

Salute to Americanism

January: Ben Franklin's Birthday Jan 17th, 1706

Quote: "The man who trades "freedom" for "security" does not deserve, nor will he ever receive, either."

Idea: Have someone dress up as Benjamin Franklin. They could read the Declaration of Independence. Hand out copies of document to each person attending.

Ben was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America. He was one of the "Committee of Five" who drafted the Declaration of Independence. Ben was the oldest man to sign the US Constitution at age 81. He also invented bifocals and the Franklin stove.

Betsy Ross was also born on Jan. 1, 1752. She of course is famous for sewing the first flag.

Idea: Someone dress up as Betsy Ross, sitting in a rocking chair, with a flag on her lap, pretending to sew. Decorate with flag centerpieces, and hand out copies of the History of the Flag, which can be found at www.usflag.org.

Hand out small flags to everyone in attendance.

Jan. 22, 2001: Condoleeza Rice became the first woman and second African-American to serve as U.S. National Security Advisor.

February: President's Day - several Presidents were born in this month. Two of the most famous were Abe Lincoln and George Washington.

It is very customary and usual to celebrate with a Lincoln Day Dinner. And this has proven to be a great success for fundraising. So we know that works.

But...

Ronald Reagan was born on 2/6/11. He was our 40th President. Ronald was a Democrat until 1962, when he declared that he switched to being a Republican, and when asked why he left his party he said "I didn't leave the Democratic Party, they left me!"

Quote: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on to them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." -Ronald Reagan

Idea: Pick one of Ronald Reagan's speeches, or quotes and have someone read it. Give everyone a cellophane bag filled with black jelly beans and tied with Red, White and Blue ribbons, with a quote attached to the ribbon.

Have a Ronald Reagan dinner and serve Macaroni and Cheese, which was his favorite meal for his birthday dinner.

Susan B. Anthony was also born on Feb 15th, 1820

March: I know we usually do Women in History, but here is another idea.

Celebrate the United States Constitution, which went into effect on March 4th 1789

James Madison, “the father of the Constitution,” was the first to arrive in Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention.

He was the only delegate to attend every meeting. He took detailed notes of the various discussions and debates that took place during the convention. The journal that he kept during the Constitutional Convention was kept secret until after he died.

Quote: “The Constitution preserves the advantage of being armed, which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation where the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms.” --James Madison

Idea: I suggest handing out mini constitution books to each person at the meeting. You can find them at ConstitutionFacts.com . This Sept. is our 222 anniversary of the signing.

You can also do a Treasure Hunt of the US Constitution.

The questions and answers for this are at ConstitutionFacts.com .

You could do it as a trivia game or maybe have each table have a list, and the first table to get most of the answers in an allotted time, wins!

March 2nd is National Anthem Day 1931

March 2nd , Read Across America Day

April: Patriots' Day - honoring the anniversary of the American Revolutionary War. Traditionally celebrated on April 19th, but since 1969 has been celebrated on the third Monday of April.

Paul Revere was said to have rode the night before the Battles of the Lexington and Concord to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that the British troops were coming to arrest them. He had arranged a signal with the Sons of Liberty the weekend before of two lanterns being hung in the church bell tower and it meant the troops would row "by sea" rather than march "by land".

We all grew up hearing that he declared while riding his famous midnight ride, "The British are coming, the British are coming" What was recorded that he really said is "The regulars are coming out!" Not quite the same!

Quote: "The liberties of our country, and the freedom of our civil constitution, are worth defending against all hazards: And it is our duty to defend them against all attacks." -Samuel Adams

Idea: Read the famous poem of Paul Revere's' Midnight Ride by William Wadsworth Longfellow. You can find this by Googling Paul Revere.

Thank a Military person the next time you see one.

May: Memorial Day - originally observed on the 30th of May every year to commemorate the US men and women who have died while in the military service to our country. It was changed to the last Monday in May in 1971.

Attend or put on a Memorial Day Ceremony in the town you live in, as your Republican Women's Club.

Quote: "If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it: if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known, that we are at all times ready for war." --George Washington

Quote: "In war, there are no unwounded soldiers."

--Jose Narosky

Idea: Have a POW come to the meeting to talk about his experience and host a luncheon in their honor. Everyone could wear black armbands to show respect for our POW's and our troops lost in combat.

Have someone from the American Legion come and do the colors ceremony, or speak about how they support our troops.

You could give members a Gold Star Banner or even hand out Blue Star Banners to those who have someone serving in their family. You can purchase these at: www.flagco.com.

Have someone play "Taps" in honor of the fallen.

