

Marine Corps League

National Americanism Committee

26 February 2026

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Committee Members: Sue Irvin, Lisa Fountain

To: National Commandant, TJ Morgan

All Members of the Marine Corps League

2026 Midwinter Report:

1. AP Change being submitted to National for a transition to a Hybrid Online Submission as well as still receiving books at the National Convention.

A primary objective of the re-write was to transition from manual or paper-based book submissions to a fully online submission process.

Key Enhancements: Development of a standardized digital submission form. Clear file naming and upload instructions. Automated confirmation emails to submitters. Centralized digital storage for easier access by committee members. Established submission deadlines embedded within the online platform.

Benefits: Increased accessibility for Departments and Detachments. Reduced administrative delays and mailing costs. Improved record retention and transparency. Streamlined distribution of materials to judges. The online system ensures greater efficiency, consistency, and accountability.

2. Updated Evaluation Criteria

The re-write of the criteria sheet includes revised and clarified evaluation criteria to ensure fairness, transparency, and alignment with current Americanism objectives.

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Updates Include: Greater emphasis on measurable outcomes and community engagement. Updated definitions of qualifying Americanism activities. These updates ensure that submissions are evaluated consistently and reflect the evolving scope of Americanism programs.

4. Midwinter Award Preparation

A critical component of the revised procedure is establishing a structured timeline to ensure awards are prepared in advance of the Midwinter Conference.

Improvements: Defined internal deadlines well before Midwinter. Early coordination with award vendors. Verification of award recipient information. Formal review of award citations and presentations. This structured preparation ensures that all awards are completed, verified, and ready for presentation at Midwinter without last-minute complications.

5. Emphasis on the Importance of the Gil Gray Award

The re-write reinforces the significance of the Gil Gray Award as one of the premier recognitions within the Americanism program. Significance: Recognizes outstanding commitment to Americanism principles. Honors exceptional program development and community impact. Sets the benchmark for excellence among Departments and Detachments. The updated procedure highlights the prestige of this award.

6. Outreach to Departments and Detachments

To increase participation and submission of Americanism Books, the revised procedure includes a proactive communication strategy.

Outreach Initiatives: Direct communication to Department leadership. Request for Departments to disseminate information to all Detachments. Distribution of submission

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deadlines and updated guidelines. Periodic reminder communications leading up to submission deadlines.

The focus is to ensure that every Detachment is informed, prepared, and encouraged to submit their Americanism Book for consideration.

7. Expected Outcomes

The comprehensive re-write is expected to: Increase submission rates. Improve submission quality and consistency. Enhance fairness and transparency in judging. Reduce administrative burden. Elevate the overall visibility and prestige of Americanism awards.

The re-write of the Americanism Administration Procedure represents a significant modernization effort. By implementing online submissions, updating evaluation criteria, prioritizing Midwinter award readiness, emphasizing the importance of the Gil Gray Award, and expanding outreach efforts to Departments and Detachments, the Americanism program is better positioned for efficiency, growth, and sustained excellence.

This updated procedure strengthens the integrity of the Americanism program and ensures it continues to recognize and promote the highest standards of patriotism, community engagement, and organizational excellence.