



VFW Auxiliary
Department Of
Virginia
2024-2025
President's Book

President Dawn Kuhn

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2024-2025 Outstanding Auxiliary Requirements.	1-3
Department President, Dawn Kuhn	4
Department Chaplain, Susan Dinon	5
Americanism / Patriotic Instructor, Crystal Wood	6-7
Americanism Reporting Form	8
Auxiliary Outreach, Bob DeChamplain	9-10
Auxiliary Outreach Program & Awards	11
“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home, Kathy Voss.....	12-13
“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Reporting Form	14
Extension & Revitalization, Carol Vangi.....	15-16
Historian & Media Relations, Jamie Stewart	17
Historian & Media Relations, Reporting Form	18
Hospital. Martha Braunshausen	19
Hospital Reporting Form	20
Legislative, Beverly Abbott.....	21
Legislative Reporting Form.....	22
Membership, Vicki Butler	23
VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel	24
Membership Application.....	25
Presidents Special Project.....	26
Scholarships, Mary Corkhill	27-28
Patriotic Art Brochure.....	29-30
VFW VOD Brochure	31-32
VFW Patriot Pen Brochure	33-34
Scholarships Reporting Form	35
Veterans & Family Support, Patricia Jones.....	36
Veterans & Family Reporting Form	37
Youth Activities, Dinah Doyle.....	38-39
Youth Activities Reporting Form	40

Department President’s Theme:

“ENPOWERING VETERANS, ENRICHING COMMUNITIES”

National President’s Theme:

“FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS”

Outstanding Auxiliary Requirements 2024-2025

National By-law Administrative follow through:

- ❖ Auxiliary installation report must be received by National Headquarters by **June 30, 2024**.
 - Information can be entered through Malta. If entered through Malta, please provide the information to the Department Secretary Ellen Stogsdill. If you are unable to enter the information into Malta, please send your typed and completed installation report to Department Secretary Ellen Stogsdill no later than **June 15, 2024**.
 - If the installation report is not received by National Headquarters in Malta by **June 30, 2024**, you will have to mail the installation report to National Headquarters for input.
 - Any installations not received by National Headquarters by **July 31, 2024**, will result in the Department being required to submit a request to put the auxiliary on suspension to allow time for mentoring and rejuvenation.
 - **Sec. 806A. Subsection 7**

Suggestion: Enter your installation report immediately after your elections.

- ❖ Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers must be bonded by **August 31, 2024**. The Bond can be paid by the treasurer through Malta.
 - If you need to mail a check, the bond application can be found in Malta.
 - Failure to pay the bond on time will result in the Department being required to request the auxiliary be put on suspension to mentor and rejuvenate.
 - **Sec. 814**

Suggestion: Bond can be paid any time after **July 1, 2024**. Do not wait until the last minute to pay the bond.

- ❖ District dues must be paid to the district treasurer no later than **September 30, 2024**.
 - Dues are based on the June 30 membership of the previous year and may not exceed fifty cents per member.
 - District Treasurers are responsible to report to OA chairman the payment of district dues by the district auxiliaries.
 - **Sec 506.**
- ❖ **Required: 990's must be filed by November 15, 2024**
 - If you would like Department Treasurer Cathy Graham to file for your auxiliary or district fill out the 990-release form and return to Cathy Graham. Information is on the form.
 - If your Auxiliary or District treasurer files the 990, **you must send Department Treasurer Cathy Graham cg12dc12@outlook.com a copy of the acceptance letter.** Filing is a two-step process, once submitted you must wait to return to the IRS site to obtain your acceptance letter this process takes 7 minutes.
- ❖ If the President, Secretary, and treasurer are annual members, their dues must be paid by **December 31, 2024**.
 - As per National if the dues are not paid by January 4, 2025, a letter or email will be issued from Department on January 5, 2025, requesting the nonpaid officers be removed from their position.

- Any annual member who has not paid their annual dues by December 31, 2024, is no longer considered to be in good standings. Be sure to check dues cards at your January meeting.

Suggestion: Be sure to check dues cards at your January meeting.

❖ **Section 814 – Trustees, Duties all levels**

Quarter	Month Covered	Audit Completed by	<input type="checkbox"/> Audit must be in the office of the Department Treasurer as follow:
Second	April, May and June	July 31 Annually	August 31 Annually
Third	July, August, September	October 31 Annually	November 30 Annually
Fourth	October, November, December	January 31 Annually	February 28 Annually
First	January, February, March	April 30, Annually	May 31 Annually
Send to Cathy Graham, Department Treasurer 9691 Lindenbrook Street, Fairfax, VA 22031-1132 703-319-0845 cg12dc12@outlook.com			

❖ **Required: SOI Training**

- All auxiliary Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers must attend a district school of instruction.
- If you are unable to attend, you own district arrangements can be made by the department president for you to attend another district school of instruction.
- If a district president needs to do a school of instruction during an auxiliary visit, they must reach out to the department president to schedule and understand the auxiliary meeting will need to be extended to accommodate the school of instruction.
- Trustees are encouraged to attend the district school of instruction.

❖ **Required: District meeting Attendance**

- **National By-laws Sec. 810 A subsection J** Assure that the President or their representative attend all properly called district conventions and meetings.
- The District Secretary will report to the Outstanding Auxiliary Chairman immediately after all conventions, schools of instruction and meetings the attendance of each auxiliary. Attendance at the District School of Instruction will require officers plus members in attendance.
- If a meeting has a virtual option, an auxiliary member must call in and stay the entire meeting to receive credit for attendance.

❖ **Membership**

- **100 % PLUS 1 member** based on members paid as of June 30, 2024, and all other award requirements are met, auxiliaries that achieve this goal will receive a plaque.
- **100% in membership** based on membership paid as of June 30, 2024, and all other award requirements are met, auxiliaries that meet this requirement will receive a certificate from department.
- Note Deceased members do not play a part in in the percentage calculations for O.A. Report them in Malta, your treasurer can do this.

❖ **Required: Monetary Donations**

- **VFW National Home- Health and Happiness Two choices:**
 - \$.10 cents per member based on the June 30, 2024, membership.
 - \$.25 cents per member based on the June 30, 2024, membership.

Note: Auxiliaries that choose to donate \$.25 cents per member will receive a citation from National for their contribution.

- Payment can be made three ways. Please let the Department Treasurer know the amount and date paid, for reporting to the OA Chairman, this comes from the Department Treasurer, important to send report.
 - Malta
 - Check mailed to the dept. Treasurer earmarked health and Happiness, Payable VFW Aux Dept. VA
 - Check mailed to National Headquarters, ear marked Health and Happiness. Payable VFW National Headquarters

Attn: National Secretary/ Treasurer Ann Pantelakos 406 West 10th St, 10 Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111

- ❖ **VA Medical Center Fund (Hospital)** \$.045 per member based on membership as of June 30,2024 check mailed to the Dept. Treasurer, ear marked VA Medical Center.
- ❖ **ALL Monetary Donations must be paid by April 30, 2025**
- ❖ **Required: Programs**

All auxiliaries are encouraged to promote and report in all programs. There are three programs that are required. Our organization is founded on promoting patriotism and supporting our veterans, service men and women and their families.

- **Americanism**
- **Hospital:** In addition to the VA Medical Center donation, one project needs to be reported under hospital.
- **Veterans and Family Support.**
- Donations made to VFW Veterans and Military Support can be made by check earmarked.

Veterans and Military Support. Mailed to: VFW National Headquarters, ATTN: Veterans & Family support, 406 West 34th St, 9th floor, Kansas City, MO 64111

- **In addition, one other program report must be made:** Buddy Poppy/ National Home, Community Outreach, Historian/ Media, Legislative, Membership, Mentoring for Leadership, Scholarship, and Youth Activities

Note: **New way to achieve your top Goal to add that 1 more member.**

If your auxiliary has achieved 100% and has reported in every program (Americanism, Buddy Poppy/ National Home, Historian, Hospital, Legislative, Membership, Presidents Special Project, Scholarship, Veterans & Family Service, and Youth Activities and have completed all other outstanding auxiliary requirements by April 30, 2025.

You can obtain your plus one member by having a member of your auxiliary who is a VA Hospital, hospital, Children's hospital, clinics, nursing home, hospice program, and or veterans home registered volunteer. This member must be a register volunteer with reported volunteer hours between July 1, 2024- March 31, 2025. There is a form to be filled out by the volunteer services director to be eligible. Form to be submitted to Department Hospital Chairman Martha Braunshausen by March 31, 2025. This member will also be eligible to be nominated at the end of the year for outstanding hospital Volunteer of the year award.



Maggie Myers, PDP. OA Chairman
2647 Courthouse Rd
Louisa, VA 23093-3310
(434) 242-3826
magmyer64@yahoo.com



Patty Baskett, PDP/OA Chairman
2651 Frontage Rd NW Apt 104
Roanoke, VA 24017-1456
(276) 733-9970
pbaskett85@yahoo.com.

President Dawn Kuhn

I would like to begin by saying it is a privilege to represent our great members of Virginia. Together we will work to have a productive and positive year to honor our Veterans, service men and women and their families.

