

SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTATION BRENDA BLAIR, 2021-2022 NATIONAL AMBASSADOR

Did you know we have **MONEY**, yes **Money**. And it's money that our youth needs to further their education. Without our help, some may never have had the opportunity to go past the High School level.

How can we do this you may ask?

Well that's why I'm here to tell you how we as an Organization can help our Youth.

There are **two** Programs that we as an Auxiliary help promote for the VFW.

They are the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, and the VFW picks new themes each year for both programs.

The first Program of the VFW is the **Voice of Democracy** or **VOD** Audio-Essay Contest. The Voice of Democracy theme for 2021-2022 is:

America: "Where do we go from here?"

Students that are in grades 9-12, which is open to all students in public or private schools, or who are homeschooled. There are **53** national scholarships awarded, one from each VFW Department. A student has the chance to win up to **\$30,000.00** if their Essay is chosen as the first-place national winner. **Entries are due to Local Posts by October 31, 2021.**

The second Program is the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, which is for the students in grades 6-8 and again this is open to all students in public or private schools, or who are homeschooled. The Patriot's Pen theme for 2021-2022 is:

"How Can I Be A Good American?"

Again **53** national scholarships are awarded, one from each VFW Department. The first-place national winner receives a **\$5,000.00** award. **Entries are due to Local Posts by October 31, 2021.**

But that's not all, there are **(2)** two Programs offered from the **VFW Auxiliary** which are **Continuing Education Scholarship and Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests**. There are no themes for either contest.

The Continuing Education Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship and is only open to VFW Auxiliary members, their spouses and children. The qualifying member must have been a member for at least (1) year.

The applicant has to be at least 18 years of age. There will be **(4) \$1,000.00 winners, one for each of the (4) Conferences**, which are the **Eastern, Southern, Western and Big Ten**.

Scholarship applications are due to National Headquarters by **February 15, 2022**.

Sadly, less than 100 applicants have applied for this scholarship in each of the last (3) Years.

The second scholarship is **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**.

This is open to all 9 – 12th graders students in public or private schools, or who are homeschooled.

This contest is two- and three-dimensional forms of art.

Two-dimensional is on canvas or paper with pencil, pastel, charcoal, pen, ink, etc.

Three-dimensional can be of paper, papier-mâché, pottery, metal work, fabric, wood, etc.

There are 12 scholarships that will be awarded with the first-place national winner receiving a **\$15,000.00** scholarship. Art, essay and application are due to Local Auxiliaries by **March 31, 2022**.

All art will be returned to the address listed on the application form no later than **September 1st of the contest year**.

Whether the scholarships are given by the VFW, or Auxiliary, all monies will be paid directly to the American college, university or vocational/technical school of the recipient's choice.

I encourage you to go to your Resources page at: **vfwauxiliary.org/resources** for scholarship applications, contest flyers, media releases, judging sheets and patriotic art helpful hints.

Goals:

1. Get the word out about the scholarships through the schools, media, newspapers, Facebook, etc.

2. Follow up on the information given to the public. Don't just give it out and have no contact afterwards.

3. Also make sure to recognize the winner, whether at a dinner, luncheon, presentation, etc.

The students will be encouraged that you took the time to notice and appreciated their hard work.

Get the word out to your Department and to the media that you have winners of these scholarships. Let the public know by taking photos and sharing them on Facebook to let everyone see just what you do.

4. We need to increase the Young Creative Patriotic Art and Continuing Education funds so more students can be helped in furthering their education.

Incoming National President Jean Hamil's Special Project, Fund the Future will increase both the Continuing Education and Young Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship funds.

- We'd like to increase the number of Patriotic Art scholarships awarded at the National level from 12 to 20. Ultimately, we'd like every eligible entry judged at the National level to receive a \$500 minimum award.
- And we'd like to increase the award amount of the Continuing Education Scholarship from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

There are three ways to support this year's special project:

- Donate online in MALTA.
- Mail a check earmarked either Patriotic Art or Continuing Education to National Headquarters.
- Establish a named Patriotic Art scholarship. If you, your Auxiliary, District or Department is interested, read the 'Establishing a VFW Auxiliary National Patriotic Art Scholarship' flyer on the Resources page of the website for more information and funding amounts.

Let's help more students reach their dreams.

Lastly, I want to thank you for being here, thank you Jean for giving me this opportunity, I know together we will totally rock this.

Again, I'm JUST SO EXCITED!!