

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
Department of South Dakota
General Orders and Bulletin
#2 – August 2016



Included in this Issue:

General Orders

Karen's Flutters

Roster Corrections and District Meetings and Line Officer Assignments

Registration for National President Colette Bishop's Visit

State Fair

2016 Capitol Christmas Tree

Message from Carrie Alm, Sr. Vice

Program Chairmen Bulletins

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

General Orders Number 2 – August 2016

Must be read at the first meeting following receipt before being filed for reference

Upcoming Events: August 18 – 21, 2016 -- Second—annual Retreat at the Roost, Grenville, SD – Registration in GO #1;

August 30 and 31, 2016 – National President’s Visit, Pierre, SD – Registration in GO #2;

September 1 – 5, 2016 – State Fair – see work schedule in GO #2;

September 23 – 25, 2016 – Fall Council/Commander and President Homecoming, Pierre, SD – Registration in GO #1;

October 21 – 23, 2016 – Big Ten, Kalamazoo, MI – Registration in GO #1.

Please make plans to join us for any and/or all events. The more we participate and are informed, the better we can serve our veterans and families.

Auxiliary Presidents: By now, you should have appointed your VFW Auxiliary Chairman and sent your program form to Nancy Chester, Department Secretary. Those forms were previously distributed to the Auxiliary President, but for your convenience, a second copy of that form is included in this GO. From the Department GO’s ask your Auxiliary Secretary to distribute the Program Bulletins to the Auxiliary Chairmen. The Department Chairman Program Bulletins contain this year’s program goals, progress on the goals, and valuable information and suggestions for your monthly Auxiliary meetings and programs.

Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers: Your Auxiliary needs to be bonded by September 15, 2016. Please do so ASAP. By September 1st if an Auxiliary is not bonded, I will need to commence the procedure to put the Auxiliary on suspension, and I don’t want to have to do that. It’s a very simple procedure which only takes a few minutes to do online. If you need assistance, do not hesitate to contact me or Dept. Treasurer Carol Gross. Also, Auxiliary officers of President, Secretary and Treasurer need to have their dues paid. Please make sure your Auxiliary is in compliance. Department Officers, you too need to have your dues paid. Thanks to all of you.

District Presidents are reminded that Annual Inspections are very important and must be conducted. Each District President received an Inspection form in their binder at the State Convention. The Inspecting Official should sign the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s book only if they are kept according to procedure outlines in the Booklet of Instruction. If not, that should be noted on the inspection form. Every question on the Inspection Form should be answered. Inspection Forms should be filled out in triplicate with the signatures of the Inspecting Officer and Auxiliary President on each copy. One copy for Auxiliary records, one copy for District President, and one copy forwarded to Department President. If any Auxiliary is struggling, please note it on the Inspection form. The sooner we can offer assistance to these Auxiliaries, the better. The National Program Books for each Auxiliary that you received at the

State Convention should be distributed by now. Any future information you receive at the Retreat or Fall Council needs to be distributed immediately to Auxiliaries absent from these events.

Membership – dues notices have been sent to all continuous members. As of August 5, 2016, SD's membership is at 71.99%. Remember our ultimate goal is 100% plus one to receive a \$1,000 award for the Department. We have quarterly goals also, which if met will mean an additional \$1,450 in award monies for the Department. All of these are very, very important to our Auxiliaries and the Department. Our first-quarter goal is for 50 NEW (which includes new life members) and REJOIN members by October 31, 2016, for an award of \$200. Do you have all your eligible family members signed up? Ask, ask, ask – many members say they would have joined earlier if only they had been asked. Keep in contact with your VFW, and if the VFW gets a new member, see how many eligible family members there are for the Auxiliary.

Forfeiture/Cancellation of Auxiliary Charters -- I regret to inform the membership the Mobridge 2741 has forfeited its Charter and Turner 2821 at Parker, Wilde 3728 at Freeman, and Clayton Van Houten 1640 at Hot Springs have had their Charters canceled. We need to reach out to members of those Auxiliaries and invite them to transfer membership to another Auxiliary. We also need to be more diligent in recognizing Auxiliaries that need a helping hand and reach out to them before a forfeiture or cancelation happens.

Distribution of General Orders – please note that pursuant to the Standing Rules, only one (1) printed copy of the General Orders will be mailed to each Auxiliary President for distribution within the Auxiliary only by request or request by email only. That request should be submitted by the Auxiliary President. As a courtesy, we will also be sending printed copies to Past Department Presidents that do not have internet or computer access. When distributing items contained in the General Orders, you need not necessarily make "hard copies." It is suggested that you forward the information via email to those that you can. Also remember that the General Orders will be posted on the SD VFW website (sdvfw.org). There is no intent to exclude anyone, but we need to be more efficient and cost effective.

By Order of:
Karen Sharp
SD VFW Auxiliary President

Attest:
Nancy Chester
SD VFW Auxiliary Secretary



KAREN'S FLUTTERS

August 2016

WOW! What a never-ending whirlwind it has been since I took office on June 12th. I keep waiting for it to slow down, but it hasn't, and I'm told that it won't for another 11 months. Please bear with me as we try to keep you up-to-date and informed.

This past Monday, we returned from the National Convention, which was great. If you've never gone to one, you must try to do so. Next year's convention will be in New Orleans and in Kansas City in 2018.

Runner-up Outstanding President in Membership Group VI – Nancy Worth
Congratulations Nancy for a job well done. We are proud of you.

AWARDS: Americanism – Citation to Chairman Nelda Jorgenson for participation; Chief of Staff/Extension Award 1 “Our Veterans—Now and Forever” keepsake to Lois Ladegaard for assisting in revitalizing their Auxiliary and who used the Health Auxiliary materials; Chief of Staff/Extension Award 1 “Our Veterans—Now and Forever” Citation to SD Gorge Dokken 2118 for best used publicity; Hospital citation to Chairman Leanne Payne; Legislative citation to Chairman Tamara Chase; Membership “Mushing to Success Bracelet” Dog Sled Charm, Eskimo Doll Charm, and Polar Bear Charm; Scholarship citation to Chairman Sandi Moss; Veterans & Family Support citation to Chairman Patricia Mitchell; Youth Activities citation to Chairman Mary Kirkvold. Americanism Award 3 for Outstanding Performance Runner Up-Group VI \$100 – Chairman Nelda Jorgenson; Legislative Award 3 for Outstanding Performance Runner –Up Group VI \$100 – Chairman Tamara Chase; Scholarships Award 3 for Outstanding Performance Runner-Up Group VI \$100 – Chairman Sandi Moss.

Please congratulate these sisters and give them a pat on the back for a job well done.

RESULTS OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND REVISIONS

Life Membership Proposed Fee Increase was amended, and the increase will be 15% in each category to be effective January 1, 2017. (NOW IS THE TIME to get those life members).

