

District 12 Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars



2022 – 23 District School Of Instruction

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

Purpose/Objectives:

- Provide Commanders with a clear explanation of their duties and responsibilities.
- Discuss Department and National objectives for the 2022-2023 year.
- Explain requirements of all VFW Programs and expectations for Program Chairmen.
- Provide Commanders with the tools to ensure a successful year.

Commander Expectations 2022-2023

Congratulations on your election to Commander. As Commander, you have the responsibility to ensure that your post fulfills the mission of the VFW: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans. (<https://www.vfw.org/about-us>)

I expect you to do your job in the following areas:

1. Earn All-State honors.
2. Promote teamwork between the Post and its Auxiliary.
3. Promote teamwork between the VFW and other community groups and organizations.
4. Promote and support the service officer program.
5. Direct your members to provide veterans services.
6. Be up to date. Visit the Department website regularly and check your email often. Read and distribute the General Orders from Department. Have an up-to-date Podium Edition of the VFW Congressional Charter By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

7. Ensure that your post officers and chairpersons know their jobs and are doing their jobs. In the case of the former, I expect you to train them so that they know and can do their jobs.
8. Promote and support youth programs in your post/district.
9. Promote and support the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.
10. Ensure your posts and auxiliaries report their community service activities through the Department of Veterans Affairs. **NOTE – New Format for Online reporting as explained in another section of this class!** so if denied you call
11. Be visible in your community. This visibly includes – but is not limited – POW-MIA awareness, Memorial Day services, Flag Day recognition, and Veterans' Day remembrances and activities.
12. Ensure your Posts distribute Buddy Poppies in your community at least twice per year.
13. Be professional when conducting meetings. Professionalism includes dressing accordingly, being organized, and conducting a well-run, educational meeting.
14. Maintain your current district/post membership and recruit new members. The VFW cannot achieve its mission or realize its vision without maintaining and expanding its membership.
15. Stay informed on the legislative needs affecting veterans. Your post/district members should know who their State Representatives and Senators are and be prepared to contact these legislators when the need to do so arises.
16. Represent your District at all Council of Administration meetings.

Leadership

"Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

~ Colin Powell

Leadership is an art, and every art requires a skillset that can be learned and applied to make the art easier to perform. As you serve this year, I ask that you view leadership through three broad umbrellas: communication, illustration, and appreciation. If you do so, I suspect that you will discover leadership to be rewarding and highly fulfilling.

I. Communication

- Clarity
- Honesty
- Sincerity
- Listening

II. Illustration

- Character
- Respect
- Sacrifice
- Transparency

III. Appreciation

- Acknowledgement
- Energy
- Encouragement
- Consultation

As you demonstrate leadership, consider which of the above categories best suits the situation, follow your guides (e.g., General orders, By-laws, SOP), and know your limitations. If you can find a balance in these areas, your year is likely to be an enjoyable one.

"When placed in command, take charge."

~ Norman Schwarzkopf

2022-2023 Department of Missouri Post All State



Requirements

Ongoing Goals:

1. Your Post must reach 100% of last year's May 1 membership plus 1 no later than April 30, 2023.
2. All Trustees' Reports of Audit reports must be submitted to the State Quartermaster by the designated date. Postmarks do not count as each Post has 30 days to conduct and mail, fax, or email the completed Audit Report to: State Quartermaster, 3401 Knipp Drive, Jefferson City, Mo. 65109, FAX: 573-636-2664 or email: adj@movfw.org; hgangela@movfw.org.

Inspection Related Goals:

3. Post Quartermaster must be bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws.
4. Your Post must have in their possession the most currently published copy of the VFW Podium Edition Congressional Charter By-Laws Manual of Procedure Ritual Manual.
5. Your Post must be incorporated in accordance with National By-Laws, Section 708 and must obtain proper liability coverage according to the National By-Laws, Section 709. (If applicable).
6. Your Post must have the Post Website, or any other social media sites (I.e., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) updated with the names and contact information of its current Commander, Quartermaster, and Post Service Officer.
7. The Post must have their email set up through the Department designated email (mowfw.org).

Event Specific Goals:

8. The Post Commander must have attended a District or Department School of Instruction and have a designated Representative at all District meetings. Only the State Commander can excuse the absence of an entire Post from a District meeting. Excusal must be requested prior to the meeting.
9. Your Post must have four (4) POW-MIA awareness activities at or outside of the Post home. The following are all ways to meet these All-State criteria:
 10. Your Post must hold four (4) veteran service events. These events must be reported using the online reporting system. Posts can hold events together; however, representatives from each Post must be present at the event.
 11. Post must have at least four (4) approved events in all categories listed on the Community Activity Report. These reports must be submitted on line.

Funding Related Goals:

12. Your Post must make a donation to the Veterans Service Officer Program. The check goes to the Department Quartermaster, 3401 Knipp Drive, Jefferson City, MO. 65109. Notate in the memo field on the check, "Missouri Veterans Service Officer Program Donation." No later than April 30, 2023.
13. Your Post must sponsor two out of three school programs: Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher Award. Each must be entered to the District for judging.
14. Your Post must make a \$25.00 donation to the Veteran and Military Support (i.e., Military Assistance Program, Operation Uplink, or Unmet Needs). This check must be sent directly to VFW National Headquarters, c/o Military Assistance Program, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64111-2736. Notate in the memo field on check: "Veterans and Military Support Donation". No later than April 30, 2023.
17. Your Post must purchase their quota of buddy poppies based on individual Post size.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR ALL-STATE POSTS & DISTRICTS

Post and District ALL-STATE Awards are a reflection of exemplary Post and District performance and a reflection of exceptional leadership and dedication to VFW programs and membership initiatives. To honor this success, Department will provide the following awards.

