

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Happy Spring!

I had the honor of reviewing Department scholarship applications. It was difficult to narrow the selection to three (3) \$500 Department Education Program Scholarships. Every applicant was worthy of the scholarship. The committee selected Jayden Bondy from Petersburg, Jayden Pederson from Valley City, and Andaleen Nelson from Mandan.

The Department scholarship committee also received and reviewed applications for National Auxiliary scholarships. Thank you to Department President Gloria Covert and Auxiliary member Carla Bickert, retired Bismarck State College instructor, for helping with the scholarship selection process. Four (4) scholarship packets were sent to the Northwestern Division for further judging. Grace Burgess of Monument, Colorado (sponsor's Home of Record is North Dakota), was the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship selection; Brenna Martin of Grand Forks, was the Spirit of Youth Scholarship selection; Ellen Feuerhelm of Beach, was the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship selection; and Madison Lippert of Aneta was the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship selection. Final winners of the National scholarships will be announced in May. It was wonderful to have applications for all four (4) of the National Scholarships this year!

Congratulations to 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.

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 as long as they have kept up membership for the previous two years and current year; and are returning to the classroom. Encourage them to apply! They are the future of our great organization.

For those students attending 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 American Legion Boys State or the Auxiliary Girls State programs and are direct descendants 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 to apply before they attend Girls/Boys State.

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 truly make a difference.

Take an opportunity to thank educators in your community. Let them know how important and vital they are for all of us.

Happy Spring/Summer!

Peggy Moran

Education Chairman