I want to thank everyone who has stepped up to hold an office and all our dedicated hard-working members who enable our organization to grow and continue the important work we do.

Over the last few years, I have listened to our members voice concerns over issues they have with how we operate. This year we are going to try some new ways of operating. We will still be following our by-laws as required by the National organization. We want to keep all our members informed so I encourage you to read your communications this year. We are making changes to them to ensure they are not as long as in the past. Your program chairman will be promoting their programs four times this year. We will have changes in reporting forms and what needs to be reported.

Our Department School of Instruction will be a training session for District Presidents. This will help the District Presidents to have the tools they need to assist Auxiliary Presidents, Treasurers, Trustees, and Secretaries in their Districts. The goal is to help the Auxiliaries to be successful.

We have a few changes to our Outstanding Auxiliary/ District President requirements this year. I encourage everyone to read them.

Many members feel we do not have enough smaller training sessions. We will have available zoom training for any Auxiliary that would enjoy extra training on any subject. We feel trying a more "round table" approach could be more beneficial.

I have asked our wonderful program chairman to be helpful and courteous to our members, I ask the same of our members toward our program chairman. We are all human and we all have those days we just need to stop and regroup.

Did you know that June 14, 2025, the Department of Virginia will be turning 100. Can you believe it? To celebrate this milestone there will be a form in the Department Communications asking all Auxiliaries to provide information for our Veteran Auxiliary member, Gold Star and Blue Star family members. Our goal is to showcase these members in the Department Convention book for 2025. Here is where having a great historian comes in handy.

I encourage you to reach out to me if you have any suggestions, questions, or just have something on your mind. The Department line officers and District Presidents are here to assist you.

Thank you for trusting me with this position, and I look forward to seeing all of you over the next year.

Respectfully,
Dawn Kuhn
Pres. Dept. VA VFW Aux
kuhn@comcast.net
804-909-5792





Congratulations! You have just been elected Auxiliary Chaplain!

“The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it.” - Mother Teresa

Many of you may have questions and wonder – just what are my responsibilities?

In addition to the well-known duties of the Chaplain, opening & closing Prayer, sending cards, preparing for Memorial Services, there are other things that you may not be aware of. So, here it is straight from the Podium Book...

CHAPLAIN - AUXILIARY

- May send thinking of you, sympathy and get-well cards in accordance with the Auxiliary’s policy.
- Report what cards were sent and any deceased members at your Auxiliary meeting.
- Prepare for the Memorial Service if the Auxiliary is to have one.
- Prepare and contact the Auxiliary members if a Memorial Service is to be performed at a funeral home or given location.

CHAPLAIN - DISTRICT

- Be always prepared with the items needed to perform the Memorial Service for deceased Auxiliary members.
- Perform the opening and closing prayer at all meetings and events.
- Present the names of those who are ill, deceased, etc., at your meetings.
- May send thinking of you, sympathy, and get-well cards in accordance with the District’s policy.
- Prepare for the Memorial Service if the District is to have one.

CHAPLAIN - DEPARTMENT

- Educate the Auxiliaries on the duties of the Chaplain.
 - Perform the opening and closing prayer at every meeting and all events.
 - May send thinking of you, sympathy and get-well cards in accordance with the Department’s policy.
 - Prepare for the Memorial Service for the Department Convention. (May be held jointly with the VFW.)
 - Memorial Altar Cloth and Bible
 - Flowers for each Auxiliary, any District Officer, Department Officer, Past Department President, Past National President, etc. as is customary in your Department.
 - Practice in advance with your Color Bearers.
- Prepare the Memorial Program with your Department President’s input.

Susan Dinon

VFW Auxiliary Department of Virginia

🙏 Chaplain 🙏

2024 - 2025

susanforvets@gmail.com

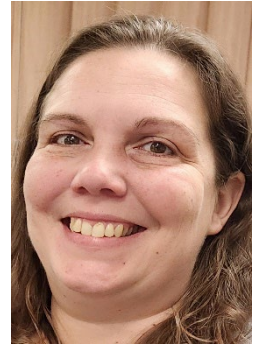
321 N Court Street

Luray, Virginia 22835

(540) 244-6008 (C)

Americanism

Chairman:
Crystal Woods
904 Jewell Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23701-1912
ctodd0711@gmail.com
(757) 818-4148



Program Goals

- Flag Education • Promote #AuxiliaryPatriotism
- POW/MIA Recognition • Star Family Recognition

The following definition of “**Americanism**” was originated by the Commanders-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, United Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the National Commanders of the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans of the World War at a conference held in Washington, D.C. in February 1927:

“Americanism is an unflinching love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.”

Patriotic Instructors

The Patriotic Instructor educates members about the proper salute to the US Flag, as well as the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. They also take the time to understand the VFW Auxiliary Ritual and the Federal Flag Code. They help members to understand the traditions and ceremonies of the organization. The *Understanding Auxiliary Traditions* help sheet and video are available in MALTA Member Resources.

For detailed information on Auxiliary traditions, rituals and patriotic ceremonies, reference the VFW Auxiliary *Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual*.

Patriotic items and educational materials are available for purchase through the VFW Store at 1-833-VFW-VETS or online at vfwstore.org.

Flag Education

A large part of demonstrating Americanism and patriotic spirit is respecting and properly caring for the U.S. Flag. Flag etiquette covers everything from proper display of our Flag to acceptable conduct around this symbol of our nation.

For more information about Flag etiquette, the history of our Flag and to read the U.S. Flag Code, visit VFW.org/community/flag-etiquette.

Respect for the Flag - Engaging the Community

- **Flag Education in Schools** – Educating our youth about patriotism is an important step on the path to good citizenship. Encourage members of your Auxiliary to volunteer in schools and educate youth about the importance of respecting our Flag. Volunteers can visit individual classrooms or give a presentation at a school assembly. For more resources, see MALTA Member Resources.
- **Recognition of Outstanding Community Flag Display** – When a community member, business or organization takes the care and time to display our “Stars and Stripes,” it reinforces patriotism to the entire community. You may recognize this display of patriotism by presenting a certificate of appreciation from your Auxiliary.
- **Flag Retirement Ceremonies** – These ceremonies honoring our Flag serve as one of the most beautiful forms of respect for our country. This is the perfect way to involve the whole family of Auxiliary and VFW members. Flag retirement ceremonies can also serve as an event involving the entire community. For more information on this and other Flag etiquette, refer to MALTA Member Resources.

Promote Patriotism – Celebrating Patriotic Holidays

Patriotic holidays are an opportune time to involve the whole family and bring community attention to your Auxiliary. When fun family events are presented to the community, prospective new members will walk through your door. Patriotic holidays can serve as the perfect way to show that your Auxiliary supports patriotism, veterans, and their families as a top priority. For more information about patriotic days and ways to celebrate, visit MALTA Member Resources.



PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS

National Vietnam War Veterans Day – March 29
National Vietnam War Veterans Day honors a generation of men and women who served and sacrificed. March 29 marks the anniversary of when the last combat forces departed South Vietnam in 1973, even though some troops remained until their final departure in 1975.

Loyalty Day – May 1
On May 1, 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1 evolved into Loyalty Day.

Armed Forces Day – Third Saturday in May
A day to pay tribute to the men and women currently serving in our nation's armed forces.

Memorial Day – May 30 (Traditional)
Patriotism calls for all citizens to be reminded of the deaths of their fellow countrymen during wartime. By honoring the nation's war dead, we preserve their memory and thus their service and sacrifice.

Flag Day – June 14
This day celebrates the official symbol for the United States: our "Stars and Stripes." Flag Day was first recognized by Congress on June 14, 1777.

Independence Day – July 4
On this day in 1776, our forefathers formed a new nation by adopting the Declaration of Independence.

Patriot Day – September 11
This day is to perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the attack on America that occurred on this date in 2001.

POW/MIA Recognition Day - Third Friday in September
POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day, traditionally on the third Friday in September, is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations.

Auxiliary members are passionate about bringing attention to former prisoners of war and those missing in action by holding ceremonies to both educate their communities and honor these special veterans. One way to honor these veterans and educate youth and the community on this subject is by having a Missing Man Table Ceremony. This practice provides a visual demonstration of the significance of POW/MIA Recognition Day. You are encouraged to share this ceremony with youth groups partnering with the Auxiliary. Find a sample of the ceremony wording and table setup in MALTA Member Resources.

Gold Star Mother's & Family's Day -
Last Sunday in September
On this day, Americans are encouraged to display the Flag and hold appropriate ceremonies as a public expression of our nation's gratitude and respect for our Gold Star Mothers and Families.

Veterans Day – November 11
This is an opportunity to honor the brave men and women, both living and deceased, who fought America's battles past and present.

Pearl Harbor Day – December 7
This day is in remembrance of the same date in 1941 when Japanese bombers staged a surprise attack on U.S. military and naval forces in Hawaii.

Branch of Service Birth Dates

- U.S. Army - June 14, 1775
- U.S. Marine Corps - November 10, 1775
- U.S. Navy - October 13, 1775
- U.S. Air Force - September 18, 1947
- U.S. Coast Guard - August 4, 1790
- U.S. National Guard - December 13, 1636
- U.S. Space Force - December 20, 2019

Military Flags Order of Precedence
According to Department of Defense guidelines, military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard.

Star Family Recognition
You may have seen a Blue Star, Gold Star or Silver Star service flag or service banner in the window of a home in your area. A service flag or service banner is a banner approved by the Secretary of Defense that family members of those serving in the United States Armed Forces can display.

- Blue Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a blue star for each family member serving in the United States Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities.
- Gold Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a gold star that represents a family member who died during military operations.
- Silver Star Families can display a flag or banner with a blue, an outer red and inner white border, with a silver star that represents a family member who was injured, wounded or became ill during or as a result of combat.

You are encouraged to recognize and honor these families in your community.



2024-2025 Reporting Form

Chairman:
Crystal Woods
904 Jewell Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23701-1912
ctodd0711@gmail.com
(757) 818-4148



- Flag Education • Promote #AuxiliaryPatriotism
- POW/MIA Recognition • Star Family Recognition

Did your Auxiliary promote, participate, recognize any patriotic day and/or branch of service birthdays? Yes NO How Many: _____

Did your Auxiliary distribute and/or present American Flags and/or POW/MIA Flags? e Yes NO How Many: _____

Did your Auxilary present any of the following: Patriotic Appreciation Citations, Certificate of Appreciation or Respect for the Flag Citations presented to citizens and/or businesses in recognition of their displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA Flag and/or other displays of American pride.

Yes NO How Many: _____

Comments:

Auxiliary Number and Name _____

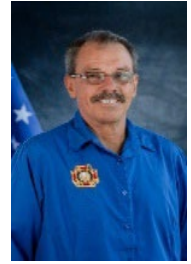
District # _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____



Chairman
 Robert t DeChamplain
 7417 Wildwood Dr
 Norfolk, VA 23518-4415
 (757) 239-4517
amleg327bobd@gmail.com
 (757) 239-4517



Program Goals

Building Partnerships • Auxiliary Participating in Outreach

What Is Auxiliary Outreach: Auxiliary Outreach is partnering with organizations for the benefit of your community or its institutions. Auxiliary Outreach can:

- ✓ Be performed by people of any age, skill set or ability level.
- ✓ Benefit any group of people such as children, senior citizens, and those with disabilities.
- ✓ Benefit animals, the environment, and public spaces.
- ✓ Be done in communities of all types and sizes - rural, suburban, and urban, small and large.

We partner to be effective in our community, but we also receive benefits including:

- ✓ Helping others
- ✓ Learning new skills
- ✓ Career advancement
- ✓ Increased confidence
- ✓ Meeting new people
- ✓ Fighting stress and depression
- ✓ Developing a stronger sense of purpose
- ✓ Personal growth

Outreach and the VFW Auxiliary

While emphasis is placed on our core VFW and Auxiliary Programs, we realize Auxiliaries also participate with other community organizations.

Auxiliaries can now report and be recognized for such community work through the Auxiliary Outreach Program. The Auxiliary may do projects alone or with the VFW Post.

Collectively, all of our volunteer hours need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community.

Be visible and show your pride in the VFW Auxiliary by wearing Auxiliary-branded attire when you participate in Auxiliary Outreach. A shirt, jacket or hat with the Auxiliary emblem can start a conversation about the Auxiliary and what we do. It is also a wonderful way to show members volunteering out in our communities and not just in our Post Homes.

What's Considered Auxiliary Outreach: When an auxiliary partners with an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach **if the project was approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project.**

On rare occasions such as a natural disaster or emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact. (When the Auxiliary votes to partner with another organization and only one member is able to show up, it still counts as Auxiliary Outreach.)

Examples include:

- Participation in walks that benefit other organizations as an event spotter, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc. (Walking or running in the race is not part of Auxiliary Outreach.)
- Partnering with local police on child ID kits.
- Partnering with firefighters on fire safety and prevention.
- Partnering with EMTs to host CPR training.
- Partnering with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, adopt-a-park initiatives and develop community art installations.
- Partnering with an animal shelter or mobile neutering clinic.
- Partnering with a soup kitchen to stock shelves to serve food.
-

What's Not Considered Auxiliary Outreach:

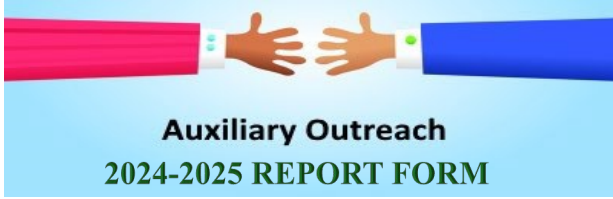
- ❖ Auxiliary Outreach is for projects **NOT AFFILIATED** with VFW or Auxiliary Programs.
- ❖ Volunteer work that is performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary is NOT considered outreach service. Examples of projects that do not qualify include:
 - ❖ Repairs or maintenance to the Post Home.
 - ❖ Cooking or serving a meal for a Post or Auxiliary fundraiser.
 - ❖ "Buddy" or Poppy distribution.
 - ❖ VFW or Auxiliary meetings, Conventions, Conferences, or schools of instruction.
 - ❖ Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)
 - ❖ Serving on a board in your community. (e.g., school board, board of trustees, etc.)

QUALIFIES

- Spending time in a local homeless shelter kitchen
- serving meals, bussing tables, or cleaning up.
- Partnering with the police or fire department on bicycle or home safety training class.
- Your Auxiliary approves helping a local cancer group setting up their event or manning a booth.
- Partnering with the garden club to clean up local parks.
- Help a youth group collect food donations for the local food pantry.

DOES NOT QUALIFY

- Taking comfort items to the local USO.
- Donating trophies to a youth sports group.
- Hosting a luncheon/dinner for a local organization
- Sending an Auxiliary check to support a charity that organized a walk-a-thon or run.
- Collecting clothing and comfort items for homeless veterans at the Post Home. (This would be Veterans & Family Support.)
- Passing the collection basket at church services.



Chairman
 Robert DeChamplain
 7417 Wildwood Dr
 Norfolk, VA 23518-4415
 (757) 239-4517
amleg327bobd@gmail.com



1. Did your auxiliary partner with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary? Yes No

2. How Many Organizations did your Auxiliary Partner with this year? _____

3. How many combined member and/or Auxiliary hours Volunteered with another Organization that is not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary? _____

Comments:

Auxiliary Number and Name _____

District # _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____



Chairman: Kathy Voss
 80 Lake Knoll Dr
 Union Hall, VA 24176-4155
klvjwv83@gmail.com
 (919) 264-7839



**Program
Goals**

Buddy"® Poppy Education/Outreach • National "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest

VFW National Home Education and Community Outreach

"Buddy"® Poppy

The **"Buddy"® Poppy** has been an integral part of the VFW community for one hundred years. As the VFW's official memorial flower, the Poppy represents the blood shed by American service members. It reiterates that we will not forget their sacrifices.

The Poppy movement was inspired by Canadian Army Col. John McCrae's famous poem, "In Flanders Fields" Poppies were originally distributed by the Franco-American Children's League to benefit children in the devastated areas of France and Belgium following World War I.

The VFW conducted its first Poppy Distribution before Memorial Day in 1922, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize nationwide distribution. In February 1924, the VFW registered the name. **"Buddy"® Poppy** with the U.S. Patent Office. The certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy, under the classification of artificial flowers. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name **"Buddy"® Poppy**. These small but memorial flowers have raised millions for the welfare of veterans and their dependents. The Poppy Program also provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs, and partially supports the VFW National Home.



Contact your VFW Post to order Poppies.

Brochures, "Buddy"® Poppy distribution supplies and promotional items can be purchased from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org or by calling 1-833-VFW-VETS.

Buddy"® Poppy Distribution Tips:

- Talk to your VFW Post about a joint drive and splitting the proceeds.
- Contact your city/town clerk's office to see if a permit is required for your distribution event.
- Get permission from the desired distribution location(s) store managers/owners prior to promoting your "Buddy"® Poppy distribution event.
- Make sure all Auxiliary members know the time, day, and place of your distribution event.
- Share information about your distribution event with your local paper and on social media. Post flyers in high-traffic areas such as grocery stores, coffee shops, the post office, etc.
- Ask for assistance from youth groups such as VFW and/or Auxiliary youth, JROTC, after-school, Scouts, Young Marines, and faith-based clubs.
- Ask volunteers to wear Auxiliary- and/or VFW-branded clothing to both promote the Auxiliary and VFW and connect the distribution of poppies to the organization.
- Remind volunteers they **are NOT SELLING "Buddy"® Poppies** but **DISTRIBUTING** them for donations.
- Never refuse someone a "Buddy"® Poppy because they are unable to donate. A "Buddy"® Poppy honors all veterans.
- See the VFW's "Buddy"® Poppy Chairman's Guide for further assistance in setting up a "Buddy"® Poppy drive, as well as other helpful resources. The guide can be found in MALTA Member Resources.

At the Auxiliary and Post level, all proceeds from Poppy drives are to be placed in the Relief Fund with receipts and expenditures in accordance with the Treasurer's Guide and the Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual.

