

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER, DENISE H. ROHAN

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Application

For Use by the Post making the nomination

Introduction - As a former certified military instructor and retired staff member of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Past National Commander Denise H. Rohan deeply understands the dedication, workload, and lasting impact of educators. She holds profound gratitude for those who go beyond the classroom to advance the principles of The American Legion and inspire the next generation through civic education and community engagement.

Across our communities, we rely on principals, guidance counselors, and teachers to foster participation in American Legion programs such as Badger Boys State, County Youth Government Day, the Oratorical Scholarship Contest, Americanism and Government Testing, the Law Enforcement Career Academy, Flag Education initiatives, and other Post-sponsored patriotic activities. Their leadership plays a vital role in instilling civic pride, patriotism, and leadership among our youth.

The Past National Commander Denise H. Rohan Educator of the Year Award was established through a generous donation by PNC Rohan, which is held in permanent trust by the Wisconsin American Legion Foundation. Only the interest earned annually from this trust is used to fund the award. This interest supports the recognition of educators who exemplify service, dedication, and leadership, helping to build stronger communities and a better future for all.

Award Purpose - This award recognizes an outstanding educator¹ who has made significant contributions to promoting The American Legion's Americanism and Youth Programs and who has fostered civic engagement, patriotism, and leadership development among students.

Eligibility and Nomination Requirements

- The Post's nominated educator should be someone who has worked directly with the American Legion Family to help students understand what it means to be an American. The nominee must actively support the Post's programs, such as Flag Education, Scouting, Badger Boys or Girls State, Oratorical Contests, and similar initiatives. Please describe specifically how they assist the Post.
- The candidate must currently be employed in grades K–12 at a public, private, parochial, charter school, or academy recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Education.
- The candidate must be an educator—such as a classroom teacher, instructor, or administrator—who has meaningfully advanced The American Legion's programs among students and staff.
- The candidate must be endorsed through a Letter of Recommendation from their school's Superintendent or Principal, attached to the nomination form.
- The Post-endorsed nominee shall be forwarded to the County Americanism Chair for further consideration. (Posts in Districts 4 and 5 will forward nominations directly to the district.) It is suggested that all County applications be **submitted to the District by May 1st**.
- The Department Americanism Committee will review all District-winning nominees and select the overall Department winner of this prestigious award.
- The selected Educator of the Year will be invited to the Department Convention, where they will be recognized with an appropriate award and an honorarium.

¹ In Wisconsin, an educator is defined as a professional working in a K-12 educational setting who holds a valid license issued by DPI. This encompasses classroom teachers, administrators, and pupil services professionals such as school counselors, psychologists, and social workers.

Candidate Information

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate Address: _____

Nominated by Post No.: _____

Post Name and Location: _____

Candidate's Current Position (Include Grade Level): _____

Name and Location of School/District: _____

Application Narrative Requirements *(attached the following documents to this application)*

- ☐ A Post Narrative explaining why this educator is exceptional in your Post's view. How have they supported your programs? What difference have they made? How has your nominee helped connect the school to The American Legion?
- ☐ A detailed outline of the candidate's Educational and Teaching Career.
- ☐ A summary of Educational Honors, Awards, Recognitions, and other notable achievements.
- ☐ A Letter of Support² from the candidate's Superintendent or Principal.
- ☐ Additional supporting documentation—such as photos, news articles, or narratives—that showcase the candidate's involvement with American Legion programs (optional but encouraged).
- ☐ Certified Post winners must be submitted to the District by **May 1st**; certified District winners must be submitted to Department Headquarters by **June 1st**.

Candidate Convention Attendance

If selected as the Department winner, will the candidate be available to attend the Department Convention for recognition? ☐ Yes ☐ No

² This application for educator of the year is a nomination from the post and not from the school. The school is expected to provide a "Letter of Support" from either the principal or the superintendent.

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CERTIFICATION OF POST

Post No.: _____ District: _____

Post Adjutant: _____
Signature

Post Commander: _____
Signature

Post Americanism Chairman (optional): _____
Signature

Date: _____

CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY (IF APPLICABLE)

County: _____ District: _____

County Adjutant: _____
Signature

County Commander: _____
Signature

County Americanism Chairman (optional): _____
Signature

Date: _____

CERTIFICATION OF DISTRICT

District: _____

District Adjutant: _____
Signature

District Commander: _____
Signature

District Americanism Chairman (optional): _____
Signature

Date: _____

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Evaluation Checklist

For Use by the Department Americanism Committee

Each application will be reviewed and scored based on the criteria below. Points should reflect how well the nominee meets or exceeds the expectations in each category. ***Maximum score: 100 points.***

Evaluation Criteria	Max Points	Score Awarded
1. <i>Post Narrative:</i> Clear explanation of educator's involvement in American Legion programs (Flag Education, Scouting, Badger Boys or Girls State, Oratorical Contests, and other post-sponsored activities, etc.)	20	
2. <i>Connection to Post:</i> Demonstrated collaboration between the educator and the American Legion Family	15	
3. <i>Educational and Teaching Career:</i> Professional experience, roles, and longevity in education	10	
4. <i>Awards and Recognitions:</i> Notable honors or recognition related to civic, academic, or youth development	10	
5. <i>School Administrator Support:</i> Strength and relevance of letter from principal or superintendent	10	
6. <i>Additional Supporting Materials:</i> Photos, news articles, or other documentation (optional)	5	
7. <i>Alignment with Legion Values:</i> Embodiment of patriotism, civic engagement, leadership development	15	
8. <i>Overall Quality and Completeness of Application</i>	15	

Total Score: _____ / 100

Committee Comments:
