



October 2023—December 2023

The Bruce Post G-2

The Newsletter of the Largest Post in Michigan

Cpl. Walter F Bruce Post #1146
Veteran of Foreign Wars of the United States
28404 Jefferson Ave., St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-2570

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES



POST OFFICERS

Commander.....	Randell Shafer
Sr. Vice Commander.....	Richard Cwik
Jr. Vice Commander.....	James Hermes
Quartermaster.....	Tim Litz
Chaplain.....	William Davenport
Judge Advocate.....	Tim Litz
Surgeon.....	Thomas M Navarrette
Adjutant.....	David Ellis
G-2 Designer.....	Amy Beltz



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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Visit Our Website:

www.vfw1146brucepost.org

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VFW 1146 Bruce Post



Greetings to All!

I hope all is well with everyone reading this. Summer went by too fast for me, but it was fun.

The Car Shows went well, and were also fun. The Golf Outing went well, and it was fun as well. Many events went down in our halls and they all went well.

Our Hall Manager and Bartenders are doing great work! Thank you all!

Things are being updated all around the building and grounds, we are being watched and receiving many compliments on our efforts.

We were able to help a few worthy Veterans over the last few months too, which is our mission, and my aim is to always accomplish that, now and in the future.

Veterans Day is Saturday, Nov 11th, Our Service will start at 11am in The Big Hall. The Clubroom will be open after our service for camaraderie and a day for us to enjoy.

There are those that say that we do not have a Ritual Team, but we do! These volunteers do take the time to honor our Veterans who have departed us. We need more volunteers on The Team, so now is your chance to join. Karen Vago is The Captain this year. There is a meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11am.

We are planning a Steak Dinner Fundraiser, Sunday, November 12th, 3 - 7 PM. I want to purchase new bar stools and new black chairs for our big hall, some are looking very bad. I hope to sell more than 200 dinners to meet the costs. Meals will be a \$30 donation.

Our Auxiliary, which is the greatest Auxiliary in The World, is growing and are doing many generous things in our community and for our Post. We are very fortunate to have these wonderful people in our lives. Thank you all for your support ...Keep up the great work!

If anyone wants to donate to any food pantries this year, I suggest 1) The Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA 154 on 15 mile Road in Fraser, they too do great work in our community. They have a huge pantry ready to take all donations and 2) The Boy Scouts will have a tractor trailer in our parking lot on November 10 to collect can goods to help those in need. Please be charitable and generous.

Again I sincerely Thank all of you for the support I receive as The Commander and making my role enjoyable here at The Bruce Post!

God Bless You and Your Families,

Randell J Shafer, Commander,

CW2; US Army Retired

Richard A. McMahon
Family Service Counselor



Kaul Funeral Home

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THANK YOU!!!

To ALL of Our New and Returning Golf Outing Tee and Hole Sponsors

Paul Genaw
Genaw Agency- Farm Bureau

Tuesday and Wednesday Euchre
Groups

PFS Investments Brokerage Firm
(5 signs)

Mike Sorgeloos
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VFW Auxiliary 1146

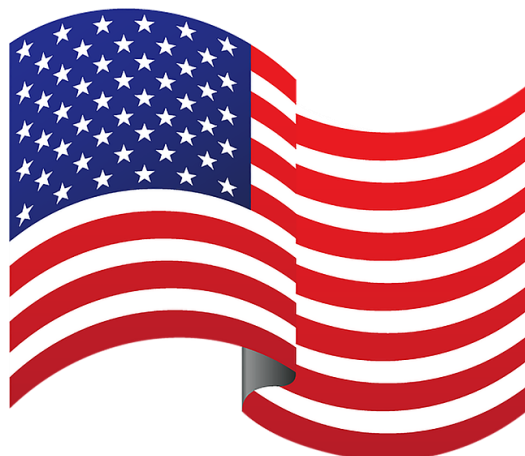
Bill & Amy Servial

In Memory of Joan Lorkowski

Supreme Media Blasting
(2 Signs)

In Honor of the U.S. Coast Guard

In Memory of Hank and Betty Litz



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

No Article Submitted.

Richard Cwik

Post Sr. Vice Commander

Macomb County Council Commander

5th District Adjutant

Service Officer Association President

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Hello to new and old members alike!

Has the Post Junior Vice Commander, I am very excited to report that the Golf Outing was a success.

I also want to remind everyone as the holiday season approaches that there are Families that need assistance. The Boy Scouts will be holding their annual Food Drive on November 11th. I will have a Box setup in the Front entrance area to collect nonperishable food items to donate to the Food Drive. The Scouts in Macomb County will be placing bags on the doors in various neighborhoods starting on November 4th and will collect the Food bags on November 11th . Please help these young men and women fill up the Gleaners Food Banks.

Come on back into the clubroom for good food at great prices. Your support of the Clubroom and all events is much appreciated!

If you know of someone who wants to Join our Great Post and organization, send them to me and I can get them signed up.

We have one main mission here, and that is to take care of each other. If there is any Veteran that needs help, especially our members, please let us know. Hopefully we can get them the help needed. We live in a great community and are a big part of our community, we should never take this for granted. It takes work, sometimes hard work to fulfill our obligations and live up to the standards that are set upon us, but nothing is too great of a burden if we all work together.

If you or your family members know eligible Veterans that want to become a member or have questions, please forward my number is list below, I will be glad to get them informed and signed up – 586-214-2941.