Section 101 – Reduce Eligibility Age for Members – Did Not Pass

Section 103 – Admission Fees and Dues – Did Not Pass

Section 202 – Reconcile Time Frame to Match VFW National Bylaws – Passed

Section 803 and 804E – Position of National Secretary—Treasurer – Did Not Pass

Section 809# -- Vacancy in the Office of National District Council Member – Did Not Pass

Section 917 – Incorporation -- Passed

Good of the Order – Uniforms – Did Not Pass

For further information download the 2016 National Convention Book which is now available online (vfwauxiliary.org). The National Program Book is also available online.

Please make your reservations to attend the Retreat at Grenville, National President's Visit, State Fair, Fall Council/Homecoming, and Big Ten. The more we participate, the better informed we are, and the better we can serve and support our veterans and their families.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Karen

Roster Corrections

Jeanine Gould, Treas.
VFW Aux 3442
PO Box 5035
Custer, SD 57730
cookers@gwtc.net

Connie Heggstad, Secretary
VFW Aux Winner
ajhegg@gwtc.net

DISTRICT MEETINGS AND LINE OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS

District 1 – October 9, 2:00 pm, Alcester – Carrie Alm, Sr. Vice President
District 2 – October 9, 2:00 pm, Brandon – Mary Kirkvold, Jr. Vice President
District 4 – October 2, 2:00 pm, Watertown – Sandi Moss, Chaplain
District 6 – October 9, 2:00 pm, Faulkton – Donita Mullinix, Conductress
District 7 – October 9, 2:00 pm, Scotland – Karen Sharp, President
District 8 – October 2, 2:00 pm, Pierre, -- Karen Sharp, President
District 10 – October 16, 10:00 am, Sturgis – Wanda Mix, Guard



VFW Auxiliary
National President Colette Bishop
South Dakota Visit – Pierre, SD
August 30 & 31, 2016

Tuesday, August 30 - All listed times central daylight time

- 8:00 a.m. – Missile site tour near Kadoka, SD - Board bus at AmericInn
- Lunch – Wall Drug, Wall, SD
- 6:00 p.m. – Dinner at McClelland’s Restaurant, Fort Pierre, SD

Wednesday, August 31 - All listed times central daylight time

- 9:00 a.m. – Meet at north door of capitol building for Aisle of Flags honoring President Bishop and Tour of Capitol Complex
- Lunch – Red Rossa, Pierre, SD
- 12:45 p.m. – Meet in front driveway of Governor’s Mansion for 1:00 Tour
- 5:30 p.m. – Dinner & program at Grey Goose Social Club

\$15 – Registration Fee. All Meals will be "Dutch Treat".

Mail registration by August 20th to: Karen Sharp, PO Box 1133, Fort Pierre, SD 57532

Checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary Post 2038

Any questions, contact Dept. Pres. Karen Sharp, 605-223-2523, 605-222-3140, daksharp@pie.midco.net

Name _____

Physical Address _____ City/Zip _____

(Physical address required for Governor’s Mansion Tour – No PO Box numbers)

SD STATE FAIR---2016

I would like to thank new State Commander and Auxiliary President Dennis and Karen Sharp for the appointment to be chairman of the State Fair for 2016.

The District assignment dates are listed. Commanders and Presidents are asked to have members at the VFW & Auxiliary tables in the Veteran's Building on the date assigned from **9:00 AM UNTIL 5:00 PM. You can come earlier and stay later if you wish.** It works best to have 2 at the tables at a time. Posts are asked to work together and keep 2 members at the tables for 2 or 4 hour shifts. That way the others can wander through the State Fair and enjoy the visit. The schedule for the day and date follows:

Day	Date	District
Thursday	September 1	2
Friday	September 2	1-7
Saturday	September 3	8-10
Sunday	September 4	4
Monday	September 5	6

District Commanders and Presidents please make phone calls to your Post Commanders & Presidents and have at least 4 members for the tables.

SD State Fair is also part of the VFW membership program. Although it is not required to donate it should be done as part of your Post and District budgets. Mark your donations as 2014/15 State Fair. **Send your donations to: Auxiliary Treasurer Carol Gross, PO Box 657, Huron, SD 57350.**

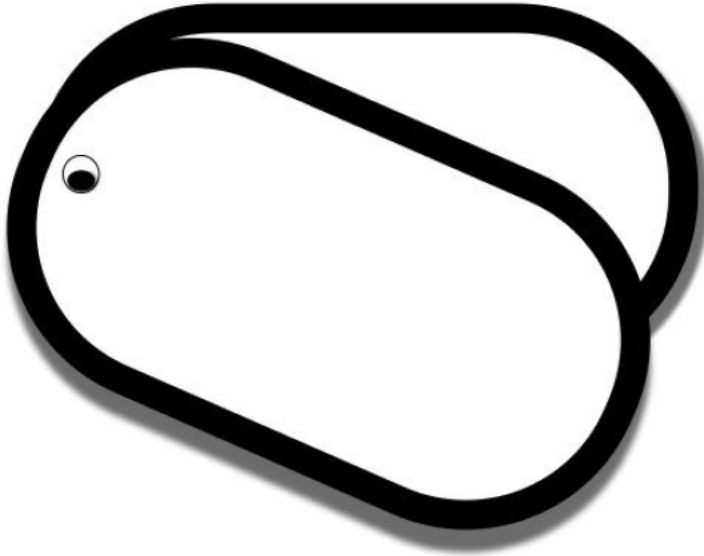
The building will be open at 8:00am each day and will close at 8:00 pm. Come and enjoy the State Fair, we hope to see you there.

State Fair Chairman: Sue Jones

2016 Capitol Christmas Tree – “A Monumental Christmas”

We have not been selected yet for a Capitol Christmas Tree, but it’s time to get started!

Since we are given such short notice it’s advised you make your ornaments now. They can always be used at your post, courthouse, or a local business if we are not selected.



This year’s theme is "A Monumental Christmas". Groups are asked to decorate with this theme in mind, and monumental is described as meaning impressively large & enduring, of outstanding significance, exceptionally great, big, important, & unforgettable. Asking, “What makes Christmas monumental?”

The answer is simple. Our Veterans make Christmas monumental. These heroes don’t wear capes... they wear dog tags!

Use template (left) & print off on heavy paper or card stock.

Place your beloved Veteran’s photo on the larger side, their name, branch of military, etc., on the other. (Sample, right)

Be sure to include your auxiliary name on the back of the ornament.

They will be hung on the tree with a small piece of chain, so remember to place the photo to accommodate this. Any chains you can contribute would be appreciated.

The focal point will be the photos of our veterans on the “dog tags” and the ornaments can be no larger than the attached template due to the large numbers we receive.

Do not use original photos. Copies only, please. We cannot guarantee that they will not be damaged or taken from this public viewing.

Ornaments/photos will **not** be mailed back to you.

When notified-

Mail to me by Sat., November 12

Deb Fahey

406 South Polk Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501



VFW Auxiliary Department of South Dakota
Carrie Alm, Sr. Vice
August 2016 - Bulletin #2

Things are officially underway for our year as National Convention has come and gone. All who attended convention had a great time and got lots of information. Due to the fact it is an election year, we got to hear Republican candidate Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Hilary Clinton speak to all of us. It was nice to hear them speak, but I am not sure I was quite as excited about the early morning I had to be out of bed and to the forum so there was enough time to go through security.