Put flowers on the graves of those who served in the military.

June: Flag Day - Officially observed on June 14th.

The week of June 14 is designated as "National Flag Week." During National Flag Week, the president will issue a proclamation urging U.S. citizens to fly the American flag for the duration of that week. The flag should also be displayed on all Government buildings. Some organizations hold parades and events in celebration of America's national flag and everything it represents.

Quote: "The whole inspiration of our life as a nation flows out from the waving folds of this banner." --Author Unknown

Quote: "Our flag means all that our fathers meant in the Revolutionary War. It means all that the Declaration of Independence meant. It means justice. It means liberty. It means happiness.... Every color means liberty. Every thread means liberty. Every star and stripe means liberty."
--Henry Ward Beecher

Idea: Have a Flag Folding Ceremony

Read the meaning for each of the 12 folds in the US Flag.

Hand out flags to all who attend, with the meaning of each flag fold attached to it.

July: Independence Day July 4th.

The United States Declaration of Independence is a statement adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4th 1776, which announce that the thirteen American colonies, who were then at war with Great Britain, were now independent states, and no longer a part of the British Empire.

It was written primarily by Thomas Jefferson. There was appointed a “Committee of Five” including Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman, to draft a declaration.

Quote: “A wise and frugal government which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned – this is the sum of good government.” --Thomas Jefferson

Idea: If there is a Parade in your town, enter a float. Make copies of the Declaration of Independence in a condensed form and pass out in ziplock bags full of candy. Everyone wear Red, White and Blue. Maybe dress as folks who lived in 1776. Sing Patriotic songs... “America the Beautiful” or “My Country Tis of Thee”, ect. See if you can get the High School Band to march with you and play Patriotic songs.

Read the Declaration of Independence. Have a Republican Women’s picnic, and invite the community. Thank God that we live in a FREE Country...

August: August 26, 1920 U. S. Congress passes the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote.

Susan B. Anthony led the only non-violent revolution in our country's history - the 72 year struggle (1848-1920) to win women the right to vote. She gave 75-100 speeches a year for 45 years, traveling throughout the United States, by stagecoach, wagon, carriage and train.

In 1872, Susan demanded that women be given the same civil and political rights that had been extended to black males under the 14th and 15th amendments. Thus, she led a group of women to the polls in Rochester to test the right of women to vote. She voted - a straight Republican ticket - and was arrested two weeks later.

In 1878, Susan authored the constitutional amendment that provided "The right of citizens to vote shall not be abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This same amendment was introduced in every session of Congress for the next 41 years. Susan appeared before Congress testifying in favor of the amendment every year until her death in 1906. The 19th amendment was passed in 1919 and became law in August of 1920.

Idea: Hand out Susan B Anthony Dollars as door prizes.

Find out how to become a registrar for voting and sign people up to vote at your meetings, especially during an election year. Recruit young women to the Republican Party. Pass down your understanding of Conservative Republicanism to the next generation.

September: Remembering 9-11 Patriot's Day

On this day, the President directs that the American flag be flown at half-staff and displayed from individual American homes, at the White House, and on all U.S. government buildings and establishments, home and abroad. The President also asks Americans to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time), the time of the first plane crash on September 11, 2001.

Quote: "If America shows weakness and uncertainty, the world will drift toward tragedy. That will not happen on my watch." --President George W. Bush

Idea: Pass out yellow ribbons to all members, ask them to display in their yard, like we did when it first happened.

Have someone come to talk that was there, or lost someone in the attack, or just ask members to stand and give us their recollections of that day.

Allow for a moment of silence at your meeting that week to remember all those who lost their lives, and to pray for their loved ones.

Ask an Elementary School Teacher or call the office and see if you can have a contest with the 5th or 6th grade kids to write an essay on "Why is 9/11 Called Patriot Day?" Offer a 1st prize of \$50.

Send an email to members reminding them to fly their flags at half-staff.

October: Theodore Roosevelt's Birthday Oct. 27, 1858.

Teddy Roosevelt was our 26th President. At the age of 7 he stood in his Grandfathers upstairs apartment and watched the funeral procession of Abraham Lincoln.

In 1901 he was Vice President to President William McKinley, who died in office. Roosevelt was the youngest man to "become" president (age 42), while Kennedy was the youngest to be elected president, (age 43).

He was in office as President until 1909. Being re-elected in 1904 to his second term.

The "Teddy Bear" was named after Theodore Roosevelt went on a bear hunt that was unsuccessful. A cartoonist made a comic about his unsuccessful bear hunt and after it got printed, a shop owner by the name of Morris Michtom, put two bears his wife had sewn into his store window, he got permission from the President to call them Teddy Bears, and from that point on we have had Teddy Bears.

