have the answer, but I do have some suggestions. At the Detachment level, we have the Americanism Commission composed in part of representatives from various Districts. I'm sure that this is not necessarily in place at any other levels, but my next question is addressed to District Commanders and Adjutants; do you have a line item for an Americanism report in your meeting agenda? Do you know who your District's Americanism Commission member is and have you asked him to attend your meeting and be prepared to give a report?

Squadron Commanders/Adjutants

Squadron Commanders, are you sending a representative to your District Meetings? When those representatives attend your next Squadron meeting, is the info they received then passed along to your Squadron members? If your Post has a board for posting notifications of events and happenings, have you posted information you have received regarding Americanism from your Detachment mailings, emails, or means? Does your Post have a newsletter? That would be a great place to get the word out, ask your Detachment Americanism Commission Representative to share some notes. Have you considered asking your Americanism Representative to make a Squadron visit to share some Americanism info directly with your Squadron members?

Detachment Americanism Commission members

If you aren't asked to attend your respective District meetings, contact those Commanders and ask them to allow you to address Americanism matters; **you are their District's Americanism Commission Representative**. When you attend any meeting, never go empty handed, bring printed information with you. Bring printed brochures from HQ, or at a minimum, make copies of articles and bring them with you to meetings to hand out; put them in each attendee's hand, or at minimum, place a supply on a literature table. Don't have access to a copier? Go to the SAL website, enter Office Depot in the search box, print the Office Depot/Office Max discount card, then make copies at a nearby Office Max or Office Depot; the copies will most likely cost a couple bucks maximum. I have seen some Division, District, and Post newsletters and anyone who produces a newsletter can tell you they're always looking for news worthy items, ask them if you might be allowed to make a submission. Don't stop there, ask if you would be allowed to make an entry in the Legion's District or Department's newsletter or posting on websites.

Everyone's Job

We are all leaders, please show and share your leadership; spread the word of this pillar of the American Legion. What Americanism covers is extremely broad, so should all of our efforts to get the word out!