This is the perfect time of year for you to be talking to your school officials about the different projects and programs we have to offer our youth in the upcoming year. Touching base with them now is a great idea since we have two things we can do with the youth in the month of September. Your Americanism chairman and Youth chairman could do one or both of the upcoming possibilities. First, on September 11th, we have Patriot's Day to perpetuate the memory of the perished from 9-11. Anything to remind the nation of those we lost that day and help to bring us together as a nation is what we are looking for on this day's commemoration. Also, the 3rd Friday of September which falls on September 16th this year is POW/MIA Remembrance Day. This would be a wonderful opportunity to do the Missing Man Table Ceremony for the youth. You also don't want to forget while talking with these school officials about getting them the information for entries on the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy competition. The theme for the Patriot's Pen this year is "The America I Believe In" and the theme for the Voice of Democracy is "My Responsibility to America".

As many of you already know, the membership announcements have all been sent out this year to those auxiliaries who receive them. Does your auxiliary have a membership plan in place? If you don't, please get one and if you do, make sure that your plan includes the following information. Each plan should state to contact all current members, reach out to former members, and plan recruiting events for new members. It is recommended that each auxiliary plan at least four (4) recruitment events in their community each year. This should be a help to keeping and increasing our membership. Remember that some recruitment events can be more guy oriented to make it easier on your auxiliary to increase male membership.

Always remember the purpose of our organization, although we do have a committee for this, I think it's important to remember that we are all here with the same mission: veteran and their family support. You or your auxiliary as a group needs to make sure that we are serving a veteran in some way.

Don't forget some important dates we have coming up in our department. Our 2nd Annual Retreat is coming up on August 18-21st at The Roost Resort in Grenville, SD. We still have room if you are interested in coming. Please contact me to make arrangements so we are sure we have you counted in. The National President's Visit is August 29-31st in Pierre. If you plan to attend, please let Karen know, as one of the events we are planning needs a list of names ahead of time. National CAFÉ (Celebrating America's Freedom Event) at Mount Rushmore is

September 17th. Please try to attend if you are able. Also a reminder that Fall Council and Homecoming is in Pierre, September 23-25th. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

I look forward to our activities coming up and continuing to positively support our Veterans and their families. I am here to assist you with any questions you may have, please call me at 605-517-0287.

Loyally,

Carrie Alm
Department Senior Vice President

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary National Certified Recruiter Trainer Program

My name is Nancy Worth and most of you know me as the Immediate Past Department President. Throughout my years of involvement with the VFW Auxiliary, I have promoted membership and many other programs that benefit our members and veterans. Now I am promoting the National Certified Recruiter Trainer Program (NCRT).

I am replacing Jan Endes, Past Department President and member of Winner Auxiliary #4674. Jan was one of the very first VFW Auxiliary NCRT when the program began in 2014. She served us well, but has moved on to other duties within our Department.

What is a National Certified Recruiter Trainer (NCRT)? A NCRT is a person appointed by National Headquarters and accountable to the National Secretary-Treasurer and the Director for Programs and Communications. Our program mission is to positively promote the VFW Auxiliary by teaching members how to successfully recruit new members, as well as how to retain current members, so that the VFW Auxiliary can increase its membership and continue to serve veterans for years to come. The NCRT program is designed to support the Membership program in each Department; it will not take its place.

Why do we need this program? The VFW Auxiliary has many wonderful programs and offers many opportunities to our members. However, we are losing more members than are joining and we must take steps to turn this around as soon as possible.

What can we do? We must look at ways we can attract prospective members, retain our current members and try to invite back members who have left our Auxiliary.

How can we do this? Hopefully everyone will take the time to attend one of my training sessions. I hope to hold a training session in every District during the upcoming year as well as at our Department Conferences. A class is scheduled for our up-coming SD VFW Auxiliary Member Retreat, August 18-21, 2016 at The Roost in Grenville, SD; a training session will also be included September 24th beginning at 8:00am). I will also be including periodic messages with "Helpful Hints" in the Department General Orders.

Is this program important to the VFW Auxiliary? It most certainly is! The survival of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary is at stake. We can now admit eligible males to our organization and I have some great ideas to help boost all South Dakota Auxiliary membership numbers. Here is how you can help:

1. Attend one of my training sessions.
2. Become familiar with the numerous VFW and VFW Auxiliary programs.
3. Ask your family (female AND male) members to join this great organization. **If you don't ask, the answer will always be NO. If you ask, the answer will possibly be YES.**

If you have any questions about the NCRT program, please feel free to call or e-mail me. **All VFW Auxiliary members are recruiters!** And recruiting is a TEAM EFFORT – let's all join the Membership Recruiting Team for South Dakota.

Nancy Worth
National Certified Recruiter Trainer
(605) 490-1220 Cell
(605) 721-9436 Home
nworth@rushmore.com

Auxiliary VFW, Department of South Dakota
Department President's Theme: Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes
National President's Theme: Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM 2016- 2017 by Patti Mitchell
General Orders Bulletin #2
August 2016
Veterans & Family Support

We have so much to do for the next year. Veterans & Family Support has so many support systems and our veterans and their families are our priority. Let's do everything we can to support them and help them get through another day knowing that their future is bright.

Veterans & Family Support promotes the whole family, not just the veteran, our hero. Our families are affected by war and the challenges of living day to day.

How can members best support the VFW Post with this program? Remember that our communities can be involved in almost every aspect of our VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Program.

- Promote Buddy Poppies
- Assist with National Veterans Service and National Military Services
- Participate in Hospital volunteerism
- Participate in and receive VFW.

Ask your local groups to help: ROTC and Sea Cadet groups can post colors; Scouting groups can conduct flag awareness programs; young people can assist veterans with Buddy Poppy drives and promotions; they can assist with patriotic holiday activities, such as placing flags on gravesites, or singing to, or reading to veterans in nursing homes or hospitals. The possibilities for today's youth are endless. We have available to us an endless resource of energy and activity. We have only to ask the youth of our community to get involved and we will reap the benefits.

The goals of the Veterans & Family Support Program are the following:

- VFW National Veterans Service
- VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs
- "Buddy"® Poppy
- VFW National Home for Children.

How do you find a military unit to adopt?

- Contact your local National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty unit
- Access the "Find a Unit Flyer"
- Speak with other VFW Posts & Veterans Service Organizations who may have information
- Contact a local Family Readiness Group.

Don't forget the Buddy Poppy -- Kids just love getting the Buddy Poppy, and they are curious. It's a great opportunity to educate them about the meaning and symbolism behind this powerful little flower.

Our troops and their families need support now more than ever. Remember, to keep your Adopt-A-Unit active, they must receive an annual Adopt-A-Unit activity report. I have names of unit's that need your help or to adopt a unit. Do not hesitate to contact me if you wish further information.

