

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN July 2022

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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care

Department Theme: Be the Anchor for Our Veterans, Hold Them Steady and Safe

National Scholarship Program Goals

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

PARTICIPATION & COMMUNITY AWARENESS is the key to success – NOW is the time to start on the path to reach the National Scholarship goals listed above. Start with Participation & Community Awareness. Working together with the VFW as a team we can challenge students in Michigan to strive to be the best they can be by participating in the VFW Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Contest. October 31, 2022 will be here in a flash and we must make sure the information on how to participate reaches our youth.

I can't wait to hear how young people entering the Voice of Democracy Contest answer the question **"Why is the Veteran Important?"** and it will be interesting to find out what Patriot's Pen contestants **"My Pledge to our Veterans"** will be. What will they learn while researching and coming up with their essays? Getting the information out to teachers, students and parents is the key to success. How will you unlock the promotion and community awareness for these programs?

Summertime is full of opportunities to reach students even though school is not in session. There is always the internet that can reach into homes through Facebook, e-mail, Twitter, etc... but what about those students who don't have internet available? Don't forget those "old fashion" ways of communication: newspapers, posters, radio, handouts in grocery bags, mailing and any other ideas you come up with (don't forget to share). County fairs, car shows, sporting events are perfect opportunities to set up a booth and reach parents and youth.

Summertime gives you time to make packets of information, including brochures – forms – applications, last year's winning essays, etc... about all the scholarships the VFW Auxiliary offers. Most school administrators work throughout the summer, go into the school and stress what we can offer students. Include in your packet a one-page handout explaining all programs. Ask if this short VFW informational sheet can be given to ALL students and be put in "school-lesson plans". This brief overall offering can let parents know what is available – include LOCAL contact information. Teachers will be filling their lesson plans for the year, it's important the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and The Young American Patriotic Art Program information gets to the school in plenty of time.

Remember deadlines:

October 31, 2022: Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen

February 15, 2023: Continuing Education Scholarship

March 31, 2023: Young American Patriotic Art 1 & 2 Dimensional

Let's make sure we work as a team - through VFW Auxiliary Scholarship opportunities because *"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"* will *"Be the Anchor for Our Veterans, Hold Them Steady and Safe"*.

Evelyn Avery, Department of MI Scholarship Chairman

44936 CR 352 Decatur, MI 49045

269-423-8129 H 269-491-0642 C averycow@yahoo.com