

# DEPARTMENT ESSAY COMMITTEE

## Initial Meeting Report

Michele Deems  
Essay Chairman

September 8, 2018

### **Good Afternoon Legion Family Members:**

The appointees for 2018-2019 Linda Klutas, Henry Wynn II and Billie Powers;  
The initial meeting of the Essay Committee was held on Saturday, August 18, 2018, at Department Headquarters. Chairman Michele Deems called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Also in attendance were Linda Klutas and Henry Wynn. Billie Powers was unavailable.

According to the Department of Pennsylvania The American Legion website “the inception the Essay Contest in 1935, The American Legion has awarded well over \$500,000 in scholarship, while local American Legion Posts, counties, Districts and Sections have offered appropriate awards and prizes for essay winners.”

Each year the Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Essay scholarship contest, provides students with an opportunity to stage for talents and abilities in English by using originality, accuracy and research as evidence, while learning that the responsibilities and duties of good citizenship can be both rewarding and fun.

As American Legionnaires, we fully believe that education is the cornerstone upon which the future of America is built. Education becomes the first requisite of good citizenship and the relationship of The American Legion to Pennsylvania citizens is of prime importance as a means of keeping us a free civilization.

Our approach to supporting solid educational principles is direct and positive. We agree with the current PA Department of Education initiative of “writing across the curriculum” and reward the efforts of involved students through our annual essay scholarship program.

Any student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in a public, private or parochial School or who is home schooled in Pennsylvania is eligible to participate.” (from the Department of PA website)

This year we would like to encourage the winners to attend the Department convention. If they are unable, I personally would like to encourage the winners to ensure the student has the ability to have his/her essay printed in our Keystone newsletter, posted on our Department of PA American Legion website, as well as a chance to read aloud to as many veterans as possible. I recommend this because I had the opportunity to read many students essays and have been very moved by their creativity and desire to participate in promoting Americanism and patriotism.

Thank you for the appointment Commander Vollrath.

Respectfully,

Michele Deems  
Post 330 Adjutant  
25<sup>th</sup> District Historian

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