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT – YEAR-END REPORT FORM

District _____ Auxiliary _____ Auxiliary Veterans and Family Support Chairman
name, address and phone number _____

Did your Auxiliary host /co – host with VFW fundraising activities for National Veterans Service?
Yes / No

Briefly described the best fundraising event hosted/co-hosted by your Auxiliary. _____

Did your Auxiliary make donations to SD President’s Project of SD National Veterans Services?
Yes _____ No _____ Total \$ _____

Did your Auxiliary make donations to VFW National Military Services?
Yes _____ No _____ Total \$ _____

Did your Auxiliary provide aide to veterans, active-duty military and/or their families? (i.e , meals ,
transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.)? Briefly describe _____

Total Donations: \$ _____

Number of Veterans and Military personnel assisted: _____

Did your Auxiliary promote and/or made donations to the VFW National home for children?
Yes _____ No _____ Total \$ _____

Did your Auxiliary promote or use the Buddy Poppy throughout the year? Yes _____ No _____

How many Buddy Poppy’s drives were held by your Auxiliary? _____

Briefly describe the best way your Auxiliary promoted the Buddy Poppy
Program: _____

Did your Auxiliary participate in and / or sponsor events or projects for homeless veterans?

Yes _____ No _____. If yes, please describe: _____

Did your Auxiliary participate in or donate to South Dakota Day County Coyote Hunt?

Yes _____ No _____ Total \$ _____

How did your Auxiliary publicize these programs? Enclose examples of your newspaper articles, posters, etc.

(Please use additional paper as needed)

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM 2015-2016

Patti Mitchell, Chairman

888 Slowacki Avenue

Grenville. SD 57239

Cell phone # 605-280-0777

E-mail: pattimitchell4@hotmail.com



August 2016 Americanism & Patriotism

Where has the summer gone? I sure hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I was able to attend the State VFW Convention in June in Deadwood. What an awesome experience it was, I had only attended a day or two in prior years and this year was able to attend from the beginning and take in all the festivities. The Auxiliary members from across the state show so much passion and pride in supporting our Veteran's and organization. Our members showed true Americanism and Patriotism during the convention. I strongly encourage anyone who has not attended the convention to try and attend in the future. One of the most moving parts of the Convention to me was the Gold Star Mother Banquet. The two mothers that spoke gave a very moving talk and I believe that there was not a dry eye in the room.

The school year will be starting in the next few weeks and now is the time to contact the School Boards, Administrators and teachers about making a plan to promote Americanism and Patriotism in our school systems. Questions to ask: Are the students reciting the Flag Pledge at the beginning of the school day? I remember as a child growing up and attending school this was the first thing we did once class started. I had someone tell me that in one school district the Superintendent, Principal or a Teacher started the flag pledge over the intercom of the school to start the day! Why not ask the schools to let the students recite the Flag Pledge. Why not have each class take a turn and every student could take a turn starting the day with the Flag Pledge over the intercom. We need to educate our young students on Americanism and Patriotism. As I sit here thinking of ways to promote Americanism and Patriotism in our schools I start to think of the sporting events that will be starting soon in the schools. As I stand in the stands during the National Anthem I look around and am in disbelief as I see how some of the students, parents and spectators respect the flag! I saw a touching Video on Face book recently that the coach from Virginia Tech Basketball gave a very touching speech on honor and respect for those who have served. If you have not seen the video here is the web page to view. It is a must view for everyone.

http://awm.com/when-they-disrespected-the-national-anthem-this-coach-teaches-them-a-lesson-theyll-never-forget-2/?bst=5_18_1122_awma_re1

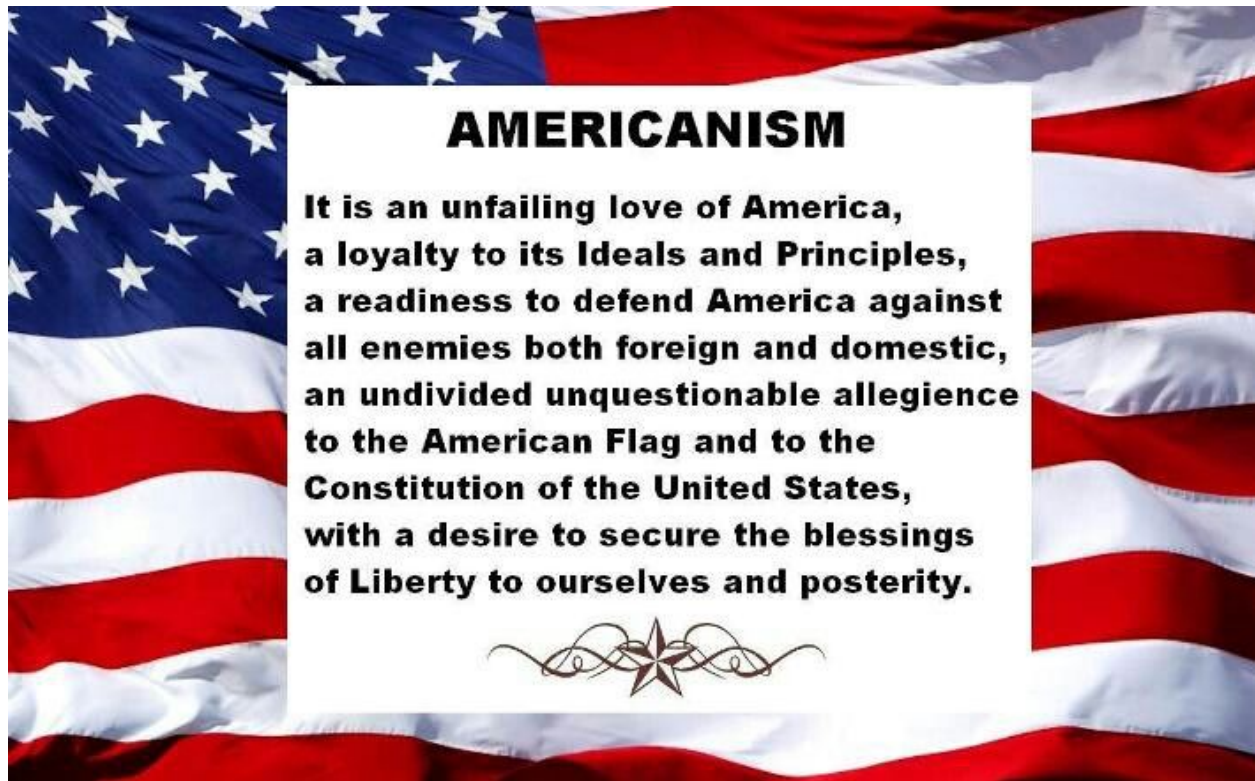
How many of our schools utilize the VFW for posting the colors during sporting events? We have our VFW post the colors for our Wrestling tournament each year. This past year it was a very moving

experience as our Post was presenting the colors and the Star Spangled Banner was being sung the Wrestlers from the 16 towns that were participating lined up on the sides of the gym. What an awesome experience this was to see. We had so many people come to us and say they had never seen this done before and thought it was awesome. What a way for your Post and Auxiliary to promote Americanism and Patriotism in our schools.

Please share with me your ways of promoting Patriotism and Americanism in your schools and communities and I will share with the rest of the Auxiliaries in future newsletters. If we all work and brainstorm together we can get our message out to our schools and communities. I look forward to hearing from you.

