Ohio Unit Plan of Action

AMERICANISM

CITATION OF MERIT

Department of OHIO

REQUIREMENT

CHAIRMAN
Kimm Bunch
10600 Fairlawn Dr
Parma, OH. 44130
(216) 401-8842
Email – kimmieb219@sbcglobal.net

VICE CHAIRMAN
Deb Meyer
90 N Lincoln St
Munster, OH. 45865
(937) 441-6497
Email –debmeyer69@gmail.com

REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT CHAIRMAN BY: May 1, 2027

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN SEND REPORT TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY MAY 15, 2027

Your District Americanism Chairman is listed below.

District Americanism Chairmen

Dist	Uno	First Name	Last Name	Address	City	SH	Zip	Phone	*Email*
01	468	Jane Anne	Brenneman	5702 Angola Rd Lot 317	Toledo	OH	43615	(419) 345-9091	jtapper470@gmail.com
02	387	Deborah	Meyer	90 N Lincoln St	Minster	OH	45865	(937) 441-6497	debmeyer69@gmail.com
03	707	Natalie	Hollinger	308 Grantham Dr.	Englewood	OH	45322	(937) 371-7011	Nholling05@yahoo.com
04	615	Susan	Sewell	6967 Hidden Ridge Rd.	Westchester	OH	45069	(513) 518-1233	Sewell1954@yahoo.com
05	181	Beth	Bloomfield	114 W. Liberty	Bucyrus	OH	44820	(419) 569-4665	Rbnabloom03@a0l.com
06	107	Penny	Scott	166 Coors Blvd.	Pataskala	OH	43062	(785) 375-1624	pennyscott@yahoo.com
07	062	Peggy	Park	PO Box 32	Chillicothe	OH	45601	(740) 775-5751	peggyprk@yahoo.com
08	376	Betty	Harris	103 Summit St	Somerset	OH	43783	(740) 408-0629	bettyharr2141@yahoo.com
09	103	Carolyn	Rice	4611 New London Rd.	Ashtabula	OH	44004	(814) 512-6371	newwheels76@gmail.com
10	499	Linda	Porter	1080 Country Club Dr Un	Wooster	OH	44691	(330) 641-8570	llscrp@sssnet.com
11	768	Jamey	Taylor	55055 Belmont Ridge Rd.	Beallsville	OH	43716	(740) 213-9999	Taylorjamey17@gmail.com
12	239	Paula	Lombardo	1400 Pegwood Dr	Columbus	OH	43229	(614) 827-5362	pgaile1354@gmail.com
13	627	Kimm	Bunch	10600 Fairlawn Dr	Parma	OH	44130	(216) 401-8842	kimmieb219@sbcglobal.net
14	464	Lori	Shields	54 Barlow Rd.	Hudson	OH	44236	(330) 352-7570	Wtshields107@gmail.com

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Department Report Form

This Form should be attached to each narrative submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information completely and accurately. A Unit must submit this report form with boxes completed and answer the questions below to earn the Citation of Merit. Narrative word count must follow directions given in award guidelines. Simple or elaborate stories will be accepted as a report.

Please complete the following with the complete name of your Unit: _____

District: _____	Unit #: _____	Unit Membership Goal: _____	Unit Membership Total as of Report: _____
Name of Person Completing Report:		Unit Chair	Unit President
Phone #		Email:	Membership ID (if available)
Specific Award Name (if applicable)			

Narrative Deadline: May 1, 2027

Answer the following Questions in your narrative.

Narrative must be typed in narrative form.

- How did your unit promote Star Spangled Kids, educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism?

  _____

  _____

- What training on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods did your unit provide in communities?

  _____

  _____

- How did your unit promote patriotism and Americanism in communities?

  _____

  _____

- What avenues were used to increase participation in the ALA Americanism Essay Contest?

  _____

  _____

Narrative may include photographs and news articles.

4. Our Service Representing the ALA in Our Communities

	For any service not included in Sections 1-3	Obtain Total From	Total
Line 19	Total number of hours	*Unit Form Line 19*	
Line 20	Total dollars spent	*Unit Form Line 20*	$

AMERICANISM

Get Involved

Purpose: The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. *Standing Rules #6, Core National Standing Committees*

Be knowledgeable of flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the ALA for information.

- Work with The American Legion to increase respect for the flag in your community, including the proper way the American flag should be flown.
- Teach flag awareness in your local schools, giving flags to the schools. Teach youth about folding the flag. Have a veteran explain the folds. Involve students in flag retirement ceremonies, learning the proper way to dispose of the flag. To receive notifications on when to display flags at half-staff, visit www.flags.com/half-staff-alert
- At schools and organizations, teach proper handling, displaying, and respect for the American flag, as well as our National Anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Work with schools and organizations to promote Star Spangled Kids. For more information and resources, visit https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/How-to-Promote-Star-Spangled-Kids.
- Organize a patriotic holiday event or volunteer for local patriotic events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective members.
- Contact and ask state and federal government representatives to support the flag amendment. To find your representatives, visit https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials.
- Recruit others to support the flag amendment by explaining what it is and why it is important. Sign up for The American Legion's legislative action alerts and follow the flag issues.
- Encourage members to participate in and utilize Wreaths Across America patriotic curriculum. For more information, visit https://learn.wreathsacrossamerica.org/teach.
- Participate in the Pocket Flag project by providing flags to deployed troops. For more information, visit www.pocketflagproject.com.
- Publish flag etiquette tips in the local newspaper and on social media.
- Model respect for the flag at public events.

Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.

The Americanism Essay Contest topic for 2026-2027:

"How can YOU be a Beacon of Light for Our Veterans?"

- Encourage Junior members and family members to participate in the essay contest.
- Work with school administrations to identify guidance counselors, and English and history teachers whose students would be interested in participating. Network with home-schooled students to participate in the essay contest.
- Contact youth organizations to identify potential youth for participation in the contest.
- Provide all interested students with information packets explaining contest rules, deadlines, topics, and award opportunities.
- For details on the Americanism Essay Contest, visit https://www.legion-aux.org/americanism-essay-contest.

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Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.
Support American Legion Baseball:

- Support, sponsor, or donate to an American Legion Baseball team.
- Assist with the logistics of transportation, concession, and statistics for the teams.
- Contact local sports shops and ask if they would be willing to make donations toward a fundraiser or offer a discounted price to purchase items needed.
- Attend events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective Legion Family members.
- For more information and resources, visit www.legion.org/baseball.

Support the Oratorical Contest:

- Help prepare your post home to sponsor a local or district contest.
- Volunteer to assist as a judge or timekeeper.
- Offer to help with refreshments.
- Provide transportation for candidates.
- Help recruit candidates at local schools and community organizations.
- Attend events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective Legion Family members.
- For more information and resources, visit www.legion.org/oratorical.

Support Junior Shooting Sports, which promotes gun safety and marksmanship training for youth:

- Volunteer to help with scoring, supervision, or transportation.
- Assist in fundraising for events.
- Help recruit candidates at local schools and other organizations.
    - Contact JROTC.
    - Contact Civil Air Patrol Cadets.
- Attend events in Auxiliary attire and network with prospective Legion Family members.
- For more information and resources, visit www.legion.org/shooting.

Promote The All-American School Award

- Reach out to local Elementary, Middle and High Schools.
- Speak with Principles, History Teachers to find out what is being done to promote patriotism/Americanism in the schools.
- By promoting flag etiquette or the essay contest you are promoting this as well.

AMERICANISM RESOURCES

- Americanism National Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/818779828161560
- ALA National website: https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/americanism

Year-End Report

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. **Each Unit Americanism chairman is required to submit a narrative report by May 1, 2027, to the District Americanism Chairman.** (addresses on front of POA)

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program Award – one per division. The Patricia Logan Plaque winner will be sent to National to compete for this National Award. National will also accept entries from unit chairs.

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE continued

Americanism Essay Contest – one per class per division. Essay contest is for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. The 2027 Cover Sheet and guidelines will be in the October bulk mailing. Send entries to Deb Meyer (address on front of POA) by **April 1, 2027.** They will also be available on the National website. Essays due from state department chairs by April 15.

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

- NOTE: The Annual Report Forms must be sent to your **District** Americanism Chairmen. Reports are due by **May 1, 2027**. You are highly encouraged to **send photos** of your Unit conducting Americanism events and promoting the program. We hope to highlight your Units and its members during the Department Convention. Please send along with your narratives, photos and clippings showing your Americanism.
- The **District Chairmen** Annual Reports are due to Department Americanism Chairman Kimm Bunch and are due by **May 1, 2027**.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Group 1	10-50 members	Group 2	51-100 members
Group 3	101-200 members	Group 4	201-400 members
Group 5	401-600 members	Group 6	601 & up

Patricia Logan Plaque – "Best All-Around Americanism Program" presented to the Unit with the most outstanding Americanism Program based on the annual report/narrative. The winner will be selected from the First Place Winners in each membership categories submitted by the District Chairman to the Department Chairman. The guidelines will be the same as those for the **Dorothy Pearl Award**.
Due to District Chairman by May 1, 2027.

Mary Walker Plaque – This plaque is given to the Unit that contributes the most money **per capita** to the Americanism and Government Test Trip Fund. Contributions must be sent to Department Headquarters by **June l, 2027,** and earmarked "Americanism and Government Test Trip Fund".

Norma Frazier Plaque – Given to schools displaying the most outstanding Americanism program throughout the year. One plaque each is presented to a High School, Middle School, and Elementary School. Send to Department Americanism Vice Chairman Deb Meyer and is due by **May 1, 2027**.

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! Your story may inspire another member into service. It also helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Please send pictures of you promoting the Americanism program and wearing your Auxiliary attire by email or text to Kimm Bunch. If you are going to have a community event, we would love to attend! Please email or text Kimm Bunch and/or Deb Meyer the information or an invite.

It is important to build a sense of Americanism in children and it is important to start early. Get into those schools and youth organizations. Promote Patriotism. These children Are Our Future.