James Hermes

Post Jr. Vice Commander

Post Service Officer

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BANQUET RENTALS

VFW Bruce Post 1146 has 3 beautiful banquet halls for rent! Available for most occasions;

- ◆ Weddings
- ◆ Showers
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- ◆ Anniversaries
- ◆ Meetings
- ◆ Bowling Parties]
- ◆ Funeral Luncheons

...and more

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- ◆ Lakefront Pavilion
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For more information - Call
our Hall Manager

586-217-9997

Photos available at
www.vfw1146brucepost.org

****Ask a bar committee
member about renting
Clubroom space for small
events!****

POST CHAPLAIN

Hello My Fellow Comrades,

Now that the summer months are here, and many events have been scheduled we all need to enjoy the upcoming Holidays. Many Post members and Auxiliary members have volunteered many hours in support of the various events around the Post and I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all.

A passage to remember:

James 1:19 NLT

Dear friends, be quick to listen.

Slow to speak,

And slow to get angry.

Would like to remind all that if you know of a comrade and or a veteran that is sick, in the hospital, or who has passed, please contact me.

William Davenport, VFW Post 1146 Chaplain

(586) 306-4554 — wiliamr.davenport@yahoo.com



CLUBROOM COMMITTEE

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL:

Members and their guests, 7:00 – Midnight

\$2.00 Domestic Bottles

\$2.00 Well Drinks

\$1.50 Miller Lite Drafts

\$7.00 Miller Lite Pitchers

\$0.99 Wings or Zings



DETROIT LIONS GAME TIME SPECIALS:

Any Touchdown by the LIONS affords \$1.50 domestic beer for VFW

Members only. Member must be present when the Touchdown is scored or have an open Tab.

LIONS (Sunday) food special: Sloppy Joe's 2 for \$5.00

BAND NIGHT – October 21 - 5pm-11pm — Tickets \$10.00 – Wristband for Entry

KARAOKE BY STARS AND STRIPES 8:00 pm

October 27

November 24

December 22

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLUBROOM, BY LAW, IS A NON-SMOKING ENVIRONMENT — THIS INCLUDES VAPING. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Clubroom Committee Members

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Hello Again Brothers and Sisters of our Great Auxiliary,

Well, Summer is officially over, and now comes my favorite season. I love when the leaves turn, the colors are breathtaking.

By the time you read this we will have already attended the Fall Conference in Flint. I'm sure we will have lots of information to bring back to our Aux.

This is the teaching

Conference, so if you are going to attend only one conference during the year, this is the one to go to.

We will be having our Trunk or Treat again this year in the front parking lot. The date is Oct. 21st, noon till 2:00 pm. Please let us know if you are bringing little ones. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Clubroom. Also, if you would like to volunteer your time and help out with this event, there is a sign-up sheet for that also, in the Clubroom, or you can call Karen Vego at 586-481-0047.

Then, before you know it, it's Nov. 4th. and the Aux. Feather Party/ Meat raffle. Anyone who would like to Volunteer for this huge event, please let me know. We are in need of ticket sellers. Also, in November. is Veterans Day. The 11th month, on the 11th day, at the 11th hou; The VFW will be having a Ceremony at the Post on Nov. 11th, the doors will open early, coffee and donuts will be served. Please join us in honoring those who have served, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

We have some arts and crafts projects planned for Dec. that will benefit the residents at the Michigan Veterans Home in Chesterfield Twp. Come to the meeting in Oct. to get all the details. Looking forward to seeing many of you at our meetings this winter.

Nancy Gaglio, VFW Auxiliary President

Buddy Poppy Fundraiser

Sat. Nov. 11, 2023

8pm



Buddy Poppy Fundraiser will be in the Clubroom on Saturday, 11/11/23. We will feature LIVE Music by local band, AquaMonkey. We will also have a 50/50 and a basket raffle. All proceed will benefit the Buddy Poppy Fund which helps Veterans in need of financial assistance.

Contact: Amy Beltz - 586-206-2716

Do you have an item or basket to donate?? Please contact Amy



TREASURER—VFW AUXILIARY

Meetings:

Auxiliary #1146 meeting day is the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30pm in the hall upstairs. The next meetings are 10/5/23, 11/2/23, 12/7/23—7pm with Holiday pot-luck following) I know everybody is busy, but please try to attend the meetings; we would like to see you and hear your ideas.

Membership - Chairman Kay Eiswirth 586-413-9934 keiswirth@yahoo.com

Our new year of 2023-2024 started July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2024. We are currently at 671 members = 92.04% (2022-2023 ended with 729 members). If you did not pay your 2023 dues, you are no longer a member in good standing. If you want to still be a member, you will need to start the process over again.

New Key Cards:

The key cards that are purple or yellow are good even though they have the 2021 date on them. The Post will not be issuing new cards. So, please **do not** throw the card away. President Nancy Gaglio will be the person to contact if you need a key card.

Media Relations:

Kevin Wofford, Aux Member, is our Auxiliary Facebook Page Admin and is doing a wonderful job! You can follow us @VFWAuxiliaryBrucePost1146. If you have any pictures of our events, please email them to Kevin at kevntracy2005@yahoo.com.

2nd Quarter Chairman Reporting

CHAIRMAN - 2nd Quarter (2023-2024) is Aug 1, 2023 - Oct 31, 2023. Check your guide sheet and report. Please do not wait until the last minute to report. You should be reporting at least once a month. There is always something to report.

