

Hello everyone.

Well, I think one of my friends summed up everything from the last couple months in one word: strange. I know my life has certainly changed in the last few weeks as I am sure many of yours have as well. Although these times have altered many things for us, we continue to prevail as volunteers within the great organization we call the American Legion Auxiliary. Our work may take on different formats such as making masks or having meetings by conference call; however, there is still some wonderful news out there for the education program.

I had the honor of reading through over 50 scholarship applications for both the National and Department scholarship programs. Wow! What a great class of students out there who have such wonderful ideas and enthusiasm. They have amazing spirit, intensity, and will succeed. We are blessed to have such outstanding future leaders within our schools. It was difficult to pick winners as all the candidates were worthy of awards.

The Education scholarship winners are listed in a separate article in this publication. The four students selected as Department candidates for the National scholarships are: Alison Freier of Glyndon, MN, Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship; Kimberly Asp of Cando, ND, Non-Traditional Student Scholarship; Elizabeth Nolan of Hazen, ND, Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship, and Haylee Carlson of Devils Lake, Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members. Each of these applications was sent on to the Northwestern Division for further judging. Winners are expected to be announced sometime in late May. All candidates were sponsored by a North Dakota Auxiliary unit.

Many units sent in education reports through District Presidents. Some unit's sponsor unit scholarships and have committees to select scholarship applications to be sent to the Department. Other units donate funds to local colleges, universities, and high school foundations. Several units also help educate youth and others in their communities about various Auxiliary programs.

One unit donated funds to a local library in recognition of National Education Week. Several units celebrated the school in their area during National Education Week by bringing in trays of meat, cheese, and crackers. Another unit celebrated its educators and staff by providing fruit. This unit also donated \$35 in school supplies to two schools in their area and presented All-American Student plaques at a high-school awards banquet.

Another unit donated funding to the local school to help students with lunches and to help teachers with classroom supplies. 100 Veteran comic books were also purchased and sent to the school in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Auxiliary. Several units participated in the "10 for 10 for Education" with local schools where they donate supplies in 'groups of 10'. Box Tops for Education were also donated to local schools. Several units also provide scholarships to send students to International Music Camp.

There is likely much more that units and Auxiliary members do to support education within their communities. I just may not hear about it in reports or otherwise. Thank you to all who support our youth, our communities and our veterans through education and outreach. You all truly make a difference.

Also, please remember to thank the educators in your community. They have an awesome responsibility that has recently been made more challenging by the coronavirus pandemic. Let them know how important and vital they are for all of us.

Take care and stay safe,

Shauna Dubuque

Department Education Chairman