(Sec. 904) "Buddy"® Poppy drives can be hosted at any time during the year - not just Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Try doing one at least once a quarter. If you have enough volunteers, host a monthly Poppy drive. EMPOWERING VETERANS, ENRICHING COMMUNITIES

VFW NATIONAL HOME



Turning one hundred this Program Year, the VFW National Home located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has helped military and veteran families who need a fresh start. Families can live there rent-free for up to four years and have access to professional case management services, on-site licensed childcare, life skills training, tutoring and other educational services, as well as recreational and community service opportunities. Families find healing in a safe and peaceful environment of tree-lined streets, forty-two single-family homes, facilities such as a gym, library, computer and science labs, day care center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails and more!

Founded in 1925 as a place where families left behind by war- mothers and children, brothers and sisters- could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman didn't come home. The VFW National Home serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's military and veteran families during difficult times.

Reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment, rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, emotional wounds, financial stress, fractured family relationships, hopelessness and more can be the outcome for families with a parent serving our country- now, recently, or from earlier generations. Over the years, the National Home has met the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and service members by providing help and hope for their children and families.

One way the Auxiliary supports the National Home is through gifts of ten cents per member to the Health & Happiness Fund. Contributions are critical since the campus and its programs receive no government funding. The Health & Happiness Fund supports the following at the National Home:

- Christmas gifts
- Graduation gifts
- Maintenance of Auxiliary-sponsored buildings
- Emergency repairs and renovations. Donations can be made online in MALTA or by mail.



Making a gift is easy on MALTA. Gifts can be made by an Entity (Auxiliary, District, Department) or by individuals.

- The Treasurer can log into MALTA
- Go to the Duties tab for-the entity you are making the gift on behalf of.
- Select Make a Gift shortcut icon.
- Click on Make a Gift blue box.
- Choose program and enter amount Click on I hereby agree to the terms and conditions of purchase.
- Click on Pay Now to donate



- by mail send a check earmarked Health & Happiness to: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters Attn: Health & Happiness Donations 406 W. 34th Street t, 10th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111



Military & Veteran Family Helpline
Be Heard. Be Helped.
800-313-4200
 Call for any reason.

EMPOWERING VETERANS, ENRICHING COMMUNITIEES



Chairman: Kathy Voss
80 Lake Knoll Dr
Union Hall, VA 24176-4155
klvjwv83@gmail.com
(919) 264-7839



Program Goals

Buddy® Poppy Education/Outreach • National "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest
VFW National Home Education and Community Outreach

VFW “Buddy”® Poppy:

- 1. Did your Auxiliary have a VFW “Buddy” ® Poppy drives with or without Post? Yes No
 Number With Post: _____ Number of Buddy Poppies Distributed: _____
 Number Without Post: _____ Number of Buddy Poppies Distributed: _____
- 2. Did your Auxiliary Participate in the VFW “Buddy” Poppy Display Contest? Yes No

Comments:

VFW National Home for Children

- 1. Did your Auxiliary promote VFW National Home in your Meetings? Yes No
- 2. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home Helpline? Yes No
- 3. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one (1) VFW National Home Life Membership in the current year? Yes No
- 4. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one (1) VFW National Home Tribute Brick in the current year? Yes No
- 5. Did your Auxiliary donate to the Health and Happiness Fund? Yes No Amount

Comments:

Auxiliary # _____ District # _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____ Please attach any further comments on an additional sheet.

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

Chairman: Carol Vangi
1024 Hullview Ave
Norfolk, VA 23503-2028757-621-5519
cjonesvangi@gmail.com
757-621-5519



Program Goals

Maintain and Strengthen Current Auxiliaries • Present to Unaffiliated Posts to Establish New Auxiliaries • Recognize Red-Flag Auxiliaries

TEAMWORK



The Department Chief of Staff works with **District Presidents and the Department President to maintain current Auxiliaries**. They encourage members, promote teamwork, and provide guidance during challenging times such as suspension, consolidation or even the loss of a Charter. The Chiefs of Staff also work closely with their Department President and organizers to establish new Auxiliaries.

Maintaining Current Auxiliaries: The National Organization has developed many resources for members to use, including tools available in MALTA Member Resources. These resources have proven to be valuable tools in helping Auxiliaries be more productive.

The **Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit** includes resources to assist Auxiliaries to identify issues:

Healthy Auxiliary Checklist

Healthy Auxiliary Member Questionnaire

Auxiliary Meeting Clinic

Communication Phone/Text Tree

Good Job Certificate

Healthy Auxiliary Certificate

VFW Auxiliary Mentoring Guide

Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation makes every effort to educate members on all aspects of the duties of Officers at all levels, how to be a chairman, the why of reporting, etc.

Saving an Auxiliary may be achieved by recruiting new members. Work with your Membership Chairman to help an Auxiliary become Healthy. (No new members = a true Red Flag) (See Membership in MALTA Member Resources for recruiting tools)

5 Essentials of an Auxiliary: The National Organization requires only **five (5) things of an Auxiliary:**

1. Auxiliaries should have at least ten (10) business meetings per year. (Sec. 210, A.) Five (5) members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (Sec. 212, A.)
2. Dues should be paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year. (Sec. 207, C.)
3. Quarterly Audits by Trustees must be submitted. (Sec. 814)
4. Officers elected, installed and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30. This generates the bond application via email. (Sec. 804A and 806A)
5. The offices of President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31. (Sec. 814, E.)

Establishing New Auxiliaries: Whether a VFW Post decides on its own that it wants an Auxiliary or whether an auxiliary member or non-member sees the potential for a new one, the steps for creating an Auxiliary are the same. A VFW Post must vote by 2/3 majority to have an Auxiliary. (An Auxiliary can never exist on its own without a Post and can never be started without that Post's Permission.)

President Dawn and I here to help you with this process.

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP



- ✚ Mentoring helps broaden leadership skills and leadership provides guidance for mentoring members; they work hand in hand.
- ✚ A stronger membership on every level of our organization will be accomplished through mentoring. Mentoring for Leadership will enhance all types of Program activities.
- ✚ Through the mentoring process, extending the hand of friendship to a new member or even a tenured member who has been inactive for a while can create a strong and vibrant organization. Providing a positive and organized meeting experience will leave members wanting to come back, especially when good communication and respect for each other is demonstrated.
- ✚ Utilizing the Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary: Relationship Building for the Future document will help you get started in creating a Program for your Auxiliary.
- ✚ Through this Program you will be encouraged to embrace and promote the **CARE** concept.



C - Catch the member when they first join.

A - Ask them to participate.

R - Remember what it felt like to be new.

E - Engage them in a Program that fits them.

Over time, a member may express interest in holding an office or chairmanship.

Work with them to help them succeed. This will only make your Auxiliary and our Department better.

Choose your mentor carefully.

If the member is interested in floor work, choose an experienced floor worker.

If they are interested in keeping books, have them work with the Secretary or Treasurer.

The real goal here is to train your replacement and give them the tools they need to succeed.

Historian & Media Relations



Chairman: Jamie Stewart
5194 Longbow Rd
King George, Va 22485
Jamie_stewart91@icloud.com
757-897-5521

Program Goals

Historian Duties • Media Relations



The member responsible for **Historian & Media Relations duties** is a memory keeper and collector of the five Ws: the **who-what-where-when-and-why** of your Auxiliary. These individuals compile and chronicle memories and events in written and digital formats, including photographs, memorabilia, print news, audio and/or video clips and social media posts.

The **Historian & Media Relations** member captures the narrative of the Program Year. At the Auxiliary, District and Department levels, these members are the members who get the word out about the Auxiliary to our communities. They inform the public about our valuable National Programs.



Auxiliary and District Historian & Media Relations:

This member keeps a written report of the history of their Auxiliary or District and submits this to their respective President at the end of the year. Supplemental material can include photographs and newspaper clippings that document special Auxiliary events.

Who should you contact about Auxiliary news?



Learn the names of reporters who cover stories most similar to yours and tailor your own list of media contacts. Send information directly to these contacts rather than the editor, news staff who specialize in relevant areas, like society and calendar page editors, are more likely to be receptive to including auxiliary events. Feel free to send a reporter a personal email and be sure to include your contact information.

Photography Tips:

Photos should be clear and sharp, at least 1 MB (megabyte) in size and taken with attention to detail. Avoid the following photo faux pas:



- Closed eyes
- Mouths open or full of food
- Distracting objects in the frame or awkward placement of people or things (e.g., trees popping out of someone's head, bunny ears, etc.)
- Offensive language on articles of clothing



For the media relations piece of this role, [a great place to start is MALTA Member Resources.](#)

- ❖ The VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide includes lots of valuable information and ideas to promote your Auxiliary.
- ❖ The VFW Auxiliary Elevator Speech/What We Do summarizes who we are, what we do and how we describe ourselves as an organization to the media.
- ❖ Website and social media information - There are a lot of resources here, everything from the basics to setting up a Facebook page for your Auxiliary.