1. All Post Commanders and Quartermasters achieving 100% in membership by December 31, 2022 will receive a 100% Membership Shirt.
2. All Post Commanders who achieve ALL-STATE will receive an ALL-STATE Commanders Cover. All Post Quartermasters who achieve ALL-STATE will receive an ALL-STATE Quartermasters Cover. Commanders or Quartermasters may receive a \$50.00 Gift certificate from the National Supply store in lieu of an All-State Cover.
3. The Post will receive a distinctive ALL STATE plaque for the Post Home to recognize their Post success.
4. The ALL-STATE District Commander and Quartermaster will receive an ALL-STATE Commander Cover.
5. All District Commanders achieving 100% in membership by December 31, 2022 will receive a 100% Membership Shirt and a very Special Award from the Department Commander.

VFW National Membership Program



Timothy "Tim" M. Borland
Commander-in-Chief

2022-2023 National Membership Program

Membership Mission

- To recruit, retain and mentor a stable membership base including all generations of veterans.
- To cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge and actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community.
- To establish Posts with an established vision of service, leadership and community outreach.

Introduction

Over the past several years, the VFW has been successful in recruiting new members into the organization. The only way to make this success permanent is to retain those members, recover past members, and continue to recruit new veterans into our ranks. To do this, we must improve the way we communicate with our members at all levels of the organization. Posts, Districts, and Departments need to use all methods available to convey information for news and training to our membership; newsletters, emails, social media, and outreach teams are some of the most effective ways to maintain communication with our members. We need to know who our members are and how we can address their needs and concerns. We need to focus on the basic tenets of our organization: to take care of our members, their families, and the veteran community as a whole.

Membership Goals

1. Build a strong organization for the future.
2. Work together to achieve the VFW's goals. The VFW National Headquarters staff is available to assist in coordinating programs, developing membership initiatives and building awareness among our membership and the entire veteran community.

Membership Objectives

- Recruit new and recover unpaid members
- Involve members directly in VFW functions at all levels
- Retain and mentor existing membership
- Develop new Posts and revitalize existing Posts
- Increase Life Membership
- Increase Legacy Life Membership

All-American Criteria

The All-American program exists to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork, authentic accomplishment in membership growth and VFW core programs.

All-American Post Criteria

- Membership greater than 100%
- Must conduct two Membership recruiting events, submit reports through All-American Dashboard.
- Post-Election Report must be submitted to National

- o National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry advanced to next level of judging (Overseas Post donate \$75 to National in lieu of entry)
- o A Post must submit a community service report to their department for submission to the All-American Dashboard NLT 30 June 2023
- o Buddy Poppy- Purchase five per member in the Post

All-American Post Award

- All Posts that meet the Qualifying Percentage and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American Post Citation, Post Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine.

- The Top 50 Posts in each Division will receive:

- Acknowledgment in VFW Magazine
- Acknowledgement during the All-American Awards Ceremony at the National Convention
- All-American Post citation
- All-American Post streamer
- All-American citation - commander
- All-American name badge - commander
- All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster and Post members may purchase "Post Member" cap)
- All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin)
- All-American Team Post Member lapel pin (25 pack)

- The top *five* commanders in each division will also receive:
 - A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.
 - Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.

Post Membership Divisions and Minimum Qualifying Percentages

Division	Total Membership		Qualifying Percentage
1	951+		Over 100%
2	750	950	Over 100%
3	356	749	Over 100%
4	246	355	Over 100%
5	185	245	Over 100%
6	143	184	Over 100%
7	112	142	Over 100%
8	88	111	Over 100%
9	68	87	Over 100%
10	51	67	Over 100%
11	10	50	Over 100%

Appendix B

Commonly Used Forms

1. Trustees Audit Report
2. Buddy Poppy Order Form
3. Officer Change or Correction Form
4. District Commander Post Visit Report
5. District Commanders Report of District Meeting
6. District Commanders Report for C of A
7. Post Commanders District Meeting Report
8. VOD/PP forms and Report Form
9. Teacher Award Forms and Report Form
10. Articles of Incorporation
11. Service Officer Referral Form

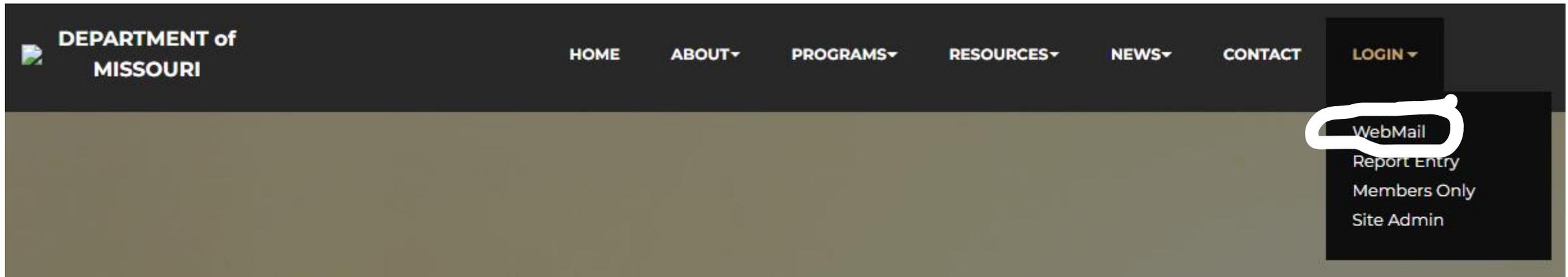
**NOTE: All Forms are readily available on the Missouri Website or District Website.
movfw.org
vfwmodist12.org
Look under Resources, Forms**

Missouri Webmail – the only Authorized Communication for MO VFW

Enter with movfw.org then LogIn then Webmail

There is only 1 address for each Post – postXXXX@movfw.org

Passwords were not reset this year. If you cannot enter, contact the District Adjutant and he will contact the State Webmaster for the Reset (or directly contact the MO Webmaster).