Quote: "We have room but for one loyalty, loyalty to the United States. We have room for but one language, the language of the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Speech."
--Theodore Roosevelt

Idea: Have a Teddy Bear Tea Party. Each woman can bring her favorite Teddy Bear to the tea, and there can be a Teddy Bear contest...oldest Teddy, biggest Teddy, cutest Teddy, most worn Teddy, and so forth. Award prizes or make certificates ahead of time that you can write the names in. Have table hostesses at each table decorate their tables with their own tableware.

Make it some kind of fundraiser, with a special speaker.

November: Veteran's Day is observed on Nov. 11th.

This is an annual American holiday to celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Quote: Thoughts on Veterans Day: General Douglas MacArthur

It is the **SOLIDER**, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the **SOLDIER**, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the **SOLDIER**, not the campus organizers, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the **SOLIDER**, who salutes the flag, who serves the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag,

Who allows the protester to burn the flag. Amen

Quote: "This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." -- Elmer Davis

IDEA: Ask any Vets in your membership and associates to stand in the front, when they come forward give them a standing ovation, for the service of our Country. Honor them by having a special meal, playing patriotic songs in the background, and let each one speak of when and where they served our Country. If you know one that could speak on what it means to serve our Country, have them be your special speaker that day. Ask one to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Sell wreaths to put on tombstones of Vets.

A proclamation by President George Washington and a congressional resolution established the first national Thanksgiving Day on November 26, 1789. The reason for the holiday was to give "thanks" for the new Constitution.

December: This month a lot of clubs do the Women in Red Luncheon and Silent Auction. There are a couple of things that could be done to go along with this, to focus on Americanism.

We can celebrate the “Bill of Rights” day, which is Dec. 15th. To Americans, the Bill of Rights are key amendments to the U.S. Constitution, that protect our individual rights. The First Congress of the U. S. proposed to the state legislatures 12 amendments to the Constitution. 10 of these amendments were added to the Constitution on Dec. 15, 1791. To find a copy of the Bill of Rights go to Google and search “Bill of Rights”.

The second thing that happened was on Dec. 16th, 1773, was the Boston Tea Party. Colonists boarded three ships full of tea, and emptied the cargo into the sea. This was the beginning of the American fight for Independence.

Quote: It was not the act of a lawless mob, but was instead a principled protest and the only remaining option that the people had to defend their constitutional rights. Samuel Adams

Idea: Print out a copy of the Bill of Rights, have someone read it out loud. Make it small and laminate it, put a magnet on it and give them out for coming to the meeting. Remind them that we have these rights and they can expect the government to live by them.

To keep the theme of Americanism going you could have a “Patriotic Christmas Tea Party”. Select some women who would host a table and have them bring all of their own china, or teacups, and decorate each table. Have a contest of whose table it the most patriotic. Incorporate red, white and blue into all the decorations for this. Have each table somehow have a copy of the Bill of Rights on their tables. Let them be creative. Give a gift certificate to the hostess who wins, for a manicure / pedicure at a local nail salon.

Have all your members bring Red mittens, scarves, and hats and donate them to a charity that will pass them out to children in need. Or have a “Toys for Tots” box and have a US Marine come and get them during the meeting in full uniform.

Invite an elected official to come and speak. Give out little favors of tea bags with a famous quote on it. Or red, white or blue Christmas bulbs with a little quote attached with a ribbon.

A lot of the information found here was at www.holidayinsights.com , this is a very informative website. Or Google Patriotic Holidays in December, or whatever month you are looking for.

Also, if you want to insert some funny things into your meetings they have a list of weird and wacky holidays. Such as Fruitcake Toss Day, which is always held on Jan. 3rd, or Waffle Day is August 24th. You could have a waffle breakfast in August as a fundraiser.

This was a very fun project to come up with and I hope you will find some useful information that you can incorporate into your programs for your meetings!

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MORE QUOTES

Regard your soldiers as your children, and they will follow you into the deepest valleys. Look on them as your own beloved sons, and they will stand by you even unto death!

“A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. More than that no man is entitled to, and less than that no man shall have.” -- Theodore Roosevelt

“War demands real toughness of fiber - not only in the soldiers that must endure, but in the homes that must sacrifice their best.” --Dwight D. Eisenhower

“Men who have offered their lives for their country know that patriotism is not the *fear* of something; it is the *love* of something.” --Adlai Stevenson

“Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.”
– General Dwight D. Eisenhower