I encourage everyone to keep a calendar of the things you do during the year and it will make your year-end reporting so much easier. I know I forget some of the little things I do, but it does make a difference. The Internet is a great tool for gathering information and ideas.

Pam Vissia
Box 371
Plankinton SD 57368
Patriotism and Americanism Instructor
pvissia@siouxvalley.net Phone 605-942-7145 or cell 605-770-5089



Now Is the Time Family: Support-Serve-Honor and Respect

VFW AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA HOSPITAL AND VAWS

Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes
Now is the Time: Family-Support-Serve-Honor and Respect
Bulletin #2, August 2016

Before I start my report, Ken and Michelle, Paul and I would like to thank you for the outstanding support on the loss of my mother. We were amazed at the number of cards we received. No, we didn't get to Virginia as planned . . .

To report on project, Burrito Pillowcases, YES, they can go to any Veteran. You certainly may deliver them yourselves whenever it works for you. Just keep track and let me know so that I can report it. We were amazed at how many kits were purchased. For those of you not at the State Convention, we are making pillowcases for all Veterans. Please do them in patriotic colors. We plan to deliver them to the Veterans at Fort Meade, Hot Springs, Sioux Falls, and Yankton.

Did you realize that the VFW Auxiliary members have volunteered nearly 800,000 hours annually and that one in eight members volunteer through the Hospital Program. We are working to meet the needs of hospitalized veterans in VA Medical Centers and other medical facilities since 1914.

Remember that we promote Veteran and Military Suicide Awareness as one of our goals. Each day, an estimated 22 veterans commit suicide. You can help lower this number and make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member in crisis by educating yourself and others about the warning signs of suicide:

1 -The Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness Blue Teardrop Sticker is the VFW Auxiliary's symbol to give this issue the attention it so desperately needs. Wear the teardrop to open a conversation; when asked what the teardrop is, share that it's to create awareness for veteran and military suicide.

2 -The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

Leanne Payne - Dept. of South Dakota Hospital/VAWS chairman

Phone: 605-942-7568

E-mail: oldcripp@siouxvalley.net

PO Box 126, Plankinton, SD 57368

Burrito Pillowcase

Materials required for standard size pillowcase:

Each pillowcase takes a total of 1 yard of fabric – suggest contracting fabrics, so 1 yard of 3 fabrics will make 3 pillowcase. Backstitch all seams. Since we are doing these for Veterans, please use a combination of red, white and blue of any shade.

A = Accent (2” the width of the fabric, folded and pressed matching cut edges to wrong sides together)

B = Cuff (9” the width of the fabric)

C = Body (25 inches the width of fabric)

Instructions:

1. Lay B out flat (right side up), lay A on top of B matching upper cut edges, lay C (right side down) on top of B matching upper cut edges. Pin the three pieces together.
2. Fan-fold the remaining fabric of C until the lower half of B is visible, fold lower cut edge of B up and over the fan-folded fabric of C. Remove prior pins and re-pin all 5 cut edges together. Stitch across the width of fabric with a $\frac{1}{4}$ seam allowance.
3. 3. The product now looks like a burrito. From one end, pull on C folding back B until C is completely pulled out. Press the cuff away from the body on both sides. The accent will be toward the body. This may be sewn down, your choice.
4. Fold project in half (wrong sides together) with the pillowcase cuff edges together. Stitch side and bottom using $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam. {In other words, a French seam}
5. Turn inside out with the right sides of the fabric together. Stitch the seams, again using a $\frac{1}{2}$ ” seam allowance.

If you skip step 4, you will have to zig-zag your seam.

6. Turn and Press

Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes
Now is the Time Family: Support-Serve-Honor and Respect
General Orders Bulletin # 2 - August 2016

The VFW Auxiliary started with a small group of women who wanted to serve veterans, and it has grown every year since its inception. There is only one way to add members: ASK SOMEONE TO JOIN. And once they join, ASK THEM TO PARTICIPATE.

ASK SOMEONE TO JOIN

There are numerous places and times to ask someone if they want to join the VFW Auxiliary. Your approach will look different depending on who your audience is.

In all cases, the potential member should have some knowledge of what the VFW Auxiliary is and what we do before they ever receive an application.

IMPORTANT TOOLS:

- * Fact Sheet, available free from National Headquarters
- * Business card with contact information (Order yours from the VFW Store, www.vfwauxiliary.org)
- * Know the website, www.vfwauxiliary.org

HAVE A PLAN

Every Department and Auxiliary should have a Membership Plan. This plan should include:

- * Contacting current members
- * Outreach to former members
- * Recruiting events for new members

Before a membership year begins, set your calendar for when you plan to each of these. Make it as easy as possible for them to renew their dues. Plan at least four recruiting events in your community each year.

FOLLOW UP!

Most likely, first time you talk to someone new about the organization, that person will not be ready to commit. It's important to ask for their contact information and then follow up within a week.

Department Membership Chairman 2016-2017
Mary Kirkvold 605 351-0839
2500 W Bethel Pl # 203
Sioux Falls, S.D. 57105
marykirkvold@yahoo.com

**“UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES”
“NOW IS THE TIME” Family: Support, Serve Honor & Respect
SCHOLARSHIPS: Donita Mullinix**

I'm enclosing information on the Patriot's Pen Essay and the Voice of Democracy Essay. Please get the word out as soon as possible. Print off the pamphlets and put some in the library, Dr. Office, hang them on bulletin boards in businesses (after asking permission), and in your local newspaper. Most importantly, take them to your school.

Patriot's Pen theme is "The America I Believe In". Those eligible are students in grades 6-8 who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the US and its territories. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$50,000, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C., in March. Each student writes a 300-400, word essay expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. November 1 is the deadline for the student to get their entry to the VFW Post. November 15, is the District deadline, and Dec. 15 is the VFW Department Judging deadline.

Voice of Democracy theme is "My Responsibility to America". Students in grades 9-12 record their essay to an audio CD or flash drive. These students have to be enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the US. The recording can be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than five minutes (plus or minus five seconds). Once a student has completed their audio version, they submit their typed version, CD/flash drive and the VOD entry form to their local VFW Post by the November 1 deadline. The deadline for the District judging is November 15, and the Department judging is January 10. The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000 and the first-place winner from each Department wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

For Applications or More Information, visit www.vfwauxiliary.org.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest: This is open to all students, including home-schooled students in grades 9-12. No digital art will be accepted and artwork must be on canvas or paper. It will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. Deadlines for the entries are: March 31 to the local Auxiliary, and April 15 to the Department. National 1st. place winner will receive \$10,000. For more details and requirements go to www.vfwauxiliary.org.

Continuing Education Scholarship: This scholarship is open to any Auxiliary member 's (who has belonged for at least a year), spouse, son, or daughter with a financial need. Entrant must be at least 18 years old, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. The application must be received at National Headquarters by February 15, or email it to info@vfwauxiliary.org. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences. For an application or more information go to the above website.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at do_mullinix@yahoo.com or 605-763-5595. I look forward to working with all of you and I know we will have a great year.

