

YOUTH ACTIVITIES – OCTOBER 2025

Gaylene Ramos – Chairman

The month of **November** is a special time to honor our Veterans. Now is the time to talk with teachers from your area about holding a day of students reading to veterans or veterans reading to students from a book that is on the “Patriotism through Literacy” list of books. Maybe even purchase some small flags to be handed out to the class and report it under Americanism.

Hopefully by now, many of you have contacted the schoolteachers, the After School Programs and even the libraries asking if they have students that need help with reading. Becoming a “Reading Buddy” helps us to help many students who may be struggling with reading disabilities, self-esteem or confidence in reading aloud. What a great way to step up and help in our communities.

Now is also the time to plan on using the Scouts, ROTC students, and children’s church groups for your upcoming Thanksgiving dinners that you may be planning.

Some of our Auxiliaries are having issues getting into the schools with the “Illustrating America Art” applications. The school district is saying that the application must show the following: that the Auxiliary is a non- profit organization and not affiliated with any school district. Some of you may recall, years back the VFW was having a similar situation with the Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen applications. They fixed the problem by submitting the paperwork to the National Department of Education. I have contacted our National Youth Activities Ambassador for guidance and how we proceed in this matter. Remember this is a newer program so there will be a few hiccups. Once I hear back from her, I will follow up with you.

Until then, try placing applications in local libraries, art museums, contacting scouting organizations, charter schools, home schools, and if your area is doing a “Trunk or Treat” have plenty of applications available to hand out. Make sure you are posting on social media sites such as Facebook. If your town has an e-newspaper check into posting on there.

With Veterans Day Parades coming up, have zip lock bags ready to hand out with the applications, a Buddy Poppy, Buddy Poppy info with a few pieces of candy. If your Auxiliary is doing food baskets for the holidays and you know the families have children, include applications in with the food box. Don’t forget Christmas giveaways also.

Remember to put it on the floor and in your “Standing Rules” to award these children on your local level as well as the district level.

Also, please keep checking the deadline dates for the Illustrating America Art Contest. Be sure and promote it as much as you can. Use the media release templates under Malta.

Just a reminder, on page 109 of the VFW catalog, they have some great Activity Books that can be bought by you or your Auxiliary to help promote many great subjects. A few years back our Auxiliary purchased 10 books in each category. We then made sets, a

book from each category and gave them out to teachers that we knew. The teachers can make copies of key pages in each book for their students to work on. Check them out!

Ambassador Shannon's Promotion #2 will also be on the Department webpage under Youth Activities along with this promotion. I have received a few of the District Chairmans information and will make sure it gets updated on the webpage.

Please make sure we are sharing our information and promoting this program to the best of our abilities as it is a great program and our youth deserve to be recognized for what they do in our communities.