

GRAND LODGE  
AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

RICHARD M. PALANZO  
*Chairman*



*A Fraternal Organization*

27 Middle River Road  
DANBURY, CT 06811-4313  
(203) 796-1605 Office  
(203) 794-1116 Home  
(203) 796-1528 Fax  
rick.p120@gmail.com

July 2007

**TO: ALL EXALTED RULERS AND AMERICANISM COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**Subject: 2007–2008 GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST**

### ***“What Is An American?”***

One of the best methods for transmitting ideas we want people to remember is to stimulate the thought processes and to begin a discussion about the ideas we wish to express. The Americanism Committee, in keeping with the mission statement of the BPOE: “... to quicken the spirit of American patriotism,” will help your lodge do just that through participation in the Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The essay theme this year is one that I think will stimulate a lot of good discussion and thinking: “What is an American?”

The essay contest is “tailor made” for your lodge to include into its Americanism program. It will not bust your budget, and requires only a modest amount of your time. The foremost requirement is that you must decide that your lodge will participate. Once you make that decision the execution is quite simple. You contact the middle, private and parochial schools in your jurisdiction (grades 5–8) and present them with a copy of the announcement poster and contest rules. I urge you to do this today so that those school administrators, who are responsible for curriculum, can review the materials and approve it for their school. The children write the essays and your lodge collects them, and an independent panel of your members decides on the best essays. The top three essays are forwarded to the district and state competitions for judging. The state winners are submitted for national judging. The national winning authors receive a U.S. Savings Bonds award and their essays are displayed in the Americanism booth at the ensuing Grand Lodge Convention.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to encourage the youth of your community to articulate their thoughts on our great country in a meaningful and personal way. It furthers your Americanism program; it encourages scholastic competition and spreads good will across the community. Can you think of a better way to accomplish this in a more meaningful way? Get on board with the Americanism essay contest. Make it part of your annual Americanism program! You’ll be glad you did.

God Bless America; God bless the Elks; and God bless you.

*Fraternally yours in Elkdom,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Palanzo".

RICHARD M. PALANZO, *Chairman*  
Grand Lodge Americanism Committee