

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Believe it or not, spring is coming – not soon enough for most of us!

I have had the honor of reviewing scholarships. It has been difficult to narrow the selection to three (3) \$500 Department Education Program Scholarships. Every applicant was worthy of the scholarship. The committee selected Mason Christianson from Langdon, Logan Gronvold from Barton, and Dylan Schadegg from Steele.

The Department scholarship committee also received and reviewed applications for National Auxiliary scholarships. Thank you to Department President Sandra Petermann and Auxiliary member Carla Bickert, retired Bismarck State College instructor, for helping with the scholarship selection process. Two scholarship packets were sent to the Northwestern Division for further judging. Isabella Ferderer of Gwinner, ND, was the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship Department selection; and Katelynn Kovarik of Fisher, MN (Paul Farup Unit 147, Park River, ND), was the Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members Department selection. Final winners of the National scholarships will be announced in May.

We wish to congratulate all these students on their hard work, dedication, and commitment to academics and their communities. Please continue to support the youth in your area and promote both scholarships and educational opportunities.

KEEP IN MIND FOR NEXT YEAR, the National Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship is designed to reward Junior members who retain Auxiliary membership after they turn 18. It specifically targets Auxiliary members who are current college students. Do not lose track of your Juniors after they graduate from high school. Another scholarship that members of the American Legion Family can apply for is the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship. Applicants need to have kept up Auxiliary membership for the previous two years and current year and be returning to the classroom. Encourage them to apply! They are the future of our great organization.

For those attending ALA Flickertail Girls State and Boys State, there is the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. Applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current sessions of the Legion Boys State or ALA Girls State program and are a direct descendant of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for membership in the American Legion. Those applications are due no later than the FIRST day of the Legion Boys State or ALA Girls State program, using the online application. Check out <http://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung> so the students know what information they need to have when going to Girls/Boys State to apply.

I am looking forward to receiving education reports from units through District Presidents. Some units 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 also help educate youth and others in their communities about various Auxiliary programs. Units donate funds to local libraries in recognition of National Education week; bring food to schools to celebrate educators and staff; provide funds to help students with lunches and to help teachers with classroom supplies; and 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.

Thank the educators in your community! Let them know how important and vital they are for all of us.

Peggy Moran

Education Chairman