

**SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN:
DIANA RUDE KULHANEK
8733 Via Diego Ct., Lakeside, CA 92040
(619) 701-0733; E Mail: dirude@yahoo.com**

I am so honored to help serve President Ellie as your Scholarships Chairman for the 2018-2019 year! I look forward to helping you reach out to the students in our communities and connect aspiring scholars to our scholarship opportunities.

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. Our scholarships help their dreams come true!

The Scholarships Program is such an important asset to the Auxiliary members. A scholarship is a sum of money or grant given to a student to provide financial assistance to pursue his or her education based on academic merit or achievement. Together we can make dreams come true!

Our Program goals are:

- ❖ **Student recognition**
- ❖ **Recipient Recognition**
- ❖ **Community Awareness**
- ❖ **Increasing Awards**

There are **four contests** available:

- Continuing Education Scholarship
- Voice of Democracy
- Patriot's Pen
- Young American Creative Patriot Art

It is our responsibility as an Auxiliary member to do everything in our power to get **students** involved!

GET THE WORD OUT!

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

- Schools including Charters and Home-schooled students
- Scholarship Counselors
- JROTC Units
- Churches and/or Youth groups
- Student-focused organizations (Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, etc.)
- Parent Teacher Associations (PTA)
- Students' sports teams (Coaches, mentors, advisors)
- Your grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and your neighbor's children
- Home school associations

Once you get an entry, **please** check the rules and instructions for each contest. We would not want an entry to be disqualified at **any** level. Recognize every participant. Award them with a Certificate of Participation, monetary award, gift card to a bookstore, etc. Please take a picture of the winners and submit it with a description of the contest(s) to your local newspaper. This is free advertising!! What a wonderful way to have people in the community see what great things we are doing with our **students**. The Scholarships Program can alter the lives of our **students**. Our **students** gain so much from the experience by meeting our members, our veterans, and other **students**. Our **students** are the future of today and tomorrow in leading our great country, and we can play a major role in helping to shape their future.

Each year, there are opportunities for our students to obtain scholarship money through our **four** scholarships! Our Scholarships Program increases the VFW and Auxiliary recognition while supporting our communities, students and members. The VFW and Auxiliary can play a vital role with our students by fostering better awareness and display of love, pride and respect by providing them the opportunity and encouragement to apply for **all four** scholarships.

Get the Word Out by spreading the **Word** and being knowledgeable of the different scholarships! For those students who wish to further their education, this will give them the opportunity to move forward to their future and obtain their long-term goals. A student's ability to reach an obtainable goal is never impossible, even though it may be challenging. If the students keep **dreaming**, their goals are possible and obtainable. The opportunities offered in our Scholarships Program range from those in middle schools to adults.

Our Auxiliary members should promote **all four** Scholarship Programs; not just one program. Our Scholarships Program is a chance to encourage pride, education and patriotism in all age groups. Let's face it, if we want to reach as many young people as possible with our great Scholarship contests, we should meet them on their playing field. After all, we are in the technological world. At times, it may be difficult but also challenging to *get the Word Out* about our great Scholarships Program to the local schools, so we can distribute our brochures. So, let's have more interaction with the 21st-century students by reaching them through **social media**. As you know, **Social Media** has teaching and informational tools with natural collaborative elements allowing our students to view and comment on each other's activities. Let's jump on board and use it to our advantage.

Continuing Education Scholarship

For the 2018/2019 Auxiliary year, we would like every Auxiliary to reach out to its members and encourage those eligible to apply for the Continuing Education Scholarship. This scholarship is to assist members who wish to further their education by pursuing a **college degree or a career direction** at a **vocational/technical school**. **The spouse, son and daughter of a member are also eligible to apply.** Applicant must be 18 years of age or older. Qualifying member must be a current VFW Auxiliary member and must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) year prior to

submission of their entry. An entrant must complete an application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. The completed application and essay must be received at National Headquarters by February 15, 2019 by either US Postal Service or email. Previous National Continuing Education Scholarship winners are not eligible.

Administrator of Programs
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111
or email the application and essay to
info@vfwauxiliary.org with the following
Subject line: Continuing Education Scholarship
Application

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four (4) VFW Auxiliary Conferences. The \$1,000 scholarship shall be used in the academic year following completion of the contest. In addition, each top winner will receive a plaque. The scholarship will be paid directly to the American **college/university or vocational/technical school** of the awardee's choice. An application is available either from the Department Scholarships Chairman or on the website.



Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

Open to all students, including home-schooled students in grades 9-12. No digital art will be accepted, and artwork must be on canvas or paper. It will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters. Please see the student's brochure at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>

For more details on requirements. Students must attend the school in the state of the sponsoring Auxiliary. The Department winners will receive \$500 - 1st place and a plaque, \$300 - 2nd place - \$200 - 3rd.

Deadlines:

Entries received by local Auxiliary – March 31

Entries received by Department – April 15

Entries received by National Headquarters – May 5

National Awards:

First Place – \$15,000 scholarship

Second Place – \$7,500 scholarship

Third Place – \$3,500 scholarship

Fourth Place – \$1,500 scholarship

Fifth through Eighth Place – \$500 scholarship

NEW!!!