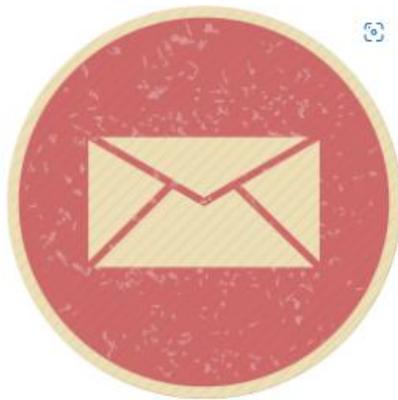


Webmail will work on Smart Phones and Tablets. Yet sometimes if finicky. For full features, it is best to Use the computer. Also, DO NOT SET IT UP TO FORWARD!!!! It gets picked up as a Spam Generator.

ALL Post Officers should have Access to the Post Webmail so share the credentials.

From the MO Website, you will get this. If you know the Password, click Check your Mail.
If you know it and want to reset the Password, click Change Password.
To enter the Email, click the "GO TO EMAIL" Button.

PLEASE NOTE: Do **NOT** set up email forwarding to Yahoo, AOL or Verizon.net email addresses from the email accounts that we provide. We are getting blamed for ALL junk mail that is being forwarded to those accounts and Yahoo, AOL and Verizon.net are blocking our server as a result.



CHECK YOUR EMAIL

Mail Enable Email Client

Check your web based email account. Note, this email program was designed to be a quick way to check your email from anywhere. It has limited features and was not designed to replace your email software.

GO TO EMAIL



CHANGE EMAIL PASSWORD

Plesk Email Admin

Click Below to change your email password.
Note: You must log in with your existing password to make the change.

CHANGE PASSWORD



EMAIL CLIENT AND PHONE SETTINGS

Here are the server settings for your devices.

THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE (ie. Outlook)

IMAP WITH TLS/SSL

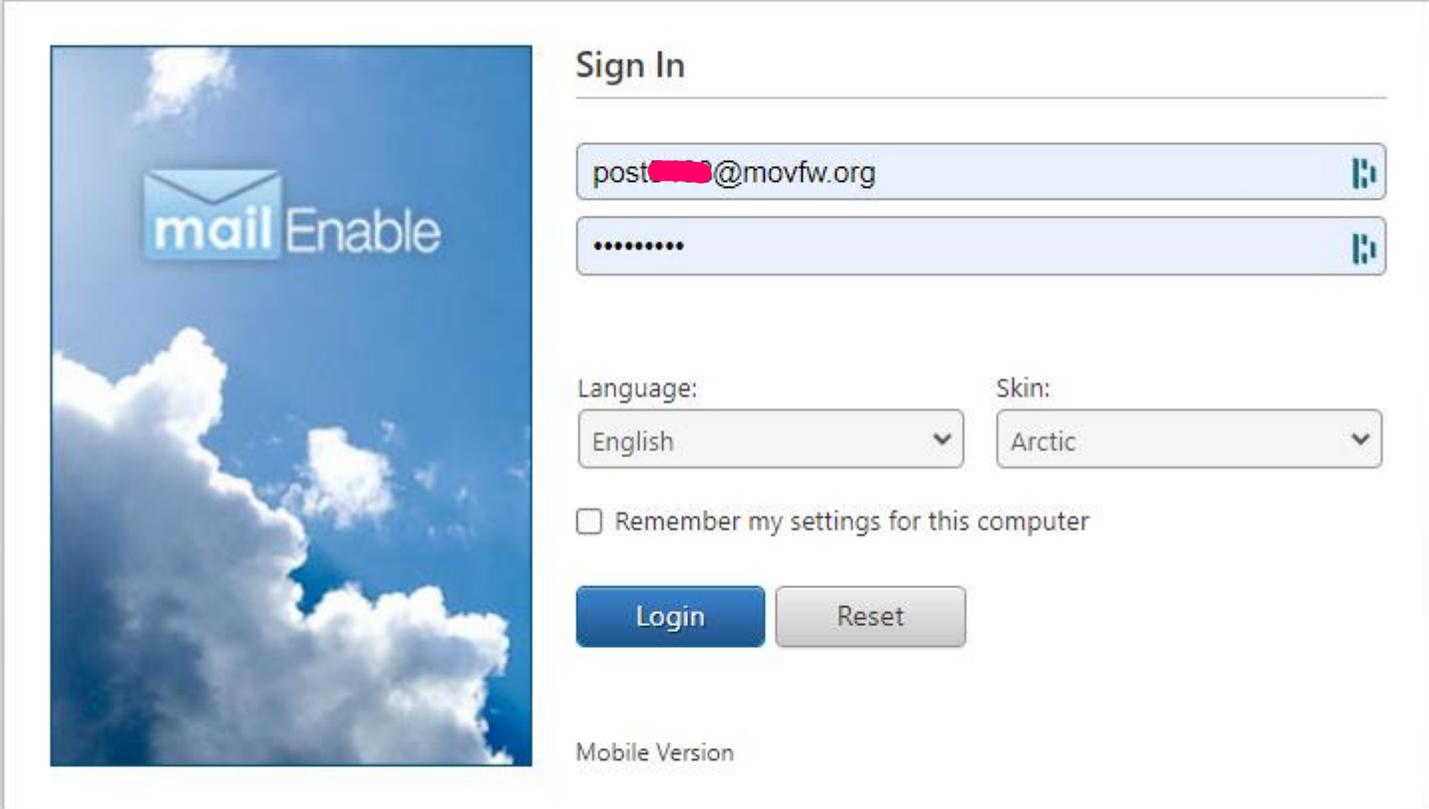
Incoming Mail Server Setting: Mail1.drivepath.net - Port 993

Outgoing Mail Server Setting: Mail1.drivepath.net - Port 465

Username: full email address

Password: The password in the Webmail System

You will get this window. Enter the Credentials and Login.



The image shows a web browser window for the MailEnable login page. On the left is a vertical banner with a blue sky and white clouds, featuring the MailEnable logo (an envelope icon with the text 'mail Enable'). To the right of the banner is the 'Sign In' section. It contains two input fields: the first for an email address, which has 'post[redacted]@movfw.org' entered, and the second for a password, which is masked with dots. Below these fields are two dropdown menus: 'Language:' set to 'English' and 'Skin:' set to 'Arctic'. There is an unchecked checkbox labeled 'Remember my settings for this computer'. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: a blue 'Login' button and a grey 'Reset' button. Below the buttons is a link for 'Mobile Version'. At the very bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice: '© 2016 MailEnable Pty. Ltd.'