Loyally,

Donita Mullinix
Scholarships Chairman

Eligibility Requirements

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present scholarships to assist members and their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school.

Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded each year, one in each of the four VFW Auxiliary Conferences.

The scholarship will be paid directly to the American college or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice.

- Applicant must be 18 years of age or older.
- Applicant must be one of the following:
 - Current VFW Auxiliary Member*
 - Spouse of current VFW Auxiliary Member*
 - Son of current VFW Auxiliary Member*
 - Daughter of current VFW Auxiliary Member*

**Qualifying member must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) year by the application submission deadline.*

The Application Process

A completed application must be submitted for each individual seeking a Continuing Education Scholarship from the VFW Auxiliary. Each applicant must:

- Answer all questions on the application.
- Write a brief essay (no more than 300 words) describing their commitment to their goals and how this scholarship will help them attain these goals.

Application Tips

Here are some tips to keep in mind throughout the process:

- Be mindful of the eligibility requirements.
- Answer **ALL** questions on the application.
- Applications are due at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters no later than February 15. Applications received after February 15 will not be considered.

Application Timeline

The VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship application process begins July 1 with a deadline of February 15. Scholarship recipients are notified by May 1. For details, visit www.vfwauxiliary.org or contact us at info@vfwauxiliary.org.

"I am studying to become a teacher because I want to work specifically in a low-income school district or in special education with at-risk students. These children are often seen as unteachable, and I want to provide them not only with the power and knowledge to read and write, but also the necessary tools to progress in life."

"Becoming an educator is rewarding. My goal as a teacher is to use real objects, real people and real experiences to connect students to events that happened throughout history. The best way to motivate students is to develop personal relationships and treat all students as unique individuals. I want to give students a chance to enjoy school and learn a valuable lesson from it."

- Meagan Vargas, VFW Auxiliary #7472, Ellicott City, MD

"I am 58 years old and a single mother to three really great daughters. I have sacrificed a lot through the years to make sure that they have taken advantage of the opportunities available to them and to instill in them the importance of education and religion in their lives. I feel it is now, at this point in my life, it is time for me to move toward the fulfillment of some of my dreams and goals."

"I have spent the past year getting myself ready to return to school. My youngest daughter is 13 and I want to show her that you are never too old to do something if you have definite goals in mind and are determined to make them come true."

- Emma Raker Flynn, VFW Auxiliary #2966, Scotland, SD

CONTACT US:

Email: info@vfwauxiliary.org

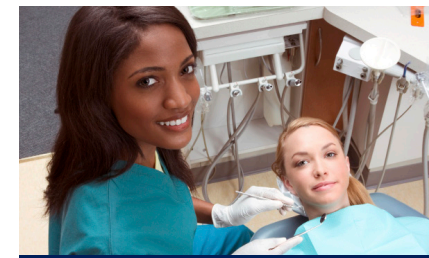
Phone: 816.561.8655

Mail: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Administrator of Programs
406 W 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Continuing Education Scholarship



Train for a career



Learn new skills



Improve your life



VFW AUXILIARY CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present scholarships to assist members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational/technical school. **ONLY the spouse, son and daughter of a member are also eligible to apply.**

One (1) scholarship will be awarded each year to a selected candidate in each of the four (4) VFW Auxiliary Conferences. Applicant must be 18 years of age or older. Qualifying member must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) year by the application submission deadline. Previous national Continuing Education Scholarship winners are not eligible.

The \$1,000 scholarship shall be used in the academic year following completion of the contest. The scholarship will be paid directly to the American college/university or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice.

Applicant Name: _____ Relationship to Member: _____
First Last M.I. Self, Spouse, Son or Daughter

Applicant Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Applicant Phone Number: _____ Applicant Email Address: _____

Member Name: _____
First Last M.I.

VFW Auxiliary Member ID Number: _____ Date Member Joined the VFW Auxiliary: _____
Month Date Year

VFW Auxiliary Name and Number: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____
Month Date Year

On a separate piece of paper, please answer each of the questions listed below:

1. What is the name of the college/university or vocational/technical school you plan to attend?
2. Have you been accepted?
3. What is your intended major or course of study?
4. What is your Adjusted Gross Income from the family's Federal Income Tax return for the prior year?
5. How many dependents are in the household?
6. What are your financial reasons for applying for the Continuing Education Scholarship?
7. Have you been awarded Financial Aid from any other sources? Please list/specify.
8. Write a brief essay (no more than 300 words*) describing your commitment to your goals and how this scholarship will help you attain these goals. *Essays longer than 300 words will not be accepted.

ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED FOR YOUR APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED.



Complete the application in **FULL** and send to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

Attn: Administrator of Programs

406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor

Kansas City, MO 64111

or

Email to: info@vfwauxiliary.org with the following subject line:

Continuing Education Scholarship Application

Patriot's Pen

2016 - 17 Theme
"The America I Believe In"
 Student Entry Deadline: November 1, 2016



WHAT IS PATRIOT'S PEN?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 120,000 students who participated last year in this contest. The national winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000 plus an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the winner and a parent or guardian.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

BIG NATIONAL PRIZES

National awards total: \$54,500

Prizes include the various amounts listed below:

1st: \$5,000	7th: \$1,750
2nd: \$4,000	8-9th: \$1,500
3rd: \$3,500	10-11th: \$1,250
4th: \$2,750	12-22nd: \$1,000
5th: \$2,500	23-24th: \$750
6th: \$2,000	25-54th: \$500

The Internal Revenue Service requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable.

HOW DOES THE CONTEST WORK?

All entries begin at the Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This participating Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by local VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The one first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. The winner from each Department (state) then competes for the national prizes.

WHO CAN ENTER?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Nov. 1 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U. S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U. S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest.)

2016-17 OFFICIAL STUDENT PATRIOT'S PEN COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL CONTESTANTS
 PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY

Name: First, M.I., Last _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____
 Phone E-mail

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) _____ Grade in School _____ Essay Word Count _____

School Name, City, State _____

Teacher's name and E-mail (if applicable) _____

Parent/Guardian's name phone/email _____

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTEST RULES

Signature of Student Participant _____ Date _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW POST

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature _____ Post # _____

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature _____

Post Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

No. of students participating _____ No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DISTRICT

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature _____ Dist. # _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

() _____
 Phone E-mail

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Department Competition, and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature _____

() _____
 Daytime Phone E-mail

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on _____. **Note:** National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to notify them of their national placement.

Patriot's Pen

2016-17 Theme

"The America I Believe In"

Student Entry Deadline: November 1, 2016

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing competition.
- Contact a local VFW Post within your local area within your state and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Nov. 1, 2016. You can submit your essay and entry form electronically (by email) upon the Post's approval.

HOW AM I JUDGED?

You will be judged on how well you understand, develop and present the theme. A positive approach is recommended to express your viewpoint.

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:

You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

WHAT IS THE THEME?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2016-17 theme is

The America I Believe In.

