

To: Bob Borka, National Executive Director/COO
From: Jon E. Zwirblia, Member, Worcester Detachment #144
Subject: AP Change Proposal Enclosure 2 Americanism Program

In accordance with the National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Ten, Section 10020, the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at the 2026 National Convention.

CURRENT:

2025 Administrative Procedures – Enclosure (2)

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

Entry Rules: May be submitted as a “bound book”, “scrapbook”, or an “album”.

All entries must be hand delivered to the National Convention. If a member of the detachment will not be present, another MCL member may be designated to deliver the entry.

- All Entries will be returned after the awards are announced at the Convention.
- All detachments and departments may enter and are encouraged to do so.

Documentation will be provided each year on the MCL National Website and/or mailed out to each detachment and department commandant with specific instructions for submission for that year.

Suggested Titles: “(Name) Detachment Diary

“Department of (Name) Diary

Awards: Nine (9) Plaques awarded according to membership strength.

- Category 1 - 15-50 Members 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place
- Category 2 - 51-100 Members 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place
- Category 3 - 101 Members & Over 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place

Top Award: Gil Gray Award with Plaque. Awarded to the top entry regardless of category.

Suggested Contents of the Entry Book:

- Installations (both detachment and department)
- Marine Corps Balls – Parades – Veteran Days Activities – Memorial Day Activities
- Christmas Parties – Toys for Tots – VAVS Activities
- Youth Activities – Young Marines of the Marine Corps League – YPF – Boy Scouts
- School or Sports Activities – Respect for Flags Classes – Veteran’s Appreciation
- MCL Membership & Recruiting Programs
- MCL and/or MCLA Social Events – Historical Events
- Participation with other Veterans Organizations – Support of other Organizations
- Events that may be included are not limited to this list.

Include photographs, newspaper articles, and other documentation for each event cited in the entry book. All items should include the date and all photographs should include captains identifying the event and the individuals in the photograph.

The entry book should include events over an entire 12-month period determined by the committee and published on the individual year’s documentation.

15 Aug 2025

AP Enclosure (2) – 1

PROPOSED (Change in Red):

2026 Administrative Procedures – Enclosure (2)

AMERICANISM BOOK

Entry Rules: Must be submitted electronically no later than 15 JUNE prior to the National Convention. Please review the Americanism Book Criteria sheet on how to submit electronically.

OR

Must be hand delivered at the National Convention no later than 1100 on Wednesday (announcement will be made on the floor), as a “bound book”, “scrapbook”, or an “album”.

- If a member of the detachment is not present, another MCL member may be designated to deliver the entry.

- All entries will be returned on Friday after judging.
- The entry book must include the dates of the activities being recognized in the entry book; photographs should include captions identifying the activity, date and the individuals/groups in the photograph. Please review the criteria sheet in the Marine Corps League Library for further detail.
- The entry book should include activities over the previous entire 12-month calendar year; 1 January to 31 December. Activities and photos in the album shall be limited to the events during the judged year only.

All detachments and departments may enter and are encouraged to do so.

Competition for awards will be based on total detachment strength as follows:

Category I (Platoon Size) Strength of 15 to 50

Category II (Company Size) Strength of 51 to 100

Category III (Battalion Size) Strength of 101 and above

First, Second and Third place winners in each category will receive a plaque.

The GIL GRAY AWARD is awarded to the top entry regardless of category, the awardee will receive a special plaque. The Gil Gray award is the most distinguished Americanism award as it recognizes the hard work and Esprit de Corps. It exemplifies the dedication and contribution to the strength and integrity of our beloved Marine Corps League. Receiving this award is an achievement to be treasured.

All other entries will receive an Americanism Certificate.

Note: Newly formed Detachments will be competing in Category 1, regardless of strength.

RATIONALE:

The update is expected to increase submission rates, improve submission quality and consistency. Enhance fairness and transparency in judging as well as reduce administrative burden. Elevate the overall visibility and prestige of Americanism awards. The update also 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

Respectfully submitted,

Jon E. Zwirblia

Member, Worcester Detachment #144

Marine Corps League