VFW Fall Conference at Gateway Centre Hotel—Flint (Sept 2023)

When you read this the Fall conference will have come and gone. It was Sept 29-30, 2023. The Auxiliary was represented by Aux President, Nancy Gaglio, Treasurer, Terri McCloy, Membership Chair, Kay Eiswirth, and Trustee, Pam Croyle.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE!

Your Post NEEDS your participation! While we appreciate every membership, we require every member to participate in our mission in some way. It's the only way we can expect to keep the doors open and our mission to "honor the dead, by serving the living" progressing forward!

Please consider participating in 2 or more of the options below in near future:

- ◆ Pay your dues on time
- ◆ Attend Meetings
- ◆ Run for an officer position
- ◆ Upgrade to Lifetime Membership
- ◆ Rent a hall for an event
- ◆ Attend Post Fundraising activities
- ◆ Make a donation to "Support Our Post"
- ◆ Make a donation to the Poppy Fund

AUX MEDIA RELATIONS:

Kevin Wofford at
Kevntracy2005@yahoo.com

Send your Aux event pics!

Follow VFW Auxiliary
Bruce Post 1146 on
Facebook.

Continue on next page

Dates to Remember — WATCH FACEBOOK (Aux & Post) & Clubroom FOR ANY CHANGES:

- Thurs. 10/5/2023 - Auxiliary Meeting 7:30pm
- Sun. 10/8/2023—Gold Star Mother’s Banquet @ VFW Post #6691 (Fraser), 1pm
- Sat. 10/21/23—Kids Trunk or Treat, 12pm-2pm - Contact Karen Vago)
- Sat/Sun. 10/28—10/29/2023—Casino Bus Fundraiser
- Thurs 11/2/2023 - Auxiliary Meeting 7:30pm
- Sat. 11/4/2023—Auxiliary Feather Party. Contact Nancy Gaglio. Doors open at 6pm, first spin at 7pm
- Sat 11/11/2023—Veterans Day Cereemony at 11am in Big Hall
- Sat. 11/11/2023—Buddy Poppy Fundraiser in the Clubroom at 8pm. Live Music by AquaMonkey and Basket Raffle
- Sun. 12/3/2023 - 5th District Meeting @ VFW Post #1008 (Waterford)
- Sat. 12/16/2023— Wreaths Across America
- Sat. 12/23/2023—Kid’s Lunch With Santa, 12pm-2pm. Contact Karen Vago
- Thurs.1/4/2024- Auxiliary Meeting 7:30pm
- Sun. 1/7/2024—VOD/Patriot’s Pen Award Banquet at VFW Post #7573 (New Baltimore), 1pm.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all!
WE SUPPORT OUR VETERANS AND OUR TROOPS!

Terri McCloy, Treasurer—VFW Auxiliary
586-899-9554/terri_mccloy@wowway.com

SUPPORTING OUR POST

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Roy McCarver | Bill & Amy Servial | Keith Meade |
| Phyllis Burdette | Susan Rinke | Dave Delmontte |
| Don & Melissa Trombley | Hall Manager & Staffers | Tim & Linda Trimble |
| Sean Migliori | Sharpe Electric Co/Robert Hendrix | The Food Crew (Inside and Out) |
| Chelsea Smykowski and New | Glenn & Yvonne Corcoran | Carol & Dan Hanser |
| Brian & Sarah | Alex Stuben | All Golf Outing Players |
| All Golf Outing Basket Donors | All Golf Hole Sponsors | The SCS GC |
| Cranks Bar & Grill | The MI Sign Shop | Stewart Edgerton |
| Jan Bostick | All Golf Outing Volunteers & Judges | |

NEW AND DECEASED MEMBERS

New VFW Members		Deceased VFW Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronald W. Adair • Stephen Devine • Stewart Edgerton • Ted Giuliano • Fred Jagger • Wayne Jones • James Lauer • Even Marshall • Arthur Meyer • Gaylon E. Mann • Dennis Miadowski • Michael Muraszewski • Vanessa Owens-Warren • Edmund Pocock • Thomas Puruleski • James Ratobylski • Eric Reid • Earl Roland • Robert Sager • Scott Scratchfield • William Socia • Randy Taylor • John Thibault • Dewey White • Albert White • Michael Whitmore 	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;">  <p>Dawn Flint 32332 Edward Ave. Madison Heights, MI 48071 (248) 585-9600 (248) 585-0700 Fax dawnf@thecorporategame.com</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Austin Sr. • Edwin R. Briesmister • Robert H. Broderson • Maurice A. Van Collie • Michael H. Duncan • Dennis J. Huard • Gregory D. Koss • Samuel C. McAlister • Larry R. Niver • John T. Okarski • Gino Piccirilli • Joseph A. Provenzano • Robert M. Servo • Carl J. Stevens • Timothy Swieczkowski
New Auxiliary Members		Deceased Auxiliary Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marianne Balton • Ronald Boerjan • Myra Cartwright • Michael Christian • Tom Cornfield • Yvonne Craft • Nancy Drake • Erin Fitzpatrick • Jeffrey George • Dennis Hermann • Tammy Lynn Johnson • Joseph Lozon • Barbara Mize • Kenneth Pierce • Maria Bake Sedgeman • Douglas Spratke • Shelby Swiss • Denise Szydowski • Dennis Teddy • Patty Vialpando 	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>PAUL MITCHELL® CERTIFIED COLOR EXPERTS</p> <p>GINA CARRIVEAU OWNER</p> <p>586-772-LOOP (5667) — 25837 Jefferson Ave. St. Clair Shores, MI 48081</p> <p>www.TheLoopHairandNailSalon.com</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret M. Jarzombek

If you know of a Post or Auxiliary member sick, in the hospital, or recently deceased—please let our respective
Linda Vendittelli—Aux Chaplain.....William Davenport—Post Chaplain.....
 586-216-9065 586-306-4554

"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it; it flies with the last breath of every soldier who died defending it."