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

- Essay length: 300-400 typewritten words.
- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and cannot be less than 300 words or greater than 400 words in length. (Essays under or over these word amounts will be eliminated.) Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count. At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on your essay. The entry form is your essay's cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on

top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition). Contestants found in violation of this rule will face elimination from the competition and will be required to return any and all prize money awarded or received.

The essay must be a contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to use your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

DEADLINE INFORMATION

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by midnight November 1, 2016.

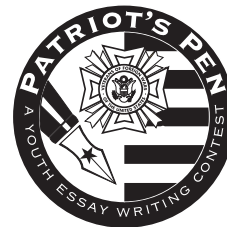
Note --

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions:

First, visit this website <https://www.vfw.org/oms/findpost.aspx> to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in.

If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look to the extreme far right side of that webpage (see the second grey box) for "VFW State Contacts" to get your VFW state office's phone number and e-mail. Some Departments have websites you can visit by visiting this link <https://www.vfw.org/Contacts/VFW-State-Department-and-District-Websites/>

If you still need assistance, please e-mail us here at VFW National Headquarters at kharmer@vfw.org.



Veterans of Foreign Wars & VFW Auxiliary
National Headquarters
Kansas City, Missouri
816-756-3390 ext 6117
E-Mail: kharmer@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

Revised 5/2016

LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION :

CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL : _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL : _____

Voice of Democracy

2016 - 17 Theme

“My Responsibility To America”

Student Entry Deadline: November 1, 2016



WHAT IS THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, almost 40,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, *My Responsibility To America*.

WHY SHOULD I ENTER?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., Feb. 25 - March 1, 2017, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its VFW Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$153,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

THE RULES

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Nov. 1 deadline, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) essay on an audio CD or a flash drive. One student per CD or flash drive. When burning your CD, make sure that "Create Audio CD" option (or similar) is selected so the program can properly convert your sound file and burn it to CD. After it has finished, be sure to play back your audio CD on a system other than your computer, such as a standard radio or car CD player, to verify that the conversion/burning process was successful. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or local VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at kharmer@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership. You may enter only one competition at one Post (if otherwise eligible) per year. At any time during the contest, additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, including but not limited to a photograph, SSN, or biographical information.

2016-17 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMPETITION

MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL CONTESTANTS

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

E-mail

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and E-mail (if applicable)

First Name You'd Like on a Name Badge

Jacket Size

TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT'S PARENT/GUARDIAN
 (required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's E-mail

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE D.C. NATIONAL FINALS RULES
 (ON OPPOSITE SIDE)**

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible.

I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

Voice of Democracy

2016 - 17 Theme

"My Responsibility To America"

Student Entry Deadline: November 1, 2016

OFFICIAL RULES FOR STUDENTS ADVANCING TO NATIONAL LEVEL

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. Feb 25-March 1, 2017 as a guest of the VFW National Organization.

I understand that state winners who do not attend as stated above will forfeit all rights to compete in the National Finals and will be replaced by their state's second place winner.

In the event my audio essay is selected for entry into the National Voice of Democracy Competition, I do hereby for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees; waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the several Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the VFW Voice of Democracy Competition and/or arising out of my travel to and during the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my tape, essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW POST

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature _____ Post # _____

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature (if applicable) _____

Post Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

No. of students participating _____

No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DISTRICT

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature _____ Dist. # _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

() _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VFW DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging and will attend the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

Department Chairman's Signature _____

() _____

Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____. **Note:** National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to make travel arrangements for them to be in Washington, D.C.

WHERE DO I SUBMIT MY ENTRY?

All entries begin at the local VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. State winners are invited to Washington, D.C. where their audio essays compete in the finals competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit this website <https://www.vfw.org/oms/findpost.aspx> to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look to the extreme far right side of that webpage (see the second grey box) for "VFW State Contacts" to get your VFW state office's phone number and e-mail. Some Departments have websites you can visit by visiting this link <https://www.vfw.org/Contacts/VFW-State-Department-and-District-Websites/>. If you still need assistance, please e-mail us here at VFW National Headquarters: kharmar@vfw.org

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR MY ENTRY?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, **Nov. 1, 2016**. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

WHAT ARE THE JUDGING CRITERIA?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.



Veterans of Foreign Wars & VFW Auxiliary
National Headquarters
Kansas City, Missouri
816.756.3390 ext.6117
E-Mail: kharmar@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

Revised 6/2016

LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION :

CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL : _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT: _____

PHONE: _____ BEST TIME TO CALL : _____

Contest Rules

Art must be on paper or canvas. Water color, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen-and-ink, or oil may be used. **Digital art and photography are not accepted.**

Do not frame! Submit canvas entries on stretcher frames or canvas board. **Other entries must be matted on white.** Do not use other color mats. In matting, **use heavy paper to reinforce back.** Mounted and floating mats may also be used. The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.

- Be sure to complete entry form and attach to back of entry.
- Note that you must be sponsored by a VFW Auxiliary
- Entry may be signed by the student

Package art so that it can be mailed without being damaged.

If you use the American Flag in your entry, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code as far as color, number of stars and stripes, and other pertinent rules of the code.

Entry must have been done during the current school year—note that you must have your teacher's or supervisory adult's signature. Each student may submit only one entry.

Each entry will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation, and patriotism expressed; the content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; the design technique; total impact of work; and uniqueness.

Eligibility

Students must be in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. Students must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. Home-schooled students are eligible; foreign-exchange students are not. Students must be a maximum of 18 years of age at the time of local entry, and they must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national.

National winners of the past contests may not compete in future Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS	
\$10,000	First Place
\$5,000	Second Place
\$2,500	Third Place
\$1,500	Fourth Place
\$500	Fifth – Eighth Place

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Deadlines

Student Deadline
March 31. Participants must submit entries to a local VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman by this date. The first-place winner from each VFW Auxiliary will be sent to the Department Scholarships Chairman for judging.

District Judging
(Optional) If held, the District winners must meet the Department deadline for judging.

Department Judging
VFW Auxiliary or District entries must be received by the Department Scholarships Chairman by April 15!

National Deadline
Department entries in the National Contest must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, 10th floor, Kansas City, Missouri 64111 **by May 5! Only the first-place Department winner is eligible for the national competition. The Department winners will be judged at the National Convention.**