Sign In

post[redacted]@movfw.org

.....

Language: English

Skin: Arctic

Remember my settings for this computer

Login Reset

Mobile Version

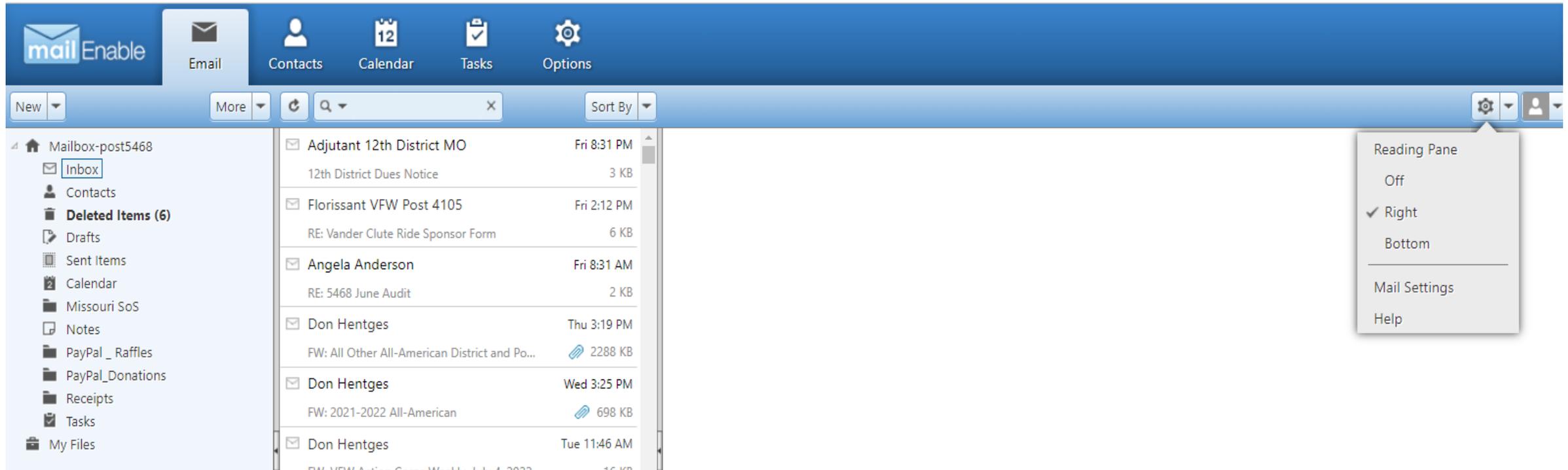
© 2016 MailEnable Pty. Ltd.

Once in, here is your Inbox.

It works good with the Reading pane on the Right.

On a case-by-case basis, we can go over the various settings at your own device after the meeting.

All the District and commonly used addresses have been loaded into your Contacts list already.



Any further operational Questions will be handled by a Visit by the District to render one on one instruction. This is as the settings would only affect the one device.

**As Webmail Use IS An ALL STATE Requirement,
it is time for all to get on board.**

There are several times when dispatches are made that will NOT be sent out to personal addresses.

And as many are active with Facebook, this is just as connectable as Facebook is.

Future Council of Administration

Meetings for 2022 – 2023

Fall Council of Administration

October 7th – 8th, 2022

Holiday Inn Convention Center

Columbia, MO

Winter Council of Administration

Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen &

Teacher Awards

January 27th – 28th, 2023

Hilton, St Louis Airport

State Convention

June, 8th, 9th, 10th, & 11th, 2023

Oasis, Springfield, MO

District 12 Meeting Schedule

30 July 2022 12:00 Noon District meeting and School of Instruction
Post 3944 Overland / St Ann
10815 Midland Blvd, Overland

17 September 2022 12:00 Noon District Meeting
Post 4105 Florissant
410 St Francois St, Florissant MO
1

10 December 2022 12:00 Noon VOD PP Teacher Banquet and District Meeting
Post 3044 Overland / St Ann
10815 Midland Blvd, Overland

11 February 2023 12:00 Noon District Meeting – Nomination of Officers
Post 3500 Richmond Heights
1717 S Big Bend Rd, Richmond Heights, MO

15 April 2023 12:00 Noon District Meeting and Convention
Post 6274 Ballwin
115 Mimosa Lane, Ballwin, MO

District 12 Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars



Go Forth and have a SUCCESSFUL YEAR !

District 12 Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars And Auxiliary



2022 – 23 District Joint School Of Instruction

vfwmodist12.org is the preferred site as it tends to be updated quicker.
Missouri General Orders are under Resources as with the Forms.
View the Sliders on the Home Page as the Quick Links are there



