

SCHOLARSHIPS



Ronny Mote
1401 Graham Street
Wellington, TX 79095
512-241-8494
txvfwauxscholarships@yahoo.com
#txvfwauxscholarships

“Creativity takes courage.” ~ Henri Matisse

As our world is increasingly consumed with talk of AI (Artificial Intelligence), it is imperative that we encourage participation in the different artistic scholarship and contest opportunities the VFW and VFW Auxiliary offer each year. Below, you will find valuable information regarding all the opportunities. Please educate yourself on the specifics of each, paying close attention to the deadlines and age/grade requirements.

Our National Scholarships Ambassador, Dina Hudson, who served as a high school English teacher for 30 years, mentioned in the National Program, “With the soaring cost of higher education and technical schools, the VFW Auxiliary is proud to offer scholarship opportunities for Auxiliary members, their immediate families and our youth. Education opens doors and creates opportunities. We are investing in our children by investing in their future to assure a brighter tomorrow for us all.” Well said, Ms. Hudson! The more our children learn, the stronger their roots grow, and the brighter their future becomes. We can help with that growth by focusing on the following four areas:

Student Participation * Recipient Recognition * Community Awareness * Increasing the Fund

GET THE WORD OUT!

We must start by focusing on promotion, Promotion, PROMOTION!!! This brings awareness to the communities we are a part of and diligently serve. Our National Scholarships Ambassador wants us to work together to “Get The Word Out!”, and this year we will be doing just that in several easy, Efficient and EFFECTIVE ways. Let’s start by fully utilizing Facebook and other social media platforms. Our VFW Auxiliary Department of Texas President Karen Jeffrey recently listed as No. 9 on The Top Ten Reasons for each Auxiliary having a Facebook page, as “**further, Faster, FARTHER...** We need to **further** refine our outreach tools to **Faster** attract attention to our organization, so we can extend our reach **FARTHER** throughout our state, the nation and all around the world.” One of the easiest ways to accomplish this task is by posting on Facebook, Instagram, Post and Auxiliary websites and other social media platforms. I know social media can be intimidating and overwhelming for some, but we’re going to take a simple approach and make it fun and effective for everyone. Suggestions, helpful hints, reminders and *Our Two Cents* contributions will be provided through updates to the newly created TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS Facebook page. When your Auxiliary has created their own Facebook

page, please have them search for the **TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS** page. Once the page has been located, simply click FOLLOW. That's all it takes! Once an Auxiliary FOLLOWS the Scholarships page, then all posts and updates will show up on their Auxiliary's Facebook feed. ALL information involving the Scholarships Program will be shared on this page, as well as being shared via Instagram, websites, and through more traditional methods. We will also be utilizing hashtags and QR codes. Please use **#txvfwauxscholarships** on ALL social media posts! And, if you see a QR code, simply open your phone camera and scan it. Valuable information will pop up! As we learn more about technology throughout the year, it will become evident how easy, Efficient and EFFECTIVE Facebook and social media promotions can and will be for the State of Texas in 2024-2025.

Our next step is to identify likely individuals and groups with whom you can discuss scholarship and contest opportunities. The following are a few suggestions of groups that might be interested in our scholarships and contests:

- Schools and JROTC Units
- Faith-based youth groups
- Youth-focused organizations
- Home-School Associations
- Parent-Teacher Associations
- Youth sports organizations
- Financial Aid Offices
- Student Veteran Centers
- Scouts
- Young Marines

SCHOLARSHIP & CONTEST RESOURCES

(Complete list of all contest rules can be found in the following resources)

- TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS Facebook and Instagram pages
- VFW website: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education
- MALTA-Member Resources
- VFW Auxiliary National website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships
- Information and promotions from the National Ambassador
- VFW Store: vfwstore.org or 1-833-VFW-VETS

If each Auxiliary takes advantage of all the tools mentioned above, we will successfully reach those wishing to participate.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Open to any **Auxiliary member** (who has been a member for at least a year), their spouse, or children with a financial need. This is the only scholarship limited by membership. Entrants must be at least **21 years old**, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. The application must be received at National Headquarters by **February 15, 2025**.

Send entries to: Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Entries may also be emailed to info@vfwauxiliary.org

\$1,250 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences. Applications are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education or in MALTA-Member Resources-Scholarships. This scholarship will be paid directly to the American college or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice.

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST & 3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

Both contests are open to any student in **grades 9-12** who is enrolled in 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 intend to become a U.S. citizen. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible.

Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique, originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work. One Department winner, for each contest, will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters.

A contest entry form must be completed and submitted with the entry (and can be found at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships or MALTA-Member Resources-Scholarships). A typed artist statement on how the entry was created (250 words or less) must also be submitted. A parent or guardian signature is required on the contest entry form. If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.

These scholarships will be paid directly to the American college or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

The VFW Auxiliary is proud to offer this two-dimensional art contest to all patriotic young artists in **grades 9-12**. The entry must be completed during the current school year. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used. Entry must be on canvas or paper. Do not frame. Submit canvas entries on a stretched frame or canvas board. If entry is matted, the mat must be

white. No color mats accepted. Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. Entry may not be smaller than 8” x 10” and no larger than 18” x 24” (not including mat). Digital art and photography will not be accepted.

Entry forms may be accessed at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships or in MALTA- Member Resources-Scholarships.