Historian & Media Relations 2024-2025 Report Form



Chairman: Jamie Stewart
5194 Longbow Rd
King George, Va 22485
Jamie_stewart91@icloud.com
757-897-5521

Program Goals

Historian Duties • Media Relations

1. Does your Auxiliary communicate quarterly to each of their members via mail, printed mail, text, or phone call? Yes No

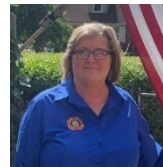
2. Does your Auxiliary have a Facebook page with or a joint page with the VFW post?
Auxiliary Facebook Page _____ Joint VFW Facebook Page _____

3. Does your Auxiliary have a website or a joint website with VFW Post?
Auxiliary website address: _____ Joint VFW website address: _____

4. When submitting photos please be sure to include the 5 Ws with the photo, who, what, when, where and why.

Comments:

Auxiliary # _____ District # _____
Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Email: _____



Chairman: **Page 19**
 Martha Braunshausen
 8810 Gramel St
 Norfolk, VA 2353-4814
msswusn@aol.com
 (757) 289-1686

Program
Goals

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support Valentines for Veterans,
Women Veterans Health Care • Honors Escort

VFW Auxiliary members have been volunteering in hospitals and medical facilities since the organization's inception in 1914. The Hospital Program was one of the first nationally adopted Programs for the organization.

Where can we serve? Members, non-members, and youth can volunteer in many different types of facilities under this Program.: Local hospitals, Veterans' homes, Nursing homes, Domiciliary, Both VA and non-VA medical Facilities. **Who can serve?** Members, Non-members, Youth and Families.

What can we do? Volunteer opportunities are based on the facility where you are volunteering. Some facilities will have a volunteer program in place with specific jobs, events, and needs. Many facilities will have varying types of opportunities to suit different ages and abilities. Be sure you follow all the guidelines given by that facility and regularly ask how you can assist them.

What can we earn? Members can earn Hospital Volunteer Service Pins from National Headquarters for their volunteer hours. More information on hours needed and the proper forms to use can be obtained from Department Hospital Chairmen or in MALTA Member Resources. Hospital Chairmen should track total hours (both VA and non-VA) and apply for the pins. Members can also be named an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in their Program Division. Applications are available from the Department Hospital Chairmen.

Non-members can also earn a one-time-only volunteer pin for 100 hours. See the Hospital Program Guide or ask the Department Hospital Chairman for more information.



Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support: New volunteers are needed every day across the country. Volunteers offset millions of dollars in expenses in health care. They help create a friendly and caring atmosphere no matter where they volunteer. Here are tips for recruiting and keeping volunteers:

- Monthly sign-up sheet for regular events.
- Be specific about what volunteers will be doing, including the time commitment.
- Find out how each person best communicates, whether by phone, email, Facebook or texting.
- If someone says "no" to the first invitation, be sure to ask again!

For more information about being a volunteer, how to handle a Department Hospital Fund and other topics about this Program, download the Hospital Program Guide and VAVS Guide in MALTA Member Resources.



Valentines for Veterans: Share the Love we have for our veterans and Service Members this Valentine's Day by sending store bought or handmade valentines, hosting a party recognition event or dinner in their honor. Fellow Members, individuals and groups in your community can use their creativity to show compassion for our Veterans and service Members.



Women Veterans Health Care: Women have served our nation for generations and are the fastest growing group within the veteran population. Comprehensive health services are available and tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Learn about the resources and health care services available and help them receive the benefits and services they deserve.



Honors Escort: The Honors Escort Program is an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful and open manner and provides an opportunity for a veteran's family and friends, other veterans, and medical facility staff to participate in a display of high regard and reverence for the individual at the time of death.



Chairman: Martha Braunshausen
8810 Gramel St
Norfolk, VA 2353-4814
msswusn@aol.com
(757) 289-1686

2024-2025 Report Form

Program Goals

**Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support Valentines for Veterans,
Women Veterans Health Care • Honors Escort**

1. Did any of your Auxiliary Members volunteer at any VA and /or non-VA medical Facility?
Yes No How Many Members: _____
(Auxiliary members to be counted only one time per year)
2. How many hours did Auxiliary members volunteer in any VA and /or non-VA medical Facility? Hours: _____
3. Total number of hours that your Auxiliary sponsored and/or Students Volunteered under the VFW Auxiliary Sponsorship and Supervision at any VA and /or non-VA medical Facility.
Hours _____
4. Did your Auxiliary Host or co-host any activity with your VFW Post at any VA and /or non-VA medical Facility? Yes No
5. Total Dollars amount that your Auxiliary spent on all Hospital Program items and /or Projects. \$ _____
6. Did your Auxiliary donate to the Department Hospital Fund per June 30, 2024 Membership?
\$ _____

Comments:

Auxiliary Number and Name _____

District # _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____



Legislative Chairman:
Beverly Abbott
130 Brookview Rd
Danville, VA 24540-3408
desiabbott@comcast.net
(434)792-4497

Program
Goals

Be An Advocate • Be Informed • Be Engage

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. Your efforts, combined with nearly 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members, can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans and their families every day. Join the chorus of voices that will ring out in legislators' offices this year.

Study the issues laid out clearly in the **VFW Priority Goals**. A copy can be found in MALTA Member Resources. The **Priority Goals** reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. They call for much-needed attention to crises such as veteran homelessness and suicide. They request fully funding research on traumatic brain injuries, reducing the claims backlog, fighting veterans' unemployment, and improving timely transition assistance for veterans after leaving the military.

The goals are grouped under **six areas of concern**:

1. Budget
2. Health Care
3. Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
4. Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
5. Military Quality of Life
6. National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA

These goals are released in January of each year by the VFW. Be sure you check the **VFW website or MALTA Member Resources for the current Priority Goals.**



legislators: find out who's who. To identify your congressional representatives, visit the VFW website at votervoicenet.com/VFW/register.

It's free and it's full of news about what's happening on Capitol Hill, with veteran and service member issues and with our national security. Subscribe at the National website at vfwauxiliary.org by selecting "What We Do" then clicking on "Legislative." Contact your

VFW in D.C.

One of the most crucial responsibilities of the VFW Washington, D.C. office is to actively lobby Congress and the administration on behalf of veterans. The office monitors all legislation affecting veterans and alerts VFW and Auxiliary members about key legislation under consideration.



By testifying at committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed in the 20th Century, as well as bills developed in the 21st Century.

(Find the VFW Legislative Fact Sheet in MALTA Member Resources, Legislative)



To contact the D.C. Office
Website: vfw.org/advocacy
Phone: 202-543-2239
Mail: 200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

LEGISLATIVE
2024-2025 REPORTING FORM



Legislative Chairman:
Beverly Abbott
130 Brookview Rd
Danville, VA 24540-3408
desiabbott@comcast.net
(434)792-4497

Program Goals

Be An Advocate • Be Informed • Be Engage

1. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate and/or host or co-host activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals with or without their VFW Post? Yes___ No___

2. Did your auxiliary members contact your legislators on veterans' issues? Yes__ No__

Check all that Applies:

- Emails How Many: _____
- Letters How Many: _____
- Postcard How Many: _____
- Phone calls How Many: _____
- Other Explain: _____

3. Did any Auxiliary members attend events where they could interact with legislators?

Yes___ No___

Check all that Apply:

- Legislative Conferences How Many: _____
- Town Halls How Many: _____
- Meet-and-Greets How Many: _____
- Other Explain: _____

Comments:

Auxiliary# _____ District # _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____



Chairman: Vicki Butler
 220 Hillcrest Dr
 Fredericksburg VA 22401-4010
vickibutler@hotmail.com
 (757) 284-1651

Program Goals

**Invite New Members • Include Current Members •
 Invest in the Future of the Organization**

The VFW Auxiliary started with a small group of women who wanted to serve veterans; it has grown exponentially and now includes both **males and females as members**. 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 VFW Auxiliary is and what they do before ever receiving an application.

IMPORTANT TOOLS TO USE:

- ⊗ Fact Sheet, available for free from National Headquarters.
- ⊗ Business card with contact information. (Order yours from the VFW Store, vfwstore.org.)
- ⊗ **MALTA Member Resources.**

FOLLOW UP!

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

ASK THEM TO PARTICIPATE

- ⊗ The key to keeping members is getting them involved. Call or email a new member within a week with the next meeting date and time, or the next possible event or project. Offer to pick them up or invite them to get coffee before or after a meeting.
- ⊗ Put a team of members in charge of contacting new members or members who haven't been to a meeting recently. The team should be friendly and knowledgeable about the Auxiliary.

