



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
2017-2018 Americanism Program Action Plan

Diane Weggen, Department Chairman
16266 361st Street, Stanley, WI 54768
dsweggen@gmail.com ♦ 715-644-2668

Americanism and the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Plan – Promoting patriotism and responsible citizenship—help fulfill Goal 5’s brand promise by giving U.S. citizens a chance to participate in the American Legion Auxiliary mission by feeling patriotic and demonstrating support in an active, visible way.

What is this program, and why does the Auxiliary have it?

The Americanism Program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship.

What can units and members do?

1. Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette and proper disposal methods and promote the observance of patriotic holidays so communities will look to the ALA for information.

Ideas:

- Publish flag etiquette tips in the newspaper and on social media.
- Communicate information regarding flag etiquette to members.
- Educate others on how to respect the flag.
- Model respect for the American flag at public events, such as parades and sporting events.
- Compile a list of patriotic holidays and events and share with members and the community.
- Walk/participate in parades as an American Legion Auxiliary unit.
- Volunteer for a local patriotic event.
- Sign up to receive notifications on when to display the flag at half-staff at www.legion.org.
- Assemble pocket flags to be distributed to deployed troops.
- Conduct or assist a flag disposal ceremony.
- Host flag awareness events and communicate information:
 - In schools
 - At the post home
 - At public functions
- Participate in local patriotic holiday events.
- Organize a patriotic holiday event.
- Encourage local businesses to fly a flag, especially on patriotic holidays.
- Encourage members to fly a flag.

2. Encourage members to vote and to support the amendment to protect the United States flag from desecration. The amendment currently reads, “The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.”

Ideas:

- Vote and encourage others to vote.
- Take children/grandchildren when voting – many places have kid-related voting.
- Attend the annual ALA Washington DC Conference (see www.ALAforVeterans.org for details).
- Encourage members to contact state and federal representatives, asking them to support the flag amendment.
- Encourage members to participate in Get Out the Vote and Kids Voting USA campaigns.
- Guidelines: www.legion.org/vote and www.kidsvotingusa.org

3. Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is: **"What can I personally do to promote Americanism in my school or community?"**

Student Award: Americanism Essay Contest

Type of award: Cash awards presented to six (6) students - one from each class.

Materials and Guidelines: The contest shall include six classes.

| Class | Grade Level | Word Requirement |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--|
| I | 3 and 4 | 150-250 |
| II | 5 and 6 | 250-300 |
| III | 7 and 8 | 350-400 |
| IV | 9 and 10 | 450-500 |
| V | 11 and 12 | 450-500 |
| VI | Students with special needs | Word count should correspond with student's grade level. |

4. **Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.**

Ideas:

- Work with the Post, County and/or District Americanism Chairman.
- Support The American Legion Baseball program.
 - Help with statistics.
 - Work the concession booth.
 - Donate to a team.
 - Contact local sports shops and ask if they would be willing to make donations toward a fundraiser
 - or offer a discounted price to purchase needed items.
- Support the Oratorical Contest.
 - Help prepare Post home to sponsor Post, County or District contest.
 - Offer to be a judge or timekeeper.
 - Offer to help out with refreshments.
 - Provide transportation for candidates.
 - Help recruit candidates at local schools and other organizations.
 - Contact history/speech teachers or debate coaches for possible speakers and/or assistance.
- Support the Junior Shooting Sports, which promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth.
 - Volunteer to help out with scoring, supervising or transportation.
 - Help recruit candidates at local schools and other organizations.
 - Contact JROTC at local schools.

Americanism Reporting

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect unit program work for the first half of the ALA year. Each Unit is asked to submit a narrative report to Department Americanism Chairman Weggen by **December 4, 2017**.

Annual Reports

Annual reports reflect the unit and members' Americanism work for the year. Photos of Americanism projects are encouraged to accompany the unit's annual narrative report due by **April 15, 2018**, to the Department Americanism Chairman.

As part of the Americanism narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

How did members/Unit

- Promote the Americanism essays contest?
- Encourage support of the flag amendment?
- Promote the flag program?
- Promote patriotic holidays?
- Support The American Legion Americanism programs?
- Promote Americanism in the community?