National Scholarships Awards for Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest:

First Place - \$15,000
Second Place - \$7,500
Third Place - \$3,500
Fourth and Fifth Place - \$1,500
Sixth and Seventh Place - \$1,000
Eighth through Nineteenth Place - \$500

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

The newest contest in the Scholarships Program is the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. The scholarship is open to students in **grades 9-12** and must be completed during the current school year. Entries must be three dimensional. Paper, paper mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood and metalwork are acceptable. Entry may be no larger than 18” in any direction and may not weigh more than 5 pounds. Digital art, photography, weapons, art generated by a 3-D printer, and jewelry will NOT be accepted.

Entry forms may be accessed at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships or in MALTA- Member Resources-Scholarships.

National Scholarships Awards for Young 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest:

First Place - \$2,500
Second Place - \$1,500
Third Place - \$1,000
Fourth Place - \$500

DEADLINES for Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art:

Entries **MUST BE** Received by:

Participating VFW Auxiliary – **March 31, 2025** (District Judging optional)

VFW Auxiliary Department – **April 15, 2025**

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – **May 5, 2025**

Students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form in July/August. First through third place winners will be named on VFW Auxiliary social media and displayed at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention. Art will be returned to Auxiliary on entry form by the end of September.

PATRIOT’S PEN

2024-2025 Theme: “My Voice in America’s Democracy?”

This Patriotic Written Essay Competition is open to **6th – 8th grade students** enrolled by the October 31st 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. Homeschooled students are also eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. 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 are ineligible.)

Judging will be based on knowledge of the theme, theme development, and clarity of ideas. The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. To find the VFW Post nearest to you, visit **vfw.org/FindaPost**. Post winners advance, one for every fifteen entries, to the VFW District (regional) level, where the one first-place winner is advanced to VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

Entry forms may be accessed at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships or in MALTA-Member Resources-Scholarships.

National Scholarships Awards for the Patriot’s Pen Written Essay Contest:

First Place - \$5,000	Sixth Place - \$2,000
Second Place - \$4,000	Seventh Place - \$1,750
Third Place - \$3,500	Eighth Place - \$1,500
Fourth Place - \$2,750	Ninth Place - \$1,500
Fifth Place - \$2,500	Tenth Place - \$1,500

DEADLINES: To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight, **October 31, 2024**. 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 VFW Post.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

2024-2025 Theme: “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

The Patriotic Audio Essay Competition has been around since 1947 and is available to **students in grades 9-12** by the October 31st 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 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, students aged 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.)

Judging will be based on originality, content and delivery. To be eligible, you must 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 the completed entry form. Provide these items to your 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. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. 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 and typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

National Scholarships Awards for the Voice of Democracy Patriotic Audio Essay Contest:

First Place - \$35,000	Sixth Place - \$5,000
Second Place - \$21,000	Seventh Place - \$4,000
Third Place - \$15,000	Eighth Place - \$4,000
Fourth Place - \$8,000	Ninth Place - \$3,500
Fifth Place - \$5,000	Tenth Place - \$3,500

DEADLINES: To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight, **October 31, 2024**. 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.

RECOGNITION IS KEY!

It is important that scholarship and essay contest participants and winners receive recognition at every level. Don’t forget to recognize the parents and teachers, as well. Update your Auxiliary Facebook and other social media platforms, to highlight everyone deserving of recognition. You can contact local media to feature winners in the news (Sample press releases are available

online in MALTA-Member Resources). Awards can also be presented at school assemblies. And if your Auxiliary has FOLLOWED the TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIP pages, they will see the many ways, throughout the year, that we will recognize all who participate, along with the winners of each scholarship or contest.

INCREASING THE FUND

To make the VFW and VFW Auxiliary scholarships and contests possible, at the state level, please make sure your Auxiliary donates the \$15.00 amount requested on the MemStat report for each of the five scholarship or contest opportunities.

To support the National Patriotic Art Escrow Fund, complete one of the following:

Log in to MALTA
Click on “Make a Gift”
Select Patriotic Art

OR

Mail checks earmarked Patriotic Art to:
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund
406 W 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. A Plaque for Most Outstanding Activity and/or Event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary, in each membership division. Citations for 2nd and 3rd, in each membership division

Entry form required and available in MALTA-Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Scholarships Chairman, Ronny Mote, at txvfwauxscholarships@yahoo.com by March 31, 2025, for judging. The Department Scholarships Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Scholarships Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging.

2. A Plaque for the Best Overall Promotion of the TX VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Program, in each membership division. Citations for 2nd and 3rd, in each membership division.

3. A Plaque to the Auxiliary that demonstrates Best Overall Reporting, in each membership division. Citations for 2nd and 3rd, in each membership division

SCHOLARSHIPS MID-YEAR & YEAR-END REPORT

- Mail/Email this report to your District President by December 10, 2024/April 10, 2025
- District President must mail/email to Department Chairman, Ronny Mote, at txvfwauxscholarships@yahoo.com by December 20, 2024 / April 20, 2025

AUXILIARY _____ NUMBER _____ DISTRICT _____

VFW SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Did your Auxiliary assist with their VFW Post in promoting or conducting the VFW National Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest? _____
2. Did your Auxiliary assist with their VFW Post in promoting or conducting the VFW National Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest? _____

RECOGNITION

1. Did your Auxiliary host or co-host an awards ceremony with their VFW to recognize awardees and participants in any/all contests? _____
2. Total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by the Auxiliaries and Districts in any/all contests: \$ _____
3. **COMPLETE** the required entry form for the *Most Outstanding Activity and/or Event Educating Their Community About the Scholarship Opportunities Award*. **MUST BE** mailed/emailed to DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN, Ronny Mote, at txvfwauxscholarships@yahoo.com BY MARCH 31, 2025. The form can be accessed through MALTA-Member Resources-Scholarships-Award Forms-2024-2025 Scholarships Auxiliary Award No. 1

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____