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

MO - DISTRICT 12

HOME ABOUT▼ PROGRAMS▼ RESOURCES▼ NEWS▼ CONTACT LOGIN▼

Voice of Democracy / Patriots Pen

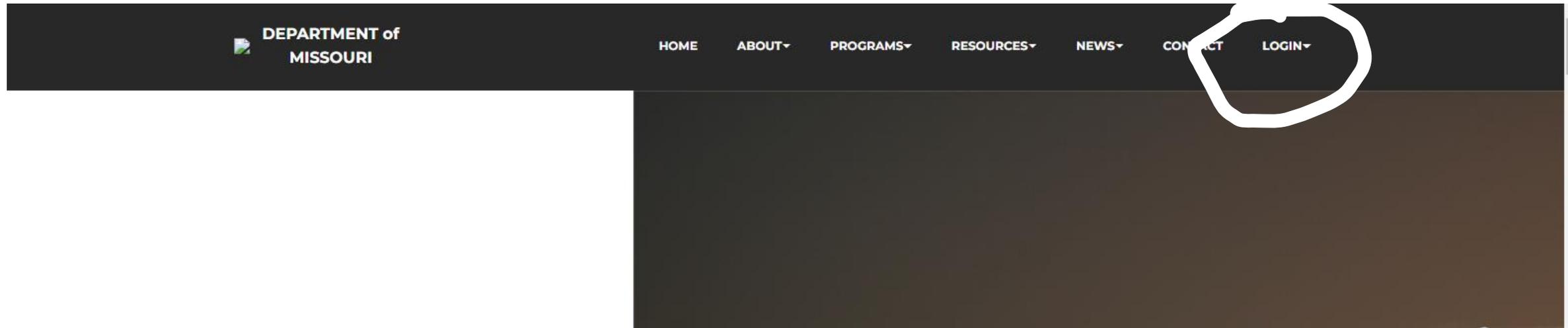
District 12 MO Link to the 2022 - 2023 Voice of Democracy / Patriots Pen Essay Program Entry Forms and Themes!

2022 Voice of Democracy

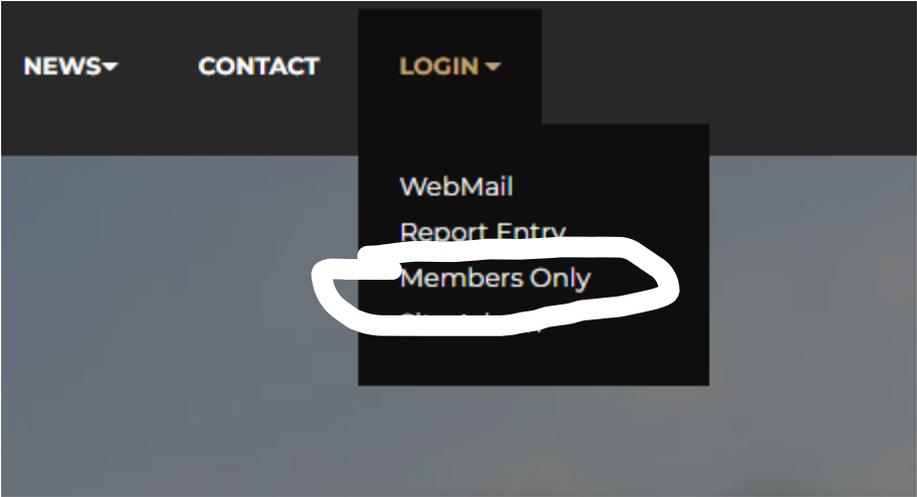
2022 Patriots Pen

of the United States
Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general
welfare, and establish the Constitution for the United States

Missouri Online Reporting
Go to movfw.org then Login



Select Members Only



**Member ID # is on your Membership Card
User Name is your Last Name with the First Letter Capitalized**



MEMBERS ONLY

[Log Out](#)

Member ID #:

Password:

For Auxiliary Members to enter, submit full contact info to the State Webmaster so credentials to be created, then the Login will be as listed above.

As per the State Webmaster;

For Auxiliary members that input reports I will need the following to set them up in the system:

- 1. Auxiliary Member ID number**
- 2. First Name**
- 3. Last Name**
- 4. Post**
- 5. District**
- 6. Email address**
- 7. Phone**
- 8. Address**
- 9. City**
- 10. State**
- 11. Zip Code**

Select - Community Service Reporting



DEPARTMENT of
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MEMBERS ONLY

[Log Out](#)
[Change Profile](#)

Not Available

Community Service Reporting

VFW Department of Missouri Community Service Reporting

*Please use the form below to enter your activity.
One report for ONE activity.*

You will get this screen.

**Every item must be completed. The
Post, District, and Submitter Email is
auto filled by default.**

Post*

5468



District*

12



Submitter Email*

vfwcweber@yahoo.com



Date of Activity*

mm/dd/yyyy



**Use the Drop Box to select the Completion Date of
the Activity. If Multiple Days, use 1 report and
adjust the Statistics accordingly.**

Select a Program*

 Community Involvement Veterans Assistance VSO Event Americanism POW/MIA Scouting Legislative Advocacy Recruiting Event

For Community Involvement you get these Options

Select a Program*

- Community Involvement
- Veterans Assistance
- VSO Event
- Americanism
- POW/MIA
- Scouting
- Legislative Advocacy
- Recruiting Event

Select an Activity*

- Tree Planting Program
- Community Blood Drive
- Community CPR Class
- Recycle Program
- Adopt a Highway Program
- Youth or Hunter Safety Program
- Drug Awareness Program
- Community Emergency Assistance
- Volunteer in Schools and Community
- Sport/Athletic Sponsorship
- Scouting Organization Support
- Participate in Patriots Pen
- Participate in Voice of Democracy
- Participate in Teacher Entry
- Sponsor Youth Contests/Special Events
- Achievement Awards Community/School
- Recognize Public Employees
- Donate Hall to Non Profit Organization
- Other

For Americanism you get these Options

Community Involvement

Americanism

Legislative Advocacy

Veterans Assistance

POW/MIA

Recruiting Event

VSO Event

Scouting

Select an Activity*

Get Out to Vote Program

Color Guard Activities

Honor Guard Activities

Flag Disposal Ceremony

Participate or Conduct Flag Ceremony

Present Flag Education Program

Veterans Day

Memorial Day

Pearl Harbor Day

Loyalty Day

9/11 Remembrance Day

Other

For Legislative Advocacy you get these Options

Select a Program*

Community Involvement

Veterans Assistance

VSO Event

Americanism

POW/MIA

Scouting

Legislative Advocacy

Recruiting Event

Select an Activity*

State

National

Other

For Veterans Assistance you get these Options

Select a Program*

Community Involvement

Veterans Assistance

VSO Event

Americanism

POW/MIA

Scouting

Legislative Advocacy

Recruiting Event

Select an Activity*

Donate to Veterans Service Officer Fund

Assist Veterans and their Families

Loaning of Hospital Type Equipment

Conduct Military Funerals

Other

For POW MIA you will get these Options

Select a Program*

<input type="radio"/> Community Involvement	<input type="radio"/> Americanism	<input type="radio"/> Legislative Advocacy
<input type="radio"/> Veterans Assistance	<input checked="" type="radio"/> POW/MIA	<input type="radio"/> Recruiting Event
<input type="radio"/> VSO Event	<input type="radio"/> Scouting	

