

Greetings Auxiliary Members.

Happy Spring Everyone!

I had the honor of reviewing scholarship applications. It was difficult to narrow the selection to three (3) \$500 Department Education Program Scholarship Winners. Every applicant was worthy of the scholarship. The committee selected Zachary James Clark from Hankinson, Jada Rose Bonogofsky from St. Anthony, and Nikki Bristow from Williston. A couple tips for future applicants include watching for neatness and completeness when filling out the applications. Be specific about listing extracurricular activities and offices held in clubs/organizations to show leadership experience. Please watch the due date so a student does not miss out by emailing or mailing it too late.

The Department scholarship committee also received and reviewed applications for National Auxiliary scholarships. Thank you to Auxiliary member Carla Bickert, retired Bismarck State College instructor, for helping with the scholarship selection process and Department Auxiliary President LoAnn Dick for trusting our selections. Three (3) scholarship packets were sent to the Northwestern Division for further judging. Rylie Lem of Thompson was the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship selection; Melissa Kuhnhehn of Upham, was the Spirit of Youth Scholarship selection; and Annabelle Schauer of Grand Forks was the Member Loyalty Scholarship selection. We had no applications for the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship this year. Final winners of the National scholarships will be announced in May. Congratulation to all these students for 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 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 students have kept up membership for the previous two years and current year; and are returning to the classroom, they are eligible. Encourage them to apply! They are the future of our great organization.

For those 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 Legion Boys State or ALA Girls State. They must be 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 Boys State or 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 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 milk/lunch and to help teachers with classroom supplies; and scholarships to send students to International Music Camp.

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