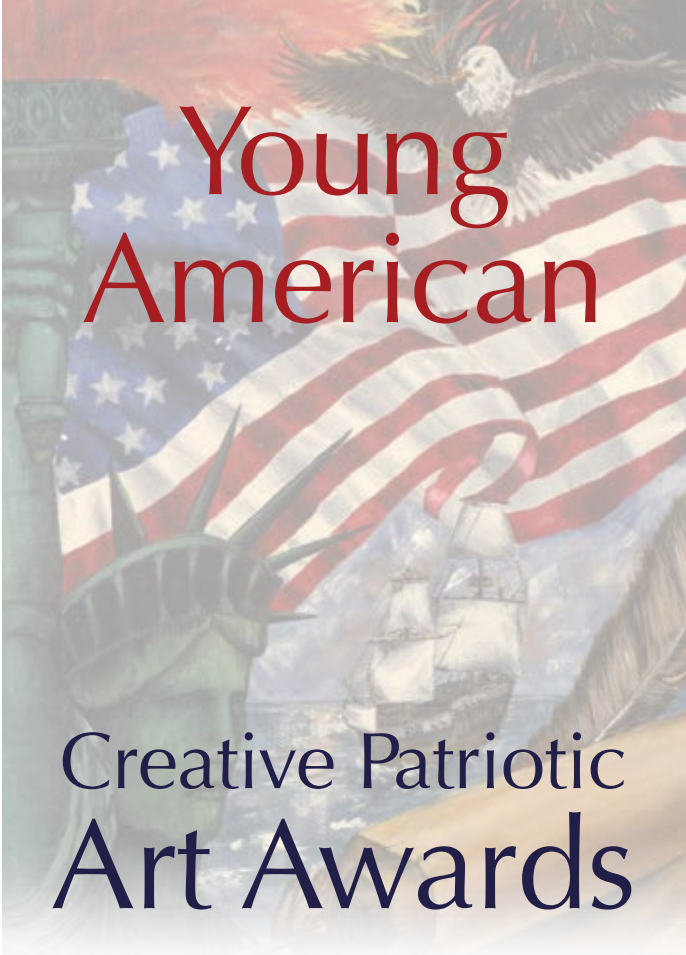
Judges

Those selected to judge the contest on all levels will be teachers, professionals, and persons knowledgeable in art. Comments of local and state judges will be attached to and forwarded with the art.

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Young American

Creative Patriotic Art Awards





Young American Creative Patriotic Art Awards

CONTEST APPLICATION

(Please Print)

Name _____ Age _____ Phone (____) _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
School _____ Grade _____
Email Address _____ Date Art Completed _____
Teacher's or Supervisory Adult's Signature verifying that the entry was done by you _____
Parent/Guardian Name _____ Signature _____

I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary Magazine and on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if I win one of the top national awards.

(Student Signature)

State the source of your idea for entry: magazine, TV, newspaper, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artwork must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by other artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of the other artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

Source _____ Media used in entry (e.g., colored pencil, oil paint) _____

PLEASE ATTACH A TYPED EXPLANATION OF PATRIOTISM EXPRESSED IN ART
(150 Words or Fewer)

Artwork not sponsored by a local VFW Auxiliary will be returned without being judged.

Sponsored by VFW Auxiliary # _____ City _____ State _____

Date Judged _____ Signed by VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman _____

Chairman of Judges' Signature (Required) _____

DISTRICT JUDGING (Optional)

Date Judged _____ Signed by District Scholarships Chairman _____

Chairman of Judges' Signature (Required) _____

DEPARTMENT JUDGING

Date Judged _____ Signed by Department Scholarships Chairman _____

Chairman of Judges' Signature (Required) _____

Only department first-place winner art must be received at the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111, for National Judging by May 5 or it will be disqualified.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

2016-2017

Bulletin 2

-Tammy Chase, Department Chairman

August 2016

Again, I want to remind you that the VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities and veterans. We have a whole new generation of Veterans who need the support of family, friends and country as they serve overseas and when they come home from conflicts abroad. Today's youth are the future of our nation.

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans National Citations

Through this national citation, youth groups can be recognized for their efforts and service projects honoring our Veterans and assisting active-duty military and their families.

Recognize a youth group in your community by visiting www.vfwauxiliary.org and filling out a nomination form. Great traditions and good citizenship start at an early age. Recognize these bright young citizens for their good work to ensure these activities become a part of their daily lives.

Involve Youth In All Auxiliary Programs

Youth play such an important role in our future. Encourage involvement from an early age in all Auxiliary programs. Every young person can find their place to serve when they are presented with a variety of opportunities to serve their communities and Veterans.

Teach youth about Auxiliary efforts to:

- Respect and take pride in our country
- Serve hospitalized Veterans
- Elect leaders who appreciate our military
- Pass legislation that secures benefits for our Veterans
- And many other worthy efforts!

Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

Under the Auxiliary Youth activities Program, an Auxiliary can sponsor a youth group and engage youth in any one of our programs, including activities to honor our Veterans or assist our active-duty military and their families.

Take advantage of the service aspects some youth groups require. Many youth-focused organizations require various types of community service or activities to earn merits in their units. College-bound seniors earn merits in their units. College-bound seniors earn school credit for some of these same activities.

Remember that involving youth in service to Veterans in conjunction with our Auxiliary can bring new membership to your Auxiliary. When youth and the whole family are included, members feel more invested in your Auxiliary. Sponsorship of a youth group can create a bright future for your Auxiliary, Veterans and the community as a whole.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

2016-2017

-Tammy Chase, Department Chairman

August 2016

Bulletin 2



PROGRAM GOALS

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans
National Citations
Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups
Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)



Examples of Youth groups for VFW Auxiliary Sponsorship:

- Youth sports teams
- Church youth groups
- After-school programs
- Youth-focused organizations
- School clubs
- Home-school associations
- Youth community service groups
- Nonprofit organization youth advisory councils
- Service learning and civic engagement departments in high schools and colleges

Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)

See a child thanking a Veterans? Witness a youth place their hand on their heart correctly? Give him or her a R.A.P. card and/or coin. The cards can be downloaded for free from the website and printed at home. Go to www.vfwauxiliary.org, then Programs and then click on the Youth Activities tab. The coins can be purchased from the VFW Store at 1-800-821-2606. Try this fun and unique way to engage today's youth and encourage their patriotism.

MAKE YOUR AUXILIARY ACCESSIBLE TO TODAY'S YOUTH

It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to the world. Social media as teaching and information tools have natural collaborative elements allowing our youth to view and comment on each other's activities. They are tweeting on Twitter, posting on Facebook, instantly sending pictures on Instagram and "liking" the videos on YouTube. If you don't know what any of this is - **LEARN**

POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS

Facebook / Twitter / LinkedIn / YouTube / Pinterest / Instagram

Get online, and see what's new!

For helpful tips on maximizing your reach through social media, check out the Publicity Guide at www.vfwauxiliary.org

Loyally, Tammy Chase, 2016-2017 Youth Activities Chairman
45980 SD Hwy 10 - Sisseton, SD 57262
(605) 698-7122
cbchase@venturecomm.net

Youth Activities

2016-2017 Monthly Report

To help your auxiliary keep track of data for the year-end reporting
It is not necessary to send this to the Department Chairman every month.

Auxiliary # _____ Chairman's Name _____

Auxiliary City _____ Chairman's Phone _____

1. How many Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations were issued this month? _____

How did your Auxiliary publicize the presentation of the Citation?

2. How many youth groups did your Auxiliary work with this month? _____

What event or project did you work together on?

How many youth were involved? _____

How many Auxiliary members involved? _____

3. How did your Auxiliary promote the Random Acts of Patriotism program this month? _____

How many R.A.P. cards were distributed? _____

How many R.A.P. coins were distributed? _____

4. Number of Youth/youth groups that were recognized and why?



Hey!
Nice R.A.P.!



You've been caught displaying
a Random Act of Patriotism!
www.vfwauxiliary.org



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