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS PARTICIPATION:

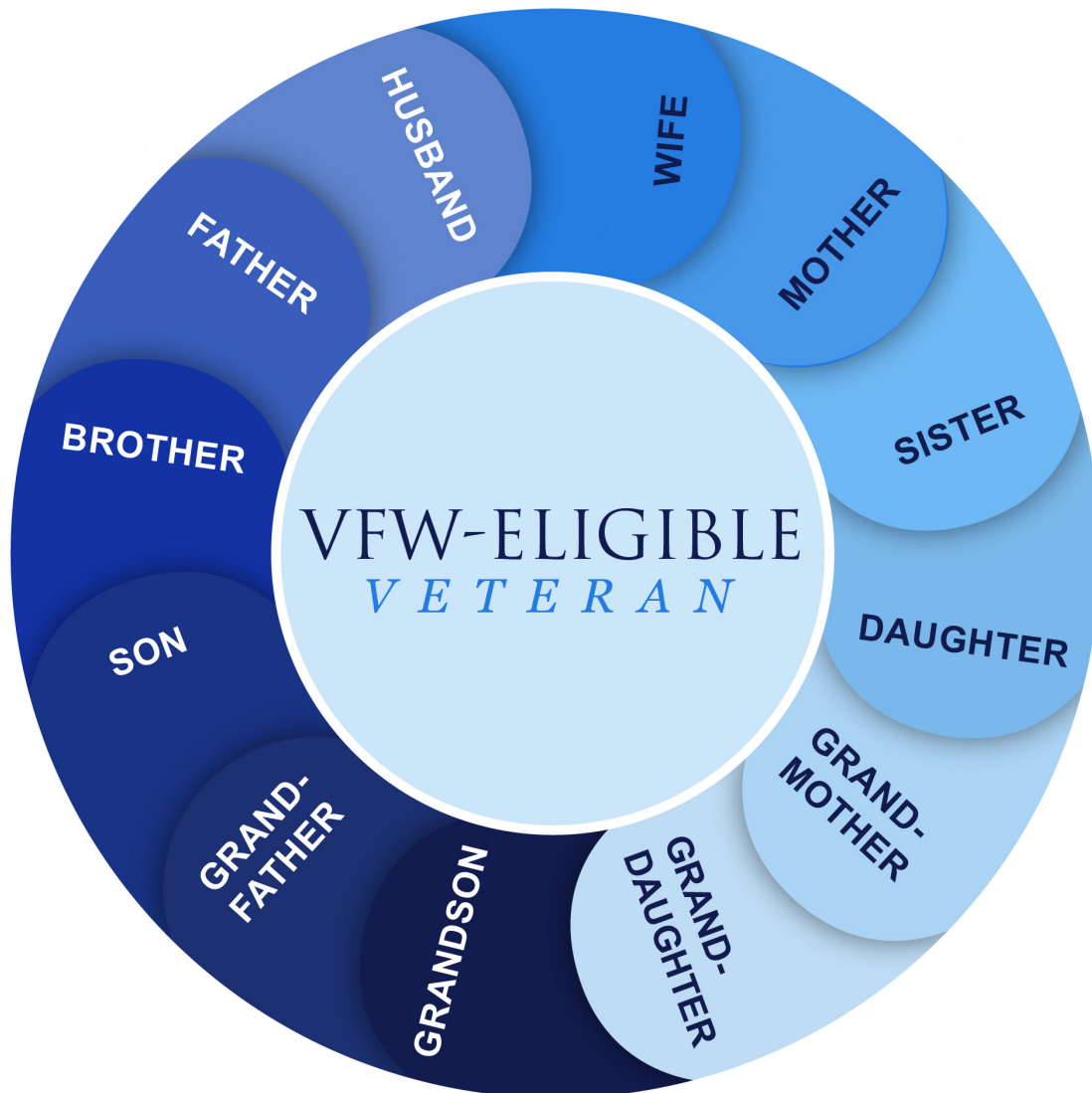
- ⊗ Monthly sign-up sheet for regular events.
- ⊗ Emails and phone calls for unique events.
- ⊗ Public recognition of current volunteers. (Consider posters at your VFW Post Home, if permitted, that spotlight member involvement.)
- ⊗ Be specific about what they will be doing, including the time commitment.
- ⊗ Find out how that person best communicates, whether by phone, email, Facebook, or texting. Have another member stay with them for the entire length of the activity or event.
- ⊗ If they say "no" to the first invitation, be sure to ask again!
- ⊗ Plan family-friendly events! Members with children in the home want opportunities to do things with their family.

HAVE A PLAN:

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

- ⊗ Contacting current members, Outreach to former members. Recruiting events for new members. Having mentors to assist new members.
- ⊗ Before a membership year begins, set your calendar for these events:
- ⊗ Make it as easy as possible for members to renew their dues. They can renew online in MALTA!
- ⊗ Plan recruiting events in your community each year. This can be done by just the Auxiliary or in conjunction with your VFW Post.

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



**Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*

An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, B, C or D and F. Auxiliaries/Departments complete section E.

A

Recruited/Recommended by: _____ Recruiter Member ID _____
 Auxiliary No. _____ City _____ State _____ Member ID (If already a member) _____
 Annual Membership Rejoin
 Life Membership Transfer
 Member at Large in Department of _____ Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
 (If not a transfer, skip to B.)
 LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary _____
 ANNUAL TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary _____ Paying Nonpaying
 ANNUAL TRANSFER CONVERTING TO LIFE (Fill out Life Membership information below.) Previous Auxiliary _____

B

THESE FIELDS REQUIRED

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____ Female Male
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Email _____

C

POST-AFFILIATED (*Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

Relationship _____ to Eligible Veteran* _____ VFW Membership ID _____

D

NON-AFFILIATED (*Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

Relationship _____ to Eligible Veteran* _____ VFW Post (If applicable) _____
 Name of campaign ribbons or medals: _____
 Dates of Service: _____ to _____ Location: _____

E

Investigating Committee Signatures

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
 Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. Rejected Accepted Meeting Date _____ Obligated Date _____

F

OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 16 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.

Signature _____ Date _____
 (Must be signed by all members.)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Life Membership fees are not refundable.

Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY Check here if this is a gift.

Credit cards may NOT be used for initial payment of Annual Dues.

Cash Check Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX _____ Life Membership Fee

Name on credit card _____

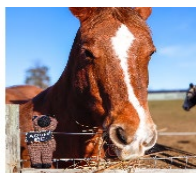
Billing address for card _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Credit Card No. _____ CVV Code _____

Exp. Date _____ Date _____ Signature _____

President's Special Project



Fred Jennings

757-477-5086

fredj@verozen.net

Judy Lupole

757-581-2702

luydale88@verizon.net

Facts about The Blue Mountain: www.barnsatbluemountain.org

They are a 501c3 non-profit, they are a self-sustaining organization that relies on fundraising, donations, and grants to pay staff, care for their horse partners, monthly rent for their facilities, and all other expenses. They do work with Blue Mountain Therapy to provide quality services with their amazing staff. Their services are not billable to insurance companies currently. They are part of an army of equine assisted service providers working hard to supply hard data and results that will push companies to recognize the benefits and pay for these services. This is why they Fundraise so much! Their staff, board members, and volunteers work hard on raising funds all year to help cover the cost of services and care for their horse partners. They ask for no more than 1/3 of the cost of providing an equine assisted service from the family they serve. They have a sliding scale that can take the cost down to as low as \$5 per session. So fundraising and your support makes it possible to provide a trained & healthy equine partner, an equine specialist &/or certified therapeutic riding instructor, a therapist or counsellor in some cases, volunteers or added staff for aid, and the equipment and facility to those benefiting from our programs in your community.

They work closely with Physical, occupational, and speech therapists, as well as, behaviour technicians, mental health professionals, and social workers from Blue Mountain Therapy. They collaborate and work closely with Emory & Henry College and their equine, psychology, and therapy departments to both put the most up to date methods into practice and to train upcoming equine assisted services professionals.

Programs they have:

Healing Hooves is a therapeutic riding program serving ages 6&up with a variety of physical & mental disabilities, or cognitive delays.

Changing Strides is an at-risk youth program serving ages 6-19. They work with DSS, foster care agencies, juvenile court, and mental health agencies to provide a safe space for healing and growth. They work on personal growth, healthy relationships and communication, and self-sufficiency.

Serve a Purpose Program serves our veterans, active military, and their families with both community engagement & support, and equine assisted psychotherapy with a mental health professional.

Pony Power Reading Program is for all ages and promotes reading and literacy while being in the calm realm of horses that is judgement free.

Pony Pals Program is an all-inclusive group class that is open to ages 6-15. This group learns horse safety, handling, behaviour, communication, independence, teamwork, social skills, emotional regulation, and leadership.

Barn Buddies Program is for adults with disabilities or cognitive delays to enjoy outdoor and social activities while learning social skills, emotional regulation, and independence.

Please Send donations to Department Treasurer: Cathy Graham 9691 Lindenbrook Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22031-1132 . Earmark the checks President's Special Project.

Scholarships

Program Goals

- Student Participation
- Recipient Recognition
- Community Awareness
- Increasing the Fund



Chairman:
Mary Corkhill
PO Box 1912
Manassas, VA 20108-0802
mcorkhill@comcast.net
R/703/361-8950 M/703/517-2629

Each of our scholarships encourage patriotism, assist students in attaining an education and help students reach their full potential. This increases VFW and Auxiliary recognition while supporting our communities, students, and members.

Get The Word Out!

The first step is to identify likely individuals with whom you can discuss scholarship opportunities. The following are a few suggestions of groups that might be interested in what you have to say.

Schools and JRCHC Units	Faith-based youth groups	Youth-focused organizations
Home-school associations	Parent-teacher associations	Youth sports teams
Financial aid offices	Student veteran center	Scouts

Continuing Education Scholarship: Open to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least a year), their spouse, son, or daughter with a financial need. Entrants must be at least 21 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, 2025:**

Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email it to: info@vfwauxiliary.org

\$1,250 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences. Applications are available from Department Scholarships Chairmen or in MALTA Member Resources.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest AND 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest:

Open to any student in grades 9-12 who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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 intend to become a U.S. citizen.

Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique.

One Department winner will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters.

Please see the student brochure in MALTA Member Resources for more details on requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines for Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art:

Entries received by:

Participating VFW Auxiliary – **March 31, 2025** (District Judging is OPTIONAL)

VFW Auxiliary Department – **April 15, 2025**

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – **May 5, 2025**

National Scholarships: Young American Creative Patriotic Art

First Place - \$15,000, Second Place - \$7,500, Third Place - \$3,500

Fourth and Fifth Place - \$1,500, Sixth and Seventh Place - \$1,000

Eighth through Nineteenth Place - \$500

National Scholarships: 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art

First place - \$2,500, Second place - \$1,500, Third place - \$1,500, Fourth place - \$500

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical or trade school of the winners' choice.

Please promote this contest in your area.

We have talented and creative artists waiting to be discovered.

Please note that the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is an additional scholarship and is separate from the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.

See the official rules for art forms that are accepted for this contest.

Recognition Is Key

It is important that scholarship winners receive recognition at every level. Ways to Recognize Winners:

- Present a certificate and/or gift.
- Ask the winner to give a speech or lead the Pledge of Allegiance at an Auxiliary event.
- Host an awards ceremony.
- Present awards at a school assembly.
- Contact local media to feature winners in the news.
- Sample press releases are available online in MALTA Member Resources.
- Invite winners to participate in a Conference.
- Don't forget to recognize the parents and teachers!

To Donate to the Patriotic Art Escrow Fund, Log into MALTA. Click on "Make a Gift:"

Select Patriotic Art or Mail checks earmarked Patriotic Art to: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund. 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111

2024-2025 VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

2024-2025 Theme “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

Open to students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, student age 20 or older, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winner, GED or adult education students are ineligible. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW Headquarters.

Deadlines:

Entries to VFW Post - Midnight, **October 31, 2024**

Post Judging Complete – **November 15, 2024**

Department Judging Complete – **January 10, 2025**

Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters – **January 15, 2025**

National Awards:

First Place - \$35,000 scholarship, Second Place - \$21,000 Scholarship, Third Place - \$15,000 Scholarship, Fourth through 36th Place - \$7,000 to \$1,500 scholarship, 37th – 53rd Place - \$1,000 scholarship

2024-2025 VFW Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest

2024-2025 Theme “My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

Open to students in grades 6-8 who are enrolled in public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (application for which has not been denied) and intend 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. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW Headquarters.

Deadlines:

Entries to VFW Post by - Midnight, **October 31, 2024**

Post Judging Complete - **November 15, 2024**

Department Judging Complete - **January 10, 2025**

Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters - **January 15, 2025**

National Awards: First Place - \$5,000, Second Place - \$4,000, Third Place - \$3,500

Complete list of all contest rules can be found in the following resources:

- VFW website: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education:
- MALTA Member Resources
- VFW Auxiliary National website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarship
- Promotions from National Ambassador
- VFW Store: vfwstore.org or 1/833-VFW-VETS



CONTEST ELIGIBILITY

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- 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 intend to become a U.S. citizen.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or National winners of previous (two-dimensional) Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are NOT eligible.

CONTEST RULES

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two-dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or heavy paper.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries, if matted, must be matted in white. Do not use color mats.
- Reinforce the back with heavy Paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used, Do not frame art.
- Complete contest entry form and submit with entry.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24," (not including a mat).
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.
- Complete typed explanation (artist statement) of art (total of 250 words or less) and submit with entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest entry form.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art and photography are NOT accepted.

JUDGING

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

Those selected to judge the contest on all levels will be teachers, professionals and persons knowledgeable about art.

VFW AUXILIARY DEADLINES

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. (District judging optional.)
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July/August:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First- through 12th-place winners displayed at National Convention; all Department winners shown on VFW Auxiliary social media.
- **September:** Art will be returned to address on entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

- First place - \$15,000
- Second place - \$7,500
- Third place - \$3,500
- Fourth and Fifth place - \$1,500
- Sixth and Seventh place - \$1,000
- Eighth through Nineteenth place - \$500

Students may enter both two-dimensional and three-dimensional contests in the same Program Year but must complete an entry form for each.

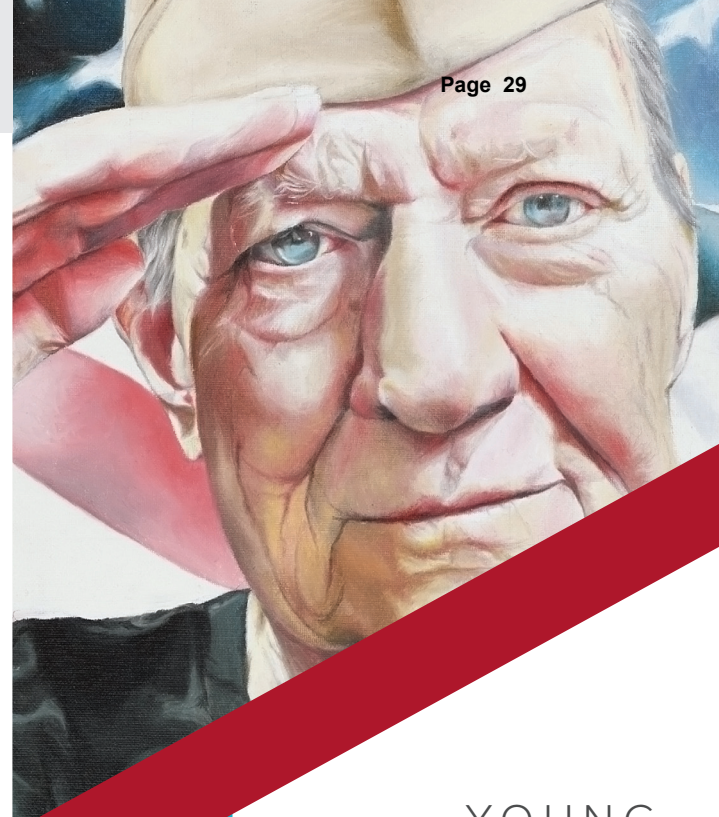
FIND THE ONLINE ENTRY FORM AT
vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships

STUDENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Auxiliary by March 31.
 Entries submitted directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be disqualified.

SPONSORING VFW AUXILIARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

2-DIMENSIONAL



YOUNG AMERICAN
creative
PATRIOTIC ART
 CONTEST



Scholarship contests that recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in youth.
vfwauxiliary.org

CONTEST ELIGIBILITY

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- 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 intend to become a U.S. citizen.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or National winners of previous 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests are NOT eligible.

CONTEST RULES

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be three-dimensional.
- Art can be paper, papier mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc.
- Entries may not be larger than 18" in any direction.
- Entries may not weigh more than 5 pounds.
- Complete contest entry form and submit with entry.
- Complete typed explanation of the steps taken to create the three-dimensional art entry/artist statement (total of 250 words or less) and submit with entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest entry form.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art, photography, three-dimensional laser-printed art, weapons and jewelry are NOT accepted.

JUDGING

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

Those selected to judge the contest on all levels will be teachers, professionals and persons knowledgeable about art.

VFW AUXILIARY JUDGING AND DEADLINES

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. (District judging optional.)
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July/August:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First- through 4th-place winners displayed at National Convention; all Department winners shown on VFW Auxiliary social media.
- **September:** Art will be returned to address on entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships
 First place - \$2,500
 Second place - \$1,500
 Third place - \$1,000
 Fourth place - \$500

Students may enter both two-dimensional and three-dimensional contests in the same Program Year but must complete an entry form for each.

FIND THE ONLINE ENTRY FORM AT
vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships

STUDENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Auxiliary by March 31.

Entries submitted directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be disqualified.



3-DIMENSIONAL

SPONSORING VFW AUXILIARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST



Scholarship contests that recognize up-and-coming artists and encourage patriotism in youth.
vfwauxiliary.org

2024-2025 Theme

“Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

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, nearly 27,000 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, “**What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?**”

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 DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or 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. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@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.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the 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 VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindaPost to “Find A VFW Post.” 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 for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office’s phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@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, **Oct. 31, 2024**. 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.

2024-2025 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

VFW Auxiliary, Virginia

1024-2025 Presidents Book

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

Page 32

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

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

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

Jacket Size

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

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 Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

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 Departments.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Participant Agreement 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. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("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 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 Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to 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 audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not used any AI tools. 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.

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

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

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

For assistance contact:

816.968.1155

Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



Twisted X Brands

A Proud Sponsor

Signature of Student Participant

Date

EMPOWERING VETERANS, ENRICHING COMMUNITIES

Revised 01/2024

2024-2025 Theme

“My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2024

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot’s Pen Program?

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 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the 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 VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by 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 first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot’s Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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 are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot’s Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post 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 October 31, 2024. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post’s approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

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 2024-2025 theme is:

“My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2024.

Note:

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

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to “Find a VFW Post.”

If you don’t have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/contactus to look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office’s phone number and email.