Unknown

ORDER YOUR BRUCE POST MEMORIAL BRICK

The Bruce Post Memorial is giving everyone the opportunity to participate in a historical project. The personalized brick may be ordered by mail. Orders are restricted to an individual or family (i.e. John Jones, John and Mary Jones, John Jones Family, John Jones, Miami FL). A separate order form is required for each brick. Additional order forms are available in the Bruce Post Clubroom.

Personalized Bricks are ONLY \$75.00 each!

PLEASE HURRY AND PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW!

All orders are final. No cancellations/refunds can be accepted. Name must fit on 3 lines of 12 spaces each.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Make check or money order payable to Bruce Post 1146 Memorial Fund and mail to Bruce Monument at 28404 E Jefferson Ave, St Clair Shores, MI 48081-2570. **Please print clearly and leave a space in between names.**

Tim Litz 586-778-1146

JOIN OUR RITUAL TEAM

**Cpl Walter F Bruce Post
#1146**
28404 Jefferson Ave
St Clair Shores, MI 48081

Quartermaster:
586-778-1146

Clubroom:
586-772-1146

Email:
1146BruceTeam@gmail.com



We want to be able to continue providing the proper Ritual Services to which our deceased comrades are entitled...so we NEED MORE Ritual Team Members!

It is truly an honor to be part of the team that delivers military honors to a fallen comrade. A final tribute in ceremonial fashion!

If you are interested in joining one of the Best Ritual Teams in Michigan, please contact Commander Shafer at 586-524-0449. It is simple training and takes very little of your time.



OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	82nd Airborne Meeting 7pm	MCC Meeting, 7:30 @ Bruce 1146 (SCS) \$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom		Aux Meeting, 7:30pm Taco Thursday in Clubroom		Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coney!
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
50th Gold Star Mother Banquet, Post 6691, 1pm	Columbus Day	\$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom	VVA #154 Meeting 3pm	Clubroom Committee Meeting, 6pm Taco Thursday in Clubroom		Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coney!
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Exec. Board Meeting, 7pm \$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom	Post Member Meeting, 7:30pm Rital Team Meeting, 11am	Taco Thursday in Clubroom		Kid's Trunk or Treat 12-2pm Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coney!
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	SOA Meeting, Post #1669, 7pm	\$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom		Taco Thursday in Clubroom	Karaoke with Stars & Stripes, 8pm	Casino Bus Fundraiser Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coney!
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Casino Bus Fundraiser		Halloween Scholarship Deadlines TODAY				

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		Halloween		Aux Meeting, 7:30pm		Aux Meat Raffle, doors at 6pm
				Taco Thursday in Clubroom		Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coneys!
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	82nd Airborne Meeting 7pm	MCC Meeting, 7:30 @ Bruce 1146 (SCS)		Clubroom Committee Meeting, 6pm		Veterans Day Ceremony 11am
		\$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom	VVA #154 Meeting 3pm	Taco Thursday in Clubroom		Buddy Poppy Fundraise w/ Live Music - AquaMonkey
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Steak Dinner Fundraiser 3pm-7pm		Exec. Board Meeting, 7pm	Rital Team Meeting, 11am			
		\$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom	Post Member Meeting, 7:30pm	Taco Thursday in Clubroom		Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coneys!
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				Thanksgiving Day	Karaoke with Stars & Stripes, 8pm	
		\$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom		POST/CLUBROO M CLOSED		Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coneys!
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
	SOA Meeting, 7pm @ #1669 (Royal oak)	\$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom		Taco Thursday in Clubroom		

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
						Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coneys!
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5th District Meeting, #1008 (Waterford), 10am	82nd Airborne Meeting 7pm	MCC Meeting, 7:30 @ Bruce 1146 (SCS) \$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom		Aux Meeting, 7pm - Potluck Following Taco Thursday in Clubroom		Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coneys!
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		\$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom	VVA #154 Meeting 3pm	Clubroom Committee Meeting, 6pm Taco Thursday in Clubroom		Wreaths Across America Chili Cook Off/Craft Beer Tasting, TBD
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	SOA Meeting, 7pm @ #1669 (Royal oak)	Exec. Board Meeting, 7pm \$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom	Post Member Meeting, 7:30pm Rital Team Meeting, 11am	Taco Thursday in Clubroom	Karaoke with Stars & Stripes, 8pm	Kid's Lunch with Santa, 12-2pm Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coneys!
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Clubroom Closes at 6pm	Christmas POST/CLUBROOM CLOSED	\$3 Pull Pork in Clubroom		Taco Thursday in Clubroom		Coney Dog Saturday - \$1.50 Coneys!
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day					

Rentals

NEED A ROOM FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

DON'T WAIT...BOOK NOW!

⇒ With restrictions lifting, the rental calendar is booking up fast! If you need event space for a holiday party, baby shower, wedding, craft show, picnic, graduation, meeting or otherwise; contact our Hall Manager at 586-217-9997.

Clubroom

The carpeted area of the Clubroom can also be utilized for small events. To learn more about this option, contact a Bar Committee Representative at 586-772-1146.