Expanded Art Forms Now Accepted!

The Patriotic Art Contest will now accept other forms of art. See these new rules below:

Two-dimensional art- must be on canvas or paper. Watercolor pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media taught may be used. Do not frame two-dimensional pieces. Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries must be matted in white. Do not use color mats. Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. The art should be no smaller than 8 x 10 inches but no larger than 18 x 24 inches not including the mat.

Three-dimensional art can be papier Mache pottery, clay, metal work, etc. Pieces should be no smaller than 8 inches in any direction and no larger than 24 inches in any direction. Art cannot be more than 5 lbs. in weight.

Digital art, photography and jewelry are not accepted.



Voice of Democracy National Scholarships

Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest

2018-2019 Theme: "Why my Vote matters"

This contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students in grades 9-12 (**submitted by the new deadline date of October 31**). Students must be a resident of the state where entered. District winners will receive an expense paid trip to Sacramento for the Department Voice of Democracy Banquet in January. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters. All Department winners will enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC where their essay competes in the final competition. **The First Place Winner Award for the National Voice of Democracy is \$30,000.**

Deadlines:

Deadlines!

Entries to VFW Post – **Midnight, October 31**
Completion of Post Judging – November 15
Completion of District Judging – December 15
Completion of Department Judging – January 10
Department Winner to VFW National
Headquarters – January 15

NATIONAL AWARDS

First Place – \$30,000 scholarship
Second Place – \$16,000 scholarship
Third Place – \$10,000 scholarship
Fourth through 36th Place – \$7,000 to \$1,500 scholarship
37th – 54th Place - \$1,000 scholarship

Patriot's Pen
Patriot's Pen Essay Contest



2018-2019 Theme: "Why I Honor the Flag"
This contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 6-8 (**submitted by the new deadline date of October 31**). Students must be a resident of the state where entered. One Department winner will be forwarded to National Headquarters. **The First Place Winner Award for the National Patriot's Pen is \$5,000.**

**DEADLINE
Dates!**

Deadlines:

Entries to VFW Post – **Midnight, October 31**
Completion of Post Judging – November 15
Completion of District Judging - December 15
Completion of Department Judging - January 10
Department Winner to VFW National Hdqtrs - January 15

National Awards:

First Place – \$5,000
Second Place – \$4,000
Third Place – \$3,500
Fourth through 54th Place – \$2,750 to \$500

Scholarship and Contest Resources

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

- ❖ VFW website: www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education
- ❖ VFW Auxiliary website: www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships

- ❖ Promotions from National Ambassador
- ❖ VFW Store: www.vfwstore.org or 1-800-821-2606

***Tips for submitting winning applications -
Follow ALL scholarship and contest guidelines. It's important!***

Consider these tips:

- ❖ Read all guidelines ahead of time.
- ❖ Make sure you are eligible before you begin.
- ❖ Pay close attention to deadlines.
- ❖ Include your contact information in the designated space.
- ❖ Answer all the questions.
- ❖ Properly display artwork.
- ❖ Stay within word count limits.
- ❖ Be conscious of proper spelling and grammar.
- ❖ Choose good references when requested.
- ❖ Follow instructions for following up on your application's status.
- ❖ Remember, it is okay to ask questions!

RECOGNITION IS KEY

It is important that scholarship and contest 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.
- ❖ Contact local media to feature winners in the news.
- ❖ Sample press releases available online.
- ❖ Invite winners to participate in a conference.
- ❖ Do not forget to recognize the **parents!**

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

District Auxiliary Chairmen Awards:

- Department Citation for District Auxiliary Chairmen with 100% reported participation in all four areas: **Continuing Education Scholarship, Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen** and is received by **December 31, 2018**.
- Department Citation for the District Auxiliary Chairman with the **Best Promotion** of the Continuing Education Scholarship and is received by **March 31, 2019**.
- Department Citation for the District Auxiliary Chairman with the **Best Promotion** of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Legacy Award and is received by **April 15, 2019**.

Auxiliaries Awards:

- Department Citation for the Auxiliary with 100% reported participation in all four areas: **Continuing Education Scholarship, Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen** and is received by **December 31, 2018**.

LEGACY AWARDS

A Special Recognition award honoring our Past Department Presidents will be awarded to the Auxiliary Chairman in the state who best promotes the following Scholarships Program during the 2018/2019 year:

- ❖ Past Department President Darlene Kidd, VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship Legacy Award
- ❖ Past Department President, Kay Fuller Young American Creative Patriotic Art Legacy Award
- ❖ Past Department President Pat Whitley, Voice of Democracy Legacy Award
- ❖ Past Department President Gloria Palmer, Patriot's Pen Legacy Award

National Awards

Citation to any Auxiliary that donates to the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Escrow Fund.

By providing the opportunity for our students to participate in one or more of our Scholarships Program (**Continuing Education Scholarship, Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen**), at an early age they learn what it means to support our veterans, their families and our communities. Together we can make dreams come true!

Don't' forget to **Report! Report! Report!** Please make three copies and send one each to the Department and District Scholarship Chairmen and keep one for your records. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Let's work "360° for our Veterans and their families!"

I look forward to working with you!