**For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters
at 816.968.1155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2024-2025 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

VFW Auxiliary, Virginia

1024-2025 Presidents Book

Page 34

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.

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

• You must write your own essay.

• All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.

• 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 the essay. The entry form is your essays 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).

• The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. 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 Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

• At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

EMPOWERING VETERANS, ENRICHING COMMUNITIES

Date

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants

No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships 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 Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

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

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____



Twisted X Brands
A Proud Sponsor

**Scholarship Report Form
 2024 – 2025**

Auxiliary #: _____ **Chairman:** _____

District #: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Report Date: _____ **Email:** _____

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Did your Auxiliary promote the Continuing Education Scholarship contest? Yes ___ No ___
 (For example, distributing application, publicizing and promoting the program etc.)

Did you make a monetary donation to the National Continuing Education Scholarship Fund? Yes ___ No ___

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest? Yes ___ No ___
2. Number of students that submitted an entry to the Auxiliary for judging? _____
3. Did your Auxiliary submit an entry to the Department for judging? Yes ___ No ___
4. Did your Auxiliary make a monetary donation to the National American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Fund?
 Yes ___ No ___

Total dollar amount awarded to the student by the Auxiliary: _____

3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest? Yes ___ No ___
2. Number of students who submitted an entry to the Auxiliary for judging? _____
3. Did your Auxiliary submit an entry to the Department for judging? Yes ___ No ___
4. Did your Auxiliary make a monetary donation to the National 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest fund?
 Yes ___ No ___

Total dollar amount awarded to the student by the Auxiliary: _____

PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST

1. Did your Auxiliary assist your Post in promoting or conducting the VFW National Patriot's Pen Essay Contest?
 Yes ___ No ___
2. Number of students that submitted an entry? _____

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO/ESSAY CONTEST

1. Did your Auxiliary assist your Post in promoting or conducting the VFW National Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest? Yes ___ No ___
2. Number of students that submitted an entry? _____

Did your Auxiliary host/co-host an awards ceremony to recognize the recipient and participants in **any** of these contests? Yes ___ No ___ Date: _____

Total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by your Auxiliary. _____

Total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by your District. _____

Mary Corkhill
 P.O. Box 1912
 Manassas, VA 20108
 (R) 703/361-8950 / (M) 703/517-2629
mcorkhill@comcast.net





VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Patricia Jones
615 Bethel Church Rd
Fredericksburg, VA 22405-3519
trishjonesym@gmail.com
(540) 394-0775



Program Goals

VFW National Veterans Service • VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs Assist Veterans, Service Members, and their Families.
Promote Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE (NVS): The VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) helps veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve - **at no cost**.

NVS provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system. Those VFW Service Officers recover more than \$1 billion annually in VA benefits for veterans and their dependents. These highly skilled professionals assist all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not in filing claims for:

- Disability compensation.
- Rehabilitation and educational programs.
- Pension and death benefits.
- Employment and training programs.

NVS also works to ensure veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA health care, including:

- Hospital care.
- Outpatient care.
- Specialized health care for female veterans.
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment.
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service, exposure to Agent Orange, radiation or other environmental hazards.

Donations to NVS can be made online or by mail. Donate online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select National Veterans Service, click "Contribute".

Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW earmarked for NVS. Mail check to: VFW National Headquarters Attn: NVS, 406 W. 34th Street, 11th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111. Make sure you report to me that you donated and let our Department Treasurer know so she will give you credit on the Membership & Financial Tracker.



VFW Veterans & Military Support Program contains programs initiated by the VFW: Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and **the VFW "Sport Clips® Help A Hero Scholarship"**: These programs serve active duty and recently discharged military. Donations to

Veterans & Military Support can be made online or by mail. Donate online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select Veterans & Military Support, click "Contribute". Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW earmarked for Veterans & Military Support.

Mail check to: : VFW National Headquarters Attn: NVS, 406 W. 34th Street, 11th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP) FUNDS WAYS to CONNECT WITH TROOPS:

MAP helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units. It helps forge and nurture bonds with those units by providing financial assistance for Posts, Districts and Departments to sponsor morale-boosting send-offs, homecomings, and casual get-togethers. Posts and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-a- Unit and Family Readiness Group events can also receive assistance. MAP keeps care packages circulating by covering postage costs. For guidelines to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW Veterans & Military Support office at 816-756-3390.



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Program Goals

VFW National Veterans Service• VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs Assist Veterans, Service Members, and their Families.
 Promote Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

1. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate, host or co-host with your VFW Post activities for any VFW Program?
 Yes No

Check all that apply:

- Disaster Relief
- National Veterans Service (NVS)
- Mental Health awareness.
- Military Assistance Program (MAP)
- Unmet Needs, Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention

2. Did your Auxiliary provide direct aid to veterans, service members and/or their families?

- Meals Transportation Cards Care Packages Monetary or Non-monetary Donations Other Aid

Explain: _____

3. How many veterans, service members and/or their families did your auxiliary assist? _____

4. What was the total monetary donations and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans service members and/or their families? \$ _____

Comments: _____

Auxiliary #: _____

District #: _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Youth Activities

Chairman: Dinah Viner Devins Doyle
 3449 Crimson Holly Lane
 Virginia Beach, VA 23453
n2runn1@yahoo.com
 757-560-0493



Program Goals

Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups
 Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations
 •Patriotic Youth Award Patriotism through Literacy• Illustrating America

Our 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 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.

Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups: As part of 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 service members 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 merit 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 your 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 Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations: The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is one way for Auxiliaries to recognize youth groups for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting service members and their families. The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is available in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

Patriotic Youth Award: The Patriotic Youth Award is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support of our veterans, service members and their families. A fillable, printable version of The Patriotic Youth Award is available in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

Patriotism through Literacy: Promote and support reading among youth with this simple, fun and potentially free (use your local library) initiative. Introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning. Benefits of Patriotism through Literacy: Teach kids about various times in American history. Promote empathy and expose students to experiences unlike their own. Foster a love of books that leads to a lifetime of learning. Spend time with kids in the community in new, creative ways. Help youth gain better understanding of American history through nonfiction.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY?

- ✓ Volunteer to read a historical or creative nonfiction picture book to kids at your local library.
- ✓ Donate historical fiction or creative nonfiction books to local schools, shelters, or libraries.
- ✓ Host a read-a-thon and award small prizes (sticker, pins) for the number of books or hours read.
- ✓ Run a writer's workshop for aspiring teen and tween authors at your Post home.
- ✓ Invite an author of historical fiction or creative nonfiction to do a book talk/signing in your area.

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 subscribing to YouTube channels. If you don't know what any of this is - **LEARN**.

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA: Open to any student in grades K-8 by the March 31 deadline who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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 intend to become a U.S. citizen. Foreign exchange students and students age 15 or older are ineligible. National grade division winners of previous Illustrating America contests may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous National winner.

Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. The Department first-place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters.

DEADLINES: ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY:

Local Auxiliary-March 31, 2025

Department -April 15, 2024

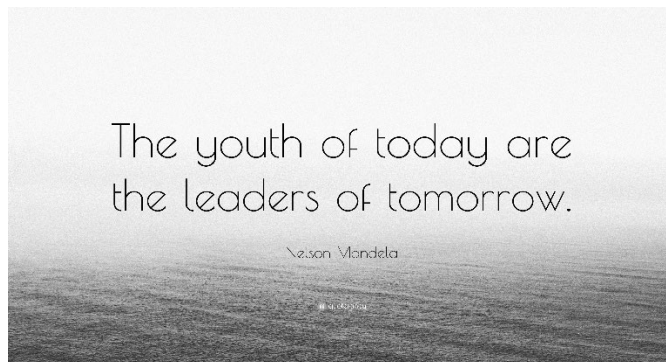
National Headquarters - May 5, 2025.

CONTEST RULES:

- Art must be two-dimensional.
- Art must be on canvas or paper.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries, if matted, must be matted in white or reinforced with heavy paper.
- The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24": not including mats.
- **COLORING SHEETS, DIGITAL ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY ARE NOT ACCEPTED.**

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!
-



Youth Activities
2024-2025 Reporting

Chairman: Dinah Doyle
 3449 Crimson Holly Lane
 Virginia Beach, VA 23453
n2runn1@yahoo.com
 757-560-0493



Program Goals

Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups
 Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations
 •Patriotic Youth Award Patriotism through Literacy• Illustrating America

Youth Group

1. Did your auxiliary work with any youth groups this year? Yes No How Many? _____
2. How many youths did your auxiliary work with this year? _____
3. How many Youth groups were awarded Our Veterans Citation award? _____
4. Did your Auxiliary participate in Patriotism through Literacy? Yes No
5. How many Books did your auxiliary donate in participation of Patriotism through Literacy? _____

Illustrating America Art Contest

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the Illustrating America art contest? Yes No
2. How many students submitted art entries to your Auxiliary for Judging? _____
3. How many entries did your Auxiliary submit to the Department for judging: _____
4. Did your auxiliary host an awards ceremony to recognize winners and Participants in this contest? Yes No
5. Total amount and/or Value of awards that your Auxiliaries presented to the participants? \$ _____

Comments: _____

Auxiliary Number and Name _____

District # _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____