⇒ Brett Hilgendorf—
586-405-6389

⇒ Keith Meade

⇒ Chris Jensen

⇒ Randy Rice

⇒ Mike Vogel

⇒ Bob Pelot

⇒ Cullen O'Brien

⇒ Dan Smigell

2023

Steak Out Fundraiser



Saturday, Nov 12

3pm-7pm



INCLUDES;

- ◆ 10 oz Ribeye OR 8 oz Filet Mignon
—All Steaks Cooked Medium Rare—
- ◆ Baked Potato, Mashed Potatoes, or Fries
- ◆ Minestrone Soup & Salad
- ◆ Veggie & Dinner Roll
- ◆ Piece of Cake

\$30

Per Dinner



Cash Bar

Pre-Orders/Questions: Commander Randy Shafer—586-778-1146

Our goal is 200 dinners, but supplies will be purchased based on pre-orders and conservative expectations. All proceeds are dedicated to new Clubroom bar stools and black table chairs. Picture is for marketing purposes only.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - CHAIRMAN: JOYCE TOMASKOVIC 586-260-8216

Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

Theme: "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"

Open to any student in **grades 9 - 12**, including home-schooled students.

Does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member but must be from State of MI

DEADLINE - Student submits by Oct. 31, 2023 / Post submits to District by Nov. 15, 2023

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

Theme: "How Are You Inspired by America?"

Need to write an original 300 - 400 word essay on the above theme.

Open to any student in **grades 6 - 8**, including home-schooled students.

Does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member but must be from State of MI

DEADLINE - Student submits by Oct. 31, 2023 / Post submits to District by Nov. 15, 2023

Young American Creative **Patriotic Art** Contest & **3- Dimensional Patriotic Art** Contest

Open to any student in grades 9 - 12 who is a U.S. Citizen

Does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member and from State of MI

DEADLINE TO AUXILIARY - March 31, 2024 / TO DEPARTMENT - April 15, 2024

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - CHAIRMAN: JOYCE TOMASKOVIC 586-260-8216

Smart/Maher National Citizen Education **Teacher of the Year** Program
300 - 400 words

DEADLINE - Entries to Post 1146 by Oct. 31, 2023 / Post submits to District by Nov. 15, 2023 /
Post submits to Department by Dec. 15. 2023

Continuing Education

(For those working on a college degree or technical certification)

(Open to any Auxiliary Member (who has been a member for at least one year), their spouse,
son or daughter.

Must be at least 21 years old, complete the application and submit an essay

Application **MUST** be received at National Headquarters by Feb. 15, 2024.

(4) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded

PLEASE CONTACT JOYCE TOMASKOVIC AT 586-260-8216 WITH ANY QUESTIONS



Voice of Democracy Rules and Eligibility

WHO CAN ENTER

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

HOW TO ENTER

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging.

You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership. Your Voice of Democracy entry must be submitted to a participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Originality is worth 30 points: Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points: Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to the other.

Delivery is worth 35 points: Speak in a clear and credible manner.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

2023-2024 Theme

“What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, “What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindaPost to “Find A VFW Post.” If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, **Oct. 31, 2023**. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

2023-2024 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

Jacket Size

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, plns, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

For assistance contact:

816.968.1155

Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____



Twisted X Brands
A Proud Sponsor

2023-2024 "VOICE OF DEMOCRACY" ESSAY Program

"What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"

All information pertaining to the theme, judging, eligibility, awards and other aspects of this program are contained in the Veterans of Foreign Wars program booklet for the Voice of Democracy Essay Program.

The Voice of Democracy Essay Program is a joint program with the VFW Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Michigan. The Auxiliary does not need the permission of a Post to participate in the Voice of Democracy Essay Program. Post Chairmen are expected to include their VFW Auxiliary counterparts in all activities concerning the conduct of local and District programs.

The following items **MUST** accompany the Post entry to District for judging.

- One student script taped in accordance with the rules. Scripts **MUST** be recorded on full size standard FLASH DRIVE ONLY.
- One **completed** student entry form from the National Program booklet
- One good quality head and shoulder photograph. Wallet size.
- One typed copy of the student's speech.
- One **signed** Department of Michigan VFW School Release Form, Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Competition
- One **completed** Student Biographical Questionnaire 2023-2024
- One **completed** Post Voice of Democracy Participation Report

It is the responsibility of the Post Chairman to ensure that all materials are included. Any entry that does not include all materials may not be judged.

To obtain program credit the Post Chairman portion of the Student Entry Form must be completed and submitted to District with each Post entry. The form must include the number of students participating from the school and the approximate cost for the program and awards for that school. Proper credit cannot be given without this information.

**Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars
School Release Form
Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Competition
2023 - 2024**

In the event that student _____ is selected as a District **First Place Winner** and entered into the 2023-2024 Department of Michigan Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Program to be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, January 25 – 28, 2024.

We are requesting that the above named student will be excused from all school/sport activities on Friday January 26, 2024 and Saturday January 27, 2024, without penalty. This signed release is to confirm a mutual understanding between the school and the District First Place Winner, and the student, parents or legal guardian, on attending the Department of Michigan Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Program.

Activities in the Kalamazoo area will be planned for Friday January 26, 2024.

Mike Martin
Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Director
Department of Michigan
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Date _____ Signature _____
High School Principal

Date _____ Signature _____
Student

Date _____ Signature _____
Parent/Legal Guardian

VFW District Chairperson please attach release form along with other mandatory materials to Department Director.



Patriot's Pen Rules and Eligibility

WHO CAN ENTER

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

HOW TO ENTER

Download and complete the Patriot's Pen entry form.

