

This report aims to provide a comprehensive summary of the meetings attended on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 8:30 AM, at the National Convention for the 2023 Americanism commission meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. The meeting took place at the Charlotte Convention Center in Room 219, Section A-C, on the Meeting Level.

The 2023 Americanism Commission Meeting proved to be a momentous gathering of influential individuals committed to preserving and promoting American values. Attendees from various backgrounds and positions within the Americanism commission were present to discuss crucial matters concerning the commission's initiatives and future directions. The meeting proved to be an important platform for sharing ideas, addressing challenges, and harnessing collective expertise to advance the cause of Americanism.

Notable individuals at the meeting included Mark A. Avis (MA) who is the Chairman of the Americanism Commission as well as Director Ronald E. Neff (IN), Program Director Jeff Bennett (IN), Chairman Michael Westergren (AR) of the Committee on Youth Education, National Vice Commander of the Civil Air Patrol Brigadier General Regena Aye, and Barbara Haramis the Executive Director of the Childhood Leukemia Foundation.

These named individuals represent a small sample of the attendees at the 2023 Americanism Commission Meeting as we delved further into the Youth Shooting Sports Champions and the Eagle Scout of the Year Jackson D. Adams from Walla Walla, Washington. Two marksmen were recognized as national champions in their respective disciplines:

1. Jacob Wisman from West Virginia won the national title in the precision discipline.
2. Charles Bratton from South Carolina became the champion in the sporter discipline.

As a recognition of their exceptional skills and achievements, each champion received a scholarship totaling \$5,000 whereas Jackson received a \$10,000 scholarship for his actions. These scholarships were sponsored by both the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion.

Brigadier General Regina Aye from the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program addressed the attendees as The American Legion National 2023 Education Award Recipient. Following her speech, Barbara Haramis, the Executive Director of the Childhood Leukemia Foundation, took the stage. She is the recipient of the 2022 American Legion Child Welfare Grant. Barbara provided the attendees with an update on the progress and impact of the grant, offering valuable insights into the work being done to support children suffering from leukemia. These presentations by Brigadier General Regina Eighth and Barbara Hermiston showcased the dedication and commitment of individuals and organizations in their respective fields, and their contributions highlighted the importance of education and child welfare. Following them was Program Manager Jeff Bennett who provided us with an update to the next days' Patriotic Memorial

Service which included the US Army 82nd Airborne Chorus as well as National Chaplain Daniel “Mark” Antal of North Dakota.

Mark Avis took the floor again stating our year in review such as our move to continue to show our support for Boy Scouts. He went into detail about how the Americanism program encompasses a broad plan that promotes community service, sound citizenship, and youth development, fostering an understanding of democratic principles and citizenship responsibilities, actively improving communities, encouraging religious engagement, and supporting education through awards, scholarships, oratorical contests, and flag etiquette and more.

After the meeting was another meeting to discuss the Daniel J. O’Connor Americanism Trophy and the Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy by a selection committee. The Department of Missouri was determined to be the winner of the Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy and the Department of Virginia would win the Daniel J. O’Connor Americanism Trophy. All awardees were to be presented their award Monday at convention.

The next morning was short as there were only three resolutions to vote on: Resolutions 5, 21 and 22. Resolution 5 resolved the dates and sites of the National Baseball Tournament be moved and for the 2024-2025 season along with a range of prize money from \$20K to \$50K. Resolution 21 sought for our continued support of the Boy Scouts with a few extra caveats to remove incidents within the organization. Resolution 22 sought our continued support of youth physical fitness and wellness, encouraging officers and members to promote and support these initiatives in schools and communities. It also prioritizes the implementation of youth physical fitness programs nationwide and encourages collaboration with government entities and community organizations for program growth.

Kevin Stonestreet (CA)
Americanism Council Member