

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN December 2022

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook page: Scholarships-Michigan

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



RECOGNITION: Winner, WinnerChicken Dinner? Working together with your Post, having a banquet at your Post to honor the winners of the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the year would be great! Invite everyone involved – all participants, teachers, school administration, students, parents, members etc. Have dinner, then present medals, certificates, prize money – do it up good. Have the winners read their essays. Be sure to invite the press to cover the event – Free Publicity!



Sometimes it's not possible to do a banquet type recognition – try something else. Go to the source. Ask the school if your Post & Auxiliary members can be part of a School Awards program. Usually, schools have a marking period or semester awards program for the student body. What better place to recognize the students than at the school in front of all their peers. It also advertises the program to the entire school and parents and builds interest for years to come. Ask if an announcement of winners can be made at indoor sports events during "half time" or morning announcements on the PA system - congratulate the winners!

No matter how you do it, please make sure you give **ALL** participants recognition! A Thank You can go a long way in promoting participation and building confidence. Awards for these programs can be found in the VFW Catalog & on-line. A certificate, medals, pins, key chains, plaques – all kinds of things are available or just make your own awards. Local newspapers are a great source to publicize the outcome of your contests! Of course - there is always Facebook! A great way to honor the V.O.D. and the P.P. winners would be to let the students and parents know part of the prize to the winners is that your Post and Auxiliary is making a donation to the National Fund for these programs in their honor. This might even generate a parent to donate too.

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE: I hope you are planning on coming to the workshops and trainings at Mid-Winter Conference (January 27-28, 2023) at the Raddison in Kalamazoo. Check out the Schedule of events at the website. You'll be able to ask questions and get ideas for the Scholarship programs at the "Chairman Table" on Friday and the Chairman's presentation on Saturday – plus a lot of great information of interest.

You will also be able to meet the District Winning Students for VOD, PP and attend an afternoon program of introduction (free – no big banquet ticket to buy). I hope the excitement is building to find out who will take home the top awards. The Mid-Winter banquet, on January 28, 2023 (order your ticket by deadline of 1-18-23) will finally let us know who will represent Michigan at National Level!! & the winner is?????

ZOOM MEETINGS: The next Zoom meeting will be held December 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm. One of the chairmanships being covered is "Scholarships" - tune in to see what "Mother Goose" has to offer! You can find the information/address to join the zoom meeting at the VFW Auxiliary Website on the Home page – the very first line on the page will connect you.

SPOTLIGHT ON CONTINUING EDUCATION: February 15, 2023 will be here before you know it! That's the deadline date for the VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship, which is open to members (who have been a member for at least a year), their spouses, or children over the age of 18 and it provides financial assistance to further their education. The application needs to include an essay of no more than 300 words about why you need the scholarship. The application is sent directly to National Headquarters. Four \$1,000.00 scholarships are awarded each year, one in each of the four VFW Auxiliary Conferences. Get the word out early to members in Posts and Auxiliaries by using posters, newsletters, websites, social media, and meeting announcements. The Application can be found at www.vfwmi.org and www.vfwauxiliary.org. Applications are sent directly to the National VFW Auxiliary office and are due by **February 15, 2023**.



Your Help is needed to support the VFW Auxiliary's National President's Special Project – the 3-dimensional Art Escrow Fund. Please help “build for the future”! Auxiliaries can log into MALTA - Click “Make a Gift”, select National President's Special Project or mail checks earmarked 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art to National Headquarters. This is also part of the guide sheet and will fulfill one of the points there. Supporting the 3-D Art contest is also on the form to fill out for National Report form for Auxiliaries at the end of the year. Please support and report how much you donated for this new program.

You can be the KEY that unlocks the artistic talent in your area! Contact the schools, art studios, 4-H Clubs, Scouts, Church groups and any other youth organizations you can think of and tell them about the two VFW Auxiliary Art competitions available for 9th- to 12th grade age young people. You can order FREE of charge the applications for both contests from the National office. The form is on the National and Department Websites. Use social media to get the word out! I'd like to have entries from every Auxiliary! Wouldn't that be Fantastic! ENCOURAGEMENT CAN DO WONDERS!

You are the “Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”. Reporting what you do for the VFW Scholarship Program is a way you can “BE THE ANCHOR FOR OUR VETERANS, HOLD THEM STEADY AND SAFE”.

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