All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's.

Students can ask a teacher or youth group leader to supervise their progress in the competition. Your Patriot's Pen entry must be submitted to a participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points: You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points: Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points: Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

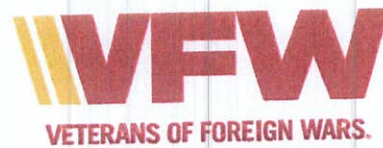
406 W. 34th Street Office 816.756.5390
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E. Office 202.543.2239
Washington, D.C. 20002 Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

PATRIOT'S PEN



2023-2024 Theme

“How are you inspired by America?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 73,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2023. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:

You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2023-2024 theme is:

“How are you inspired by America?”

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2023.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to “Find a VFW Post.”

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/contactus to look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

**For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters
at 816.968.1155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2023-2024 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian (Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

() Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.
- In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).
- The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.
- At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants No. of winners

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

() Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

() Daytime Phone Email

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

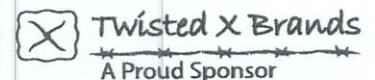
Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____



2023-2024 "PATRIOT'S PEN" ESSAY Program

"How Are You Inspired by America?"

All information pertaining to the theme, judging, eligibility, awards and other aspects of this program are contained in the Veterans of Foreign Wars program booklet for the Patriot's Pen Essay Program.

The Patriot's Pen Essay Program is a joint program with the VFW Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Michigan. The Auxiliary does not need the permission of a Post to participate in the Patriot's Pen Essay Program. Post Chairmen are expected to include their VFW Auxiliary counterparts in all activities concerning the conduct of local and District programs.

The following items **MUST** accompany the Post entry to District for judging.

- One student essay in accordance with Patriot's Pen Essay Program rules
- One **completed** student entry form from the National Program booklet
- One good quality head and shoulder photograph. Wallet size.
- One **signed** Department of Michigan VFW School Release Form, Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Competition
- One **completed** Student Biographical Questionnaire 2023-2024
- One **completed** Post Patriot's Pen Participation Report

It is the responsibility of the Post Chairman to ensure that all materials are included. Any entry that does not include all materials may not be judged.

To obtain program credit the Post Chairman portion of the Student Entry Form must be completed and submitted to District with each Post entry. The form must include the number of students participating from the school and the approximate cost for the program and awards for that school. Proper credit cannot be given without this information.



Patriot's Pen Rules and Eligibility

WHO CAN ENTER

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

HOW TO ENTER

Download and complete the Patriot's Pen entry form.

All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's.

Students can ask a teacher or youth group leader to supervise their progress in the competition. Your Patriot's Pen entry must be submitted to a participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points: You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points: Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points: Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

106 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
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Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org



Patriot's Pen Scoresheet

Program Year

Theme Knowledge: Shows knowledge of the theme and use of research.

Theme Development: Answers relevant facts - who, what, where, when, and why. Relates to the writer's own experiences.

Clarity of Ideas: Provides a clear explanation of the writer's interpretation of the theme.

Contestant Code Number:																		
Theme Knowledge (0 to 30 points):																		
Theme Development (0 to 35 points):																		
Clarity of Ideas (0 to 35 points):																		
Total (0 to 100 points):																		

Contestant Code Number:																		
Theme Knowledge (0 to 30 points):																		
Theme Development (0 to 35 points):																		
Clarity of Ideas (0 to 35 points):																		
Total (0 to 100 points):																		

Contestant Code Number:																		
Theme Knowledge (0 to 30 points):																		
Theme Development (0 to 35 points):																		
Clarity of Ideas (0 to 35 points):																		
Total (0 to 100 points):																		

Judge's Signature

Date and location of judging

**Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars
School Release Form
Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Competition
2023 - 2024**

In the event that student _____ is selected as a District **First Place Winner** and entered into the 2023-2024 Department of Michigan Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Program to be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, January 25 – 28, 2024.

We are requesting that the above named student will be excused from all school/sport activities on Friday January 26, 2024 and Saturday January 27, 2024, without penalty. This signed release is to confirm a mutual understanding between the school and the District First Place Winner, and the student, parents or legal guardian, on attending the Department of Michigan Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Program.

Activities in the Kalamazoo area will be planned for Friday January 26, 2024.

Mike Martin
Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Director
Department of Michigan
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Date _____ Signature _____
High School Principal

Date _____ Signature _____
Student

Date _____ Signature _____
Parent/Legal Guardian

VFW District Chairperson please attach release form along with other mandatory materials to Department Director.



SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD CITATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SCHOOLS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Effective this year, VFW Post Teacher Award Chairpersons may submit one candidate in each grade level to their District by Nov. 15. If your Department does not have a District judging, then submit to your **Department Headquarters and/or Department Chairperson by Jan. 1.** The Department will select a single candidate in each grade level and submit them to **VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1 for national judging.** Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the completed "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" located on the VFW website.

Simply visit vfw.org/#login, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on VFW Training & Support, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs, then look under Additional Resources. The Teacher Entry form, Instruction sheet, Citation request form and Chairperson's Guide will be up on the VFW website in the near future.

Who Is Eligible?

1. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.
2. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

Documentation Required for all Candidates:

1. All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the District, if applicable, and/or the Department with the winning teacher entry form.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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Kansas City, MO 64111
Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

Honoring Those Who Teach

The VFW launched the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in 1999 to recognize certified teachers for promoting citizenship education. One K-12 teacher is selected as a department winner. The department winner and their school will receive a National Citation. Visit this link for more information and for an entry form: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year.