AMERICANISM AWARDS

NOTE: Please be sure each award entry includes a Cover Sheet and make arrangements for the return of materials in advance, if desired.

Award: Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Americanism Program

Type of award: Citation (National, a Plaque)

Presented to: One Unit Americanism Chairman who reports the most outstanding Americanism program targeted to children and youth

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the Award Cover Sheet located in this program plan.
- The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- The entry may include no more than five pictures and five news articles.
- **Deadline: April 15, 2018**
- Send/email to Department Americanism Chairman, Diane Weggen, 16266 361st St., Stanley, WI 54768 or dsweggen@gmail.com

Award: Most Outstanding Overall Americanism Program

Type of award: Citation (National, a Plaque)

Presented to: One Unit Americanism Chairman

Materials and Guidelines:

- Entries must include the Award Cover Sheet located in this program plan.
- The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.
- **Deadline: May 1, 2018**
- Send to Department Americanism Chairman, Diane Weggen, 16266 361st St., Stanley, WI 54768 or dsweggen@gmail.com

Additional Resources

National Americanism Contact Information:

Martha Corriher, National Chairman
Department of North Carolina
ncusa1993@hotmail.com ♦ 704-857-8825

Joan Chwala, National Central Division Chrm
Department of Wisconsin
ctr68552@centurytel.net ♦ 715-668-5661

National Americanism Committee Contact Information

Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org

1. Emblem Sales: www.emblem.legion.org - flag education DVD: explains the history, significance, meaning, proper display and treatment of the U.S. flag. *Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette* – a “question and answer” booklet on proper flag etiquette.
2. The American Legion Flag Advocacy: www.legion.org/flag
3. The American Legion's *Action Programs of Americanism* brochure: www.legion.org/publications
4. Capitol Building flags: To order flags flown over the Capitol, contact your congressional representative or senator or visit his/her website. Flags are available for a nominal fee; four to six weeks should be allowed for delivery.
5. The National ALA Americanism Program Plan (alaforveterans.org)
6. The Pocket Flag Project. www.pocketflagproject.com. *At time of publication of the Programs Action Plan the pocket flags are \$90.00 per 300 flags (includes shipping).*

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Essay Title: " What can I personally do to promote Americanism in my school or community?"

Department: 1st place winning entry in each class will receive \$50 from Department and will be forwarded to Central Division for further competition. 2nd place winning entry in each class will receive \$25 from Department and 3rd thru 5th place winning entries in each class will receive \$10.

National: One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund. National winners will be posted at www.ALAforVeterans.org at the start of September.

Materials and Guidelines: The contest shall include six classes.

| Class | Grade Level | Word Requirement |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|
| I | 3 and 4 | 150-250 |
| II | 5 and 6 | 250-300 |
| III | 7 and 8 | 350-400 |
| IV | 9 and 10 | 450-500 |
| V | 11 and 12 | 450-500 |
| VI | Students with special needs | Word count should correspond with student's grade level. |

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

School name: _____

School city/state: _____

Teacher's name: _____

Teacher's signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on April 2, 2018

Department: _____ **Signature of Department Chairman:** _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2018

Send to Diane Weggen, 16266 361st St., Stanley, WI 54768 or email dsweggen@gmail.com



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
2017-2018 Americanism Award Cover Sheet**

Send completed form to:

Diane Weggen, Department Chairman
16266 36st Street, Stanley, WI 54768
Email: dsweggen@gmail.com ♦ Ph: 715-644-2668

This cover sheet should be attached to each narrative submitted for a national award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please write carefully. All awards will be mailed to the Department office after national convention.

National committee sponsoring award: **AMERICANISM**

Type of Award: District Unit

Name of the award you are applying for: _____

Complete the following if you are applying for a District award:

District # _____ Name of Department: _____

Name of District chairman: _____

Chairman's phone number: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Chairman's email address: _____

Please complete the following if you are applying for a Unit award. Be sure to give the complete name of your unit. The award certificate will be prepared using the information you include below.

Unit # _____ Full official unit name: _____

Unit president/chairman (circle one) name: _____

Phone number: _____ ALA member ID#: _____

Email address: _____