

AMERICANISM NEWS

Eva Wallace, Department Chairman

September 17, 2026

First of all, I would like to thank everyone at convention, your prayers, cards and all were so much appreciated. Jessie, I loved the centerpiece and the Veteran cards you made; Jane brought everything over after I got out of the hospital, and a special thank you to Jane, Barb and Catherine for stepping in and taking care of things that needed to get done. Prizes, etc. will be brought to Mid-Winter, you are not forgotten.

Now on to the exciting news, 3 of our students won the National Essay Competition for Western Division, all were sponsored by Ephrata Unit #28, Jane Montaney, Chairman. Our Division award winners are Class I, Grayson Wachter, Class II, Paisley Tommer, and Class VI, Andrew Entrup. New Mexico sponsored the other 3 award winners. We also received the Best Department Americanism award and New Mexico was awarded the Dorothy Pearl Outstanding Unit Award.

This year the Essay Title for the Americanism Essay Contest is **“How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?”** I am attaching a copy of the new 2026 Essay Contest Rules and cover sheet. Now is the time to reach out to your schools, home school programs, scouting troops, Boys and Girls clubs, and other youth organizations. Can't wait to see what they write. As in the past, the essays are due to me by April 1, 2027.

Time to start planning your Americanism events. In addition to the Essay Contest, we have special holidays coming up, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Constitution Day, 4th of July. Other activities to think about and plan for, veterans in the classroom, supporting Girls State and Boys State sponsorships, working with our Constitutional Speech Contest, community events, flag ceremonies, parades, POW/MIA ceremonies, teaching about our flag and its meaning, flag disposal services, Star Spangled Kids, voter education. There are countless ways we can reach out to our communities.

A lot of this information and how-to's are on the National American Legion Auxiliary website, use it, it's there for you. I will also be distributing information and resources each month through the Evergreen News.

Attached: Americanism Essay Contest 2026-2027