

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**

**September Promotion - Gaylene Ramos, Department Chairman**

### **Reading Buddies**

By now most schools have started their school year. One of our Youth Program Goals is promoting the Reading Buddies Program. This is different than last year's goal because the rules have been changed. ANY Auxiliary member can be a Reading Buddy, which is you listening to children read. Please continue to promote and use the updated Book list. Get your Auxiliary to purchase books from the list or do a membership book drive. Get the Post and Auxiliary involved in buying books from the list to be donated to school libraries or to classrooms. Contact teachers in the schools and ask if they have any students who need a little extra help with reading or help with Tutoring. Contact the local libraries and see if you can set up reading hours and do them once a week or once every two weeks or once a month. Be engaged. Now is the time to plan and promote.

Also, I still like last year's goal which was to get Students to read to Veterans or Veterans read to Students. Now is the time to talk to teachers at school, the local library, or even your Post about setting something up for a day in November to recognize the local Veterans. It makes them feel good to talk to the students and even better if the students can read a book from the list to them.

September is also Library Card Sign Up Month. Encourage the students to sign up for a library card and check out some books from the library. Hopefully, they have some of the books from the Patriotism Through Literacy List.

### **Illustrating America Art Contest and Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**

The Illustrating America Art Contest is a great way to introduce our artists to our Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. They will be our future contestants when they reach high school. The Illustrating America Art Contest form and information can be found on MALTA under Resources – Youth Activities. Please make sure you, the teachers, and students are reading and following the requirements. Print the Applications in color so nothing is overlooked.

Youth Groups: The Scouts, ROTC Cadets, church groups, and classroom groups Start calling your local schools or after school programs or church leaders and ask if there is anything that you can assist with in helping the children in the community. Or invite them to assist your Auxiliary with your dinners, breakfast, and other fundraisers. When interacting with the groups, please try to get a head count of how many are participating so when you do your reporting, you will have more information to put into your report – this makes for a better report.

Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates – Please use the NEW Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates. I have given each District Chairman a copy of each one. These can be found under Member Resources – Youth Activities Program on MALTA. I highly suggest using a nice Linen or parchment paper, so it looks like a quality certificate. Ask the schools, after school youth leaders, teachers or look in the community for children who are going out into the community and doing special projects. Children like to be appreciated and recognized for doing good things.