Eligibility

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

Deadlines

Post judging should be completed and their winning entry sent to the District, if applicable, or Department by January 1. Department judging should be completed and their winner's entry be submitted to VFW National Headquarters by February 1 by completing a VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form located on the VFW website. Post chairmen must be sure to send the original entry form of the winner along with a one-page resume as a minimum, or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience, such as references, news articles, etc. Also good quality head and shoulders photograph from the winning teachers, if available.

Judging

Select competent and unbiased judges. A panel of at least three to five judges is recommended. The VFW chairman should be present at the judging to provide assistance but should not be one of the judges. Prior to the judging, the chairman should review all entry forms to ensure they adhere to the rules.

Judges should grant points based on four criteria with the potential of 100 points as follows:

1-25 points - Does the teacher teach and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

1-25 points - An innovative approach to teaching citizenship.

1-25 points - Development of resources to teach citizenship education.

1-25 points - Passion for teaching citizenship education.

NOTE: Judging sheets are available on later pages.

Running the Program

Here are some important points to remember when conducting the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Program.

- Know the program procedures and judging guidelines thoroughly.
- Develop a good working relationship with your Post's Auxiliary chairman.
- Contact schools early and make a point of explaining the importance of the program to the principal.
- Send a news release to your local media with the names of your winning teachers (see website for sample).
- Recognize your participants (both winners and judges) with official VFW awards - see the official VFW Store catalog (or visit vfwstore.org for ideas.)
- Forward your winning Post's entries to the Department as soon as the competition is finished.

Winning Entry Checklist

Here's what your Post needs to have to your District, if applicable, or Department:

- Winning teacher's entry form
- Teacher's one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience, such as references, news articles, etc.
- Good quality head and shoulders photograph of the teacher, if available.

If you have any questions, please contact your Department Headquarters or Tammy Beauchamp in VFW Programs: phone: 816.756.3390, ext 6287 email: tbeauchamp@vfw.org.

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Advancement Form (Post Teacher Entry Form)

(Attach to original Post entry documentation for each teacher nominated.)

Nominee's Full Name _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Grade level K-5 6-8 9-12
Name of School _____ School's Phone _____
School Address _____

Post/Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected Post winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Program in his/her grade level category and is our Post's authorized entry into the District finals.

Signature of Post Commander/Chairman _____ VFW Post No. _____ Phone _____

Post Address _____

Signature of Auxiliary President/Chairman _____ Auxiliary No. _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Total number of teacher nominations for all categories _____ Total dollar amount spent by Post/Auxiliary for awards for all categories and other (citations, gifts, medals, banquet) \$ _____

District/Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected District winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in his/her grade level category and is our District's entry into the Department finals.

Signature of Dist. Commander/Chairman _____ Dist. No. _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Signature of Auxiliary Dist. President/Chairman _____ Dist. No. _____ Phone _____

Address _____

List all Posts participating in program _____

Total dollar amount spent by Posts/Auxiliaries for awards for all categories and other (citations, gifts, medals, banquet) \$ _____

VFW Department Commander/Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher listed above is the duly selected winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in our Department in his/her grade level and is our official entry into the National judging. This winner will be/was notified that they are the first place state winner in their grade level on the following date: _____

Signature of Dept. Commander/Chairman _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Note: Be sure this form is entirely completed before sending to National Headquarters with your state winner's original nomination form, essay, one page resume, up to five pages of documentation and a good quality head and shoulders photograph. Remember this form is due back to VFW National Headquarters Programs Department by January 15th.

Mail to: VFW PROGRAMS, VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 406 W. 34TH ST., KANSAS CITY, MO 64111.

TEACHER'S AWARD JUDGING SCORE SHEET

TEACHER'S NAME	CITIZENSHIP (1-25 points)	INNOVATION (1-25 points)	RESOURCES (1-25 points)	PASSION (1-25 points)	TOTAL (possible 100 points)

Judging Criteria

Citizenship (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

Innovation (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

Resources (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

Passion (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

DATE _____ POST # _____ GRADE LEVEL K-5 6-8 9-12

JUDGE'S NAME (Please Print) _____

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE _____

NOTE: Judges should be carefully selected, preferably from individuals who have classroom experience and understand the challenges of teaching. They should never have any affiliation with the nominees or the schools where the nominees teach. While it may be necessary to use VFW and its Auxiliary members, it is preferred that judges come from outside our ranks to avoid the appearance of impropriety. During the judging, the chairman should facilitate and observe but refrain from offering his or her observations on the candidates. The judges are encouraged to discuss the candidates but must arrive at their own numerical evaluation using the grid above. Make sure all judges are kept aware of the progress of the teachers they have judged and are invited to any awards presentations.