Select an Activity*

- Conducted Program in the Community
- Conducted Program in School
- Post Ceremony Attended by the Public
- POW/MIA Flag Displayed at Ceremony
- POW/MIA Flag Displayed at Community Program or Parade
- Other

REMEMBER – Activity MUST BE PUBLIC

For Recruiting Events you get these Options

Select a Program*

<input type="radio"/> Community Involvement	<input type="radio"/> Americanism	<input type="radio"/> Legislative Advocacy
<input type="radio"/> Veterans Assistance	<input type="radio"/> POW/MIA	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Recruiting Event
<input type="radio"/> VSO Event	<input type="radio"/> Scouting	

Select an Activity*

- Off Site (Public Forum)
- Cold Canvas (Stores, ETC)
- Phone Calling (MAL/Membership Rosters)
- Face to Face Interview

Enter solid report of the number of contacts, interests, and actual Recruitments / Renewals in the Description Text Field

For Post Service Officer Event you get this Option

Select a Program*

Community Involvement

Veterans Assistance

VSO Event

Americanism

POW/MIA

Scouting

Legislative Advocacy

Recruiting Event

Select an Activity*

Service Officer Event

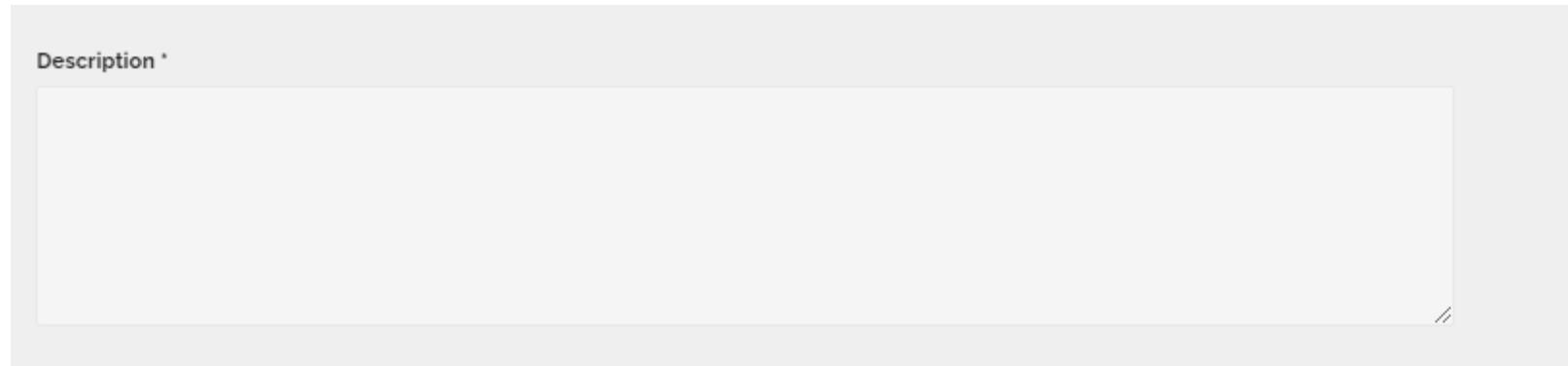
Remember to include how you Advertised the Event, Where the Event was held, and good description of the activity itself in the Description Text Field.

Here you enter the total number of Hours, Miles, Members, and Cost to produce the Event. If in conjunction with multiple reports, adjust all reports accordingly.

Cumulative Hours*	Miles*	Members*
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dollars Spent/Donated*		
<input type="text"/>		

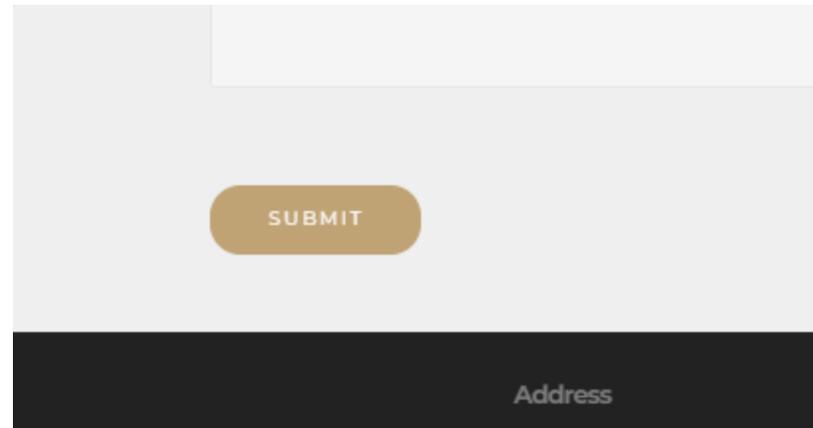
If the Event was in co-ordination with other Posts, enter that detail of the other Post involvement and enter ONLY the above information as your Post completed.

**Enter a Clear Description of the Activity including Where, What,
Who it Impacted,
And with Recruiting, Post Service Officer Event, and Recruiting, the other
Info asked for**

A screenshot of a form field. The label "Description *" is located in the top left corner of the field. Below the label is a large, empty rectangular text area with a light gray border. The background of the form is a light gray color.

**If the Event was in co-ordination with other Posts, enter that
detail of the other Post involvement and enter ONLY the above
information as your Post completed.**

Click the Submit Box only once. If all Fields have entries made it will acknowledge success and you will be receiving an Email. If not, it will tag the shortages for your completion, then Submit the report again



Report successfully completed, ready for the next report

**DEPARTMENT of
MISSOURI**

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VFW Department of Missouri Community Service Reporting

Please use the form below to enter your activity.
One report for ONE activity.

Report has been submitted.

