

It is hard to believe it is already February! It was great to visit with so many of you at the 2026 Winter Conference. Along with this article, I have included an attachment that highlights ways units can promote Americanism during 2026, America's 250th birthday.

One item highlights ways to promote Americanism in honor of America's 250th birthday and the other item is a list of books that units and individual members might consider donating to their local schools or libraries. I hope this information is helpful as you promote Americanism in your communities and schools.

I encourage all units to let me know what you are doing to promote Americanism so I can share that information when I attend the April Northwestern Division Zoom call.

This year's theme for the Americanism Essay Contest is "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans Who Fought for Our Freedom." You can find more information regarding the essay requirements and the 2026 cover sheet on the Department's website at: www.ndala.org/americanism/ under Programs/Americanism. Essays are due to your local unit no later than March 1, 2026, for judging. Unit winners should be mailed or emailed to me no later than March 15, 2026.

Arliss Koski

Americanism Chairman