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

Recruited/Recommended by: Recruiter Member ID

Auxiliary No. City State Member ID (If already a member)

Annual Membership Life Membership

Rejoin Membership Rejoined Previous Member ID No. Previous Auxiliary

Member at Large in Department of Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

THESE FIELDS REQUIRED

Name Date of Birth
 Address Male Female
 City State ZIP
 Phone Email

POST-AFFILIATED (*Must be a member to the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)
 Relationship to Eligible Veteran* VFW Membership ID
 LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary
 ANNUAL TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary Paying Nonpaying
 ANNUAL TRANSFER CONVERTING TO LIFE (Fill out Life Membership information below.) Previous Auxiliary

THESE FIELDS REQUIRED

NON-AFFILIATED (*Veteran is not a member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)
 Relationship to Eligible Veteran* VFW Post (If applicable)
 Name of campaign ribbons or medals:
 Dates of Service: to Location:

Investigating Committee Signatures

1 2 3

Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. Rejected Accepted Meeting Date Obligated Date

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY Check here if this is a gift.
 Credit cards may **NOT** be used for initial payment of Annual Dues.
 Cash Check Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX
 Life Membership Fee
 Name on credit card
 Billing address for card
 City State ZIP
 Credit Card No.
 CVV Code Exp. Date
 Signature Date

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY
 ACH (Bank withdrawl)
 Name of Bank
 Bank Routing No.
 Account No.
 Attach voided check HERE.
 (Required)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES
 Life Membership fees are not refundable.
 Attained age by 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise.
 I attest that I am a citizen of the United States or a U.S. National, and am at least 16 years of age. I further state that I believe in God. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.

Signature (Must be signed by all members.)

Cpl. Walter F. Bruce VFW Post #1146

AUXILIARY APPLICATION

28404 Jefferson St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

Thank you for your interest in joining the Auxiliary. Attached is a membership form you will need to complete. Please make sure you fill out and sign in both **areas.

Post Affiliated: (Must be a current member to the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary you are applying). You will NEED the Eligible Veteran name & VFW Membership ID # and your relationship to Eligible Veteran. This information then will be given to the Quartermaster to confirm the Veteran is a member.

Non-Affiliated: (Veteran is not a member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying). You will NEED the Eligible Veteran name, the VFW Post # (if applicable) and your relationship to Eligible Veteran. **You will also have to submit a copy of the Eligible Veteran DD214 or Proof of Eligibility.**

Along with the membership form, you will need:

1. A copy of the DD214 - (Certificate of release or Discharge from Active Duty) attached to the membership form. If you need a copy of the DD214, you can go online to: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> or fill out form 180 and mail back.
*Cash or Check must be with application.
*Continuous member (pays dues yearly) – \$25 + \$10 Adm. Fee (1 time only) = \$35.
*Life Member – see application form for amount + \$10 Adm. Fee (1 time only) + \$1 Key Card for Clubroom
2. Mail application to: Kay Eiswirth 25578 Island View Dr. Harrison Township, MI 48045 or to the above Bruce Post address marked Auxiliary Application. You can drop off at the Quartermaster station or you can put in the Auxiliary box by the pool table in the Club Room marked Auxiliary Application.

The application must be approved and voted on the floor of our meeting. We meet the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30pm. Once application has been accepted, you will receive a call from the secretary. Please be patient. Until approved on floor at meeting there is nothing we can do to expedite.

If you have any questions, you may contact:

Membership	Treasurer	Auxiliary President
Kay Eiswirth	Terri McCloy	Nancy Gaglio
586-413-9934	586-899-9554	586-757-4883
keiswirth@yahoo.com	terri_mccloy@wowway.com	nancygaglio17@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN JOINING THE VFW AUXILIARY!

Eligibility to the VFW Auxiliary:

*Must be at least 16 years old and a citizen of the United States

***Those eligible:**

Husband/Wife, Widower/Widow, Father/Mother, Grandfathers/Grandmothers, Sons/Daughters, Grandsons/Granddaughters, Brothers/Sisters

Of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the VFW of the United States

*Must have received a campaign medal for overseas service, have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea, or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay.



VFW Bruce Post #1146 Apparel Order Form



The Bruce Post "On The Lake" sailboat logo will be printed on the left chest. Color options are royal BLUE with white logo, NAVY blue with white logo, WHITE with blue logo or BLACK with white logo. Also now available in RED and GREEN with white logos. All shirts are adult sizes only—50/50 Cotton/ Polyester. If you prefer Made in USA products, please inquire as those items will have a higher cost.

Short Sleeve T-Shirt

Size	QTY	Color	Cost	TOTAL
SM			\$12	
MD			\$12	
LG			\$12	
1X			\$12	
2X			\$15	
3X			\$16	

Long Sleeve T-Shirt

Size	QTY	Color	Cost	TOTAL
SM			\$14	
MD			\$14	
LG			\$14	
1X			\$14	
2X			\$16	
3X			\$18	

Short Sleeve Polo

Size	QTY	Color	Cost	TOTAL
SM			\$19	
MD			\$19	
LG			\$19	
1X			\$19	
2X			\$21	
3X			\$22	

Long Sleeve Polo

Size	QTY	Color	Cost	TOTAL
SM			\$21	
MD			\$21	
LG			\$21	
1X			\$21	
2X			\$23	
3X			\$24	

Sweatshirts

Size	QTY	Color	Type (circle)	Cost (circle)	TOTAL
SM			Crew Hooded Zipper	\$15 \$22 \$27	
MD			Crew Hooded Zipper	\$15 \$22 \$27	
LG			Crew Hooded Zipper	\$15 \$22 \$27	
1X			Crew Hooded Zipper	\$15 \$22 \$27	
2X			Crew Hooded Zipper	\$17 \$27 \$29	
3X			Crew Hooded Zipper	\$18 \$25 \$30	

Embroidered Black Hat

QTY	Cost	TOTAL
	\$20	

QUESTIONS:

Tim Litz

586-713-1519

Orders must be prepaid. Checks Made Payable to Bruce Post #1146 VFW. Drop in Post mailbox outside Quartermaster's office or mail to Tim Litz, 28404 Jefferson Ave, SCS, MI 48081. Please print clearly.

Name: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Phone: _____