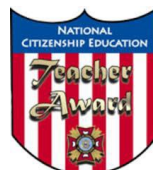


From DPA District 5 Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen & Teacher's Award Chairman

Sep 2020



POST COMMANDERS / CHAIRMEN. School should have started in most areas and even though many schools are utilizing distance or home school learning programs, this should not stop us from contacting the schools and parents of eligible American Citizen Students about the VOD & PP Essay Competitions. Although not an "AA or AS" requirement American Teachers abroad may be nominated for the Smart / Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award so follow the instruction below to get all the program materials **Contact District 5 SVC Steve S. or me Commander Lou** for any follow on info.

Due to the size /distance of District 5 and the timing for submission to DPA's Dec judging (COFA) **the District Committee will judge participating Nominee essays during our October 2020 meeting planned for Bangkok** and via ZOOM.

YOUTH PROGRAMS RESOURCES. The [Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Chairman's Manual](#) will provide you with some helpful information on promoting and judging your Post's Youth essay competitions.

THE NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2020-2021 themes have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief Harold J. "Hal" Roesch, II. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "***Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?***" [Read the rules and eligibility requirements](#) and download the [2020-2021 entry form application](#). The Patriot's Pen theme will be "***What is Patriotism to Me?***" [Read the rules and eligibility requirements](#) and download the [2020-2021 entry form application](#).

TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM RESOURCES. The [Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Chairman's Manual](#) will provide you with some helpful information on recognizing teachers in your community for promoting citizenship education. [Review the rules and eligibility requirements](#) and nominate a teacher by submitting the [2020-2021 nomination form](#).

CHANGES TO ALL-STATE AND ALL-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS: This year there is no requirement to participate in the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. However, I encourage all Posts to honor those deserving teachers and submit entries.

FOR DONATIONS: For the 2020-2021 year, there is a new [VFW Programs Donation Form](#). If you know that your Post will not have any entries, let's get the donations done now. In order to get credit please forward the receipt email you receive from VFW National to SVC Steve and Don Kelley DPA VOD / PP / TA Chairman's me.

POST COMMNDERS / CHAIRMEN: please share this report and the National Scholarship Programs Brochure with Schools, Teachers, Parents and Youth Leaders so they can [get acquainted with VFW's Programs](#).

DO NOT ALLOW THIS PANDEMIC FROM HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP THEIR FULL POTENTIAL POSSIBILITY TO EARN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. THE EFFORTS WE PUT FORTH PROVIDE BENEFITS TO OUR COMMUNITY, FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE. DISTRICT 5