Post* **District*** **Submitter Email***

5468 12 vfwcweber@yahoo.com

Date of Activity*

mm/dd/yyyy

Select a Program*

Community Involvement Americanism Legislative Advocacy

Veterans Assistance POW/MIA Recruiting Event

VSO Event Scouting

Copy of a successfully entered report

Your Report has been added successfully.

Yahoo/5468 Re... ★



vfwmo <vfw@drivepath.net>
To: vfwcweber@yahoo.com



Tue, Jun 21 at 5:19 PM ★

Program Activity

Month:	June	Year:	2022
Post:	5468	District:	12
Date of Activity:	2022-05-30	Activity:	Memorial Day
Program:	Americanism	Miles:	75
Hours:	4	Dollars Spent/Donated:	\$0.00
Members:	1		

Description: Served on the Color Guard Team posting Colors at the Intervets Memorial Day Service at Jefferson Barracks



Highly advise printing as PDF and provide to your Adjutant for Records Keeping. No info has been provided on how they are archived

2022 Patriots Pen Theme – "My Pledge to Our Veterans"

PATRIOT'S PEN



2022-2023 Theme

"My Pledge to Our Veterans."

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022

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 84,000 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. 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 Oct. 31, 2022. 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 2022-2023 theme is:

"My Pledge To Our Veterans."

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2022.

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 816.756.3390 ext. 6155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

2022-2023 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 (m/m/d4/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 Voice of Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature _____ Post# _____
 VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's 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, Pies, 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 Chairman's Signature _____ Dist. # _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

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

Department Chairman's 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: _____



2022 Patriots Pen Theme – “My Pledge to Our Veterans”

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.

**PLUS! All Data Must be filled in by the Entrant AND Post.
All Entries to Post by 31 October, to District by 15 November
Entries may be Emailed to Post and to District as Attachments to the cover Email**

2022 Voice of Democracy Theme – “Why Is The Veteran Important?”

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



2022-2023 Theme

“Why Is The Veteran Important?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$30,000 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 80,000 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, "Why Is The Veteran Important?"

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 \$156,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$30,000.

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, 2022**. 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.

2022-2023 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/yyyy)

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's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

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's/Chairman's Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's 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, pizza, 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 Chairman's Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

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

Department Chairman's 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:
816.756.3390 ext. 6155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

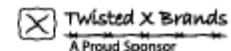
Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Signature of Student Participant

Date



Revised 03/2022

2022 Voice of Democracy Theme “Why Is The Veteran Important?”

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.

PLUS! All Data Must be filled in by the Entrant AND Post.

All Entries to Post by 31 October, to District by 15 November

Entries may be Emailed to Post and to District as Attachments to the cover Email

POSTS MUST LISTEN TO THE ENTRY PRIOR TO ADVANCING!

2022 Smart / Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award

2022-2023 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022

What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

Why Should I Enter?

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. The national awards include \$1,000 Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart award for each of the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses, \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trip to the VFW National Convention.

Who is Eligible?

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

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed nomination form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/Find-a-Post for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

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, 2022. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the 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?

*If you have any questions, please call
Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287 or
tbeauchamp@vfw.org*

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact

Phone Best time to call

Alternative Contact

Phone Best time to call

2022-2023 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022

2022-2023 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()
Phone Email

Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12)

School Name

School City, State

To Be Completed by the VFW Post I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Teacher Award Competition.

()
Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature Post #

()
VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature
(If Applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of teachers participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

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

To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our entry into the Department judging.

()
District Chairman's Signature Dist #

Address

City, State, Zip

()
Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our entry into the National judging.

()
Department Chairman's Signature

Daytime Phone Email

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

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries will begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner, in each grade level, advances to District, if applicable, then one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. 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 tbeauchamp@vfw.org.

2022 Smart / Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Key things to consider

Who is Eligible?

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

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed nomination form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/Find-a-Post for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

What Are the 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?

DEADLINES

All Entries

Patriots Pen

Voice of Democracy

Smart / Maher Citizenship Education Teacher

**Must Be Received on 31 October by the Post,
OK to pick up 1 November.**

Posts Must Work With Auxiliaries During Judging!

**Must be received by District 15 November and will be collected
at Post 3944 on Tuesday 15 November beginning at 6:00PM
(Unless previously delivered)**

The Auxiliary Expanded the Patriotic Art Program to the Younger Ages!

With 3 Age Groups by Grades K – 2, 3- 5, and 6-8!



**VFW Auxiliary National
Illustrating America Art Contest**
An Art contest for students in grades K-8

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

*I hereby grant permission of the artwork by the student listed above to be published in VFW Auxiliary Magazine, on the VFW Auxiliary website and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Store if named a winner of one of the top national awards. I hereby verifying that the entry was done by the student listed above.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____



VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest

An Art contest for students in grades K-8

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries if matted must be matted in white. Do not use color mats.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. Do not frame art.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", not including mat larger than 18" in any direction.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, glitter, marker or other media may be used.
- Complete contest application and attached to back of entry.
- If the American Flag is used, it **DOES NOT** need to conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors or numbers of stars and stripes.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest application
- Entry will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.
- Coloring Sheets, digital art, photography and jewelry are **NOT** accepted.

Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades K-8 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial 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.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students and students aged 15 or older are ineligible.
- National grade division winners of previous Illustrating America contests may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner.

Awards for Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Awards for Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July:** Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form.
- **August:** First through third place winners named on VFW Auxiliary social media pages and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- **September:** Art will be returned to address on entry form.

A Singing Program for the Auxiliary!!!

Entrants sing the National Anthem

Might be a new way of Connecting with the Youth!

Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!

VFW Auxiliary National Singing Contest
A video solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner



Contest Entry Form

Please print or complete fillable form at vfwauxiliary.org
This form must be submitted with the video entry at all levels of judging.

Student Name: Age:

Address: City: State: Zip:

Email: Phone:

School Name: Grade:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Email: Parent/Guardian Phone:

I certify that I have met all the contest requirements and that I am the sole author of the attached/enclosed video entry. By entering the contest, I grant the VFW Auxiliary royalty-free rights to use, edit, share, publish and broadcast my contest video entry for the *Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!* national anthem singing contest for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary. I understand the video will not be sold but will remain the property of the VFW Auxiliary.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org



Get Excited for the **Red, White and Blue!**

VFW Auxiliary National Singing Contest
A video solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner



Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value.

Contest Rules

- Video of contestant's solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner must be recorded between **July 1 and March 31**.
- One entry per contestant.
- Student shall state name, age and grade level prior to vocal performance.
- Student may sing a cappella, with backing tracks or instruments.
- Student may sing in the arrangement and genre of their choice.
- Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring participating VFW Auxiliary by **March 31**.
- Student may **NOT** change the words. Student may **NOT** lip sync.
- Video must be a recorded live unedited version.
- Complete and sign contest entry form. Parent/Guardian signature required on entry form.
- Video must be saved on YouTube and submitted with completed entry form to a VFW Auxiliary for judging.

Contest Eligibility

- Open to students in grades **K-12** who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial 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.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students and students aged 20 or older are ineligible.
- National grade division winners of previous *Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!* students may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous National winner.

National Awards

Grades K-8	Grades 9-12
First place: \$500 gift card	First place: \$500 gift card
Second place: \$300 gift card	Second place: \$300 gift card
Third place: \$200 gift card	Third place: \$200 gift card

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected or poor-quality video entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email info@vfwauxiliary.org

VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July:** Students will be notified of entry status via the email address provided on the entry form.
- **August:** First through third place winners named in each of the two grade divisions on VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters social media pages and shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Auxiliary Patriotic Art Contest

2-Dimensional Art

9 – 12 Grade

- **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, if matted, 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" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat.
- Complete entry form and attach to back of entry.
- Submit a typed explanation of patriotism expressed in art (250 words or less).

What are the Scholarship Contest Deadlines?

- March 31: Student Entry Deadline to VFW Auxiliary.*
- April 15: VFW Auxiliary winners due to Department (state) Scholarships Chairman for judging.*
- May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department (state) Winners to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.*



Auxiliary Patriotic Art Contest

3-Dimensional Art

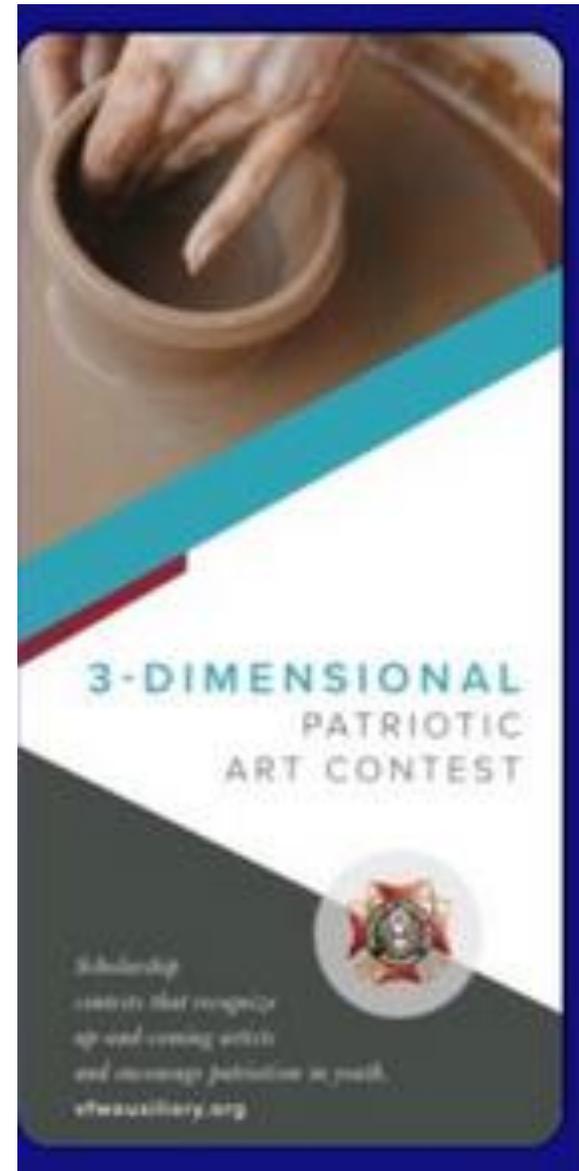
9 – 12 Grade

What are the Scholarship Submission Requirements?

- **Three-dimensional** art can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric, etc.
- Pieces should be no larger than 18" in any direction.
- Art cannot be more than 5 lbs. in weight.
- Complete entry form and submit with entry.
- Submit a typed explanation of patriotism expressed in art (250 words or less).

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Future Council of Administration

Meetings for 2022 – 2023

Fall Council of Administration

October 7th – 8th, 2022

Holiday Inn Convention Center

Columbia, MO

Winter Council of Administration

Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen &

Teacher Awards

January 27th – 28th, 2023

Hilton, St Louis Airport

State Convention

June, 8th, 9th, 10th, & 11th, 2023

Oasis, Springfield, MO

District 12 Meeting Schedule

30 July 2022 12:00 Noon District meeting and School of Instruction
Post 3944 Overland / St Ann
10815 Midland Blvd, Overland

17 September 2022 12:00 Noon District Meeting
Post 4105 Florissant
410 St Francois St, Florissant MO
1

10 December 2022 12:00 Noon VOD PP Teacher Banquet and District Meeting
Post 3044 Overland / St Ann
10815 Midland Blvd, Overland

11 February 2023 12:00 Noon District Meeting – Nomination of Officers
Post 3500 Richmond Heights
1717 S Big Bend Rd, Richmond Heights, MO

15 April 2023 12:00 Noon District Meeting and Convention
Post 6274 Ballwin
115 Mimosa Lane, Ballwin, MO

District 12 Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars



Go Forth and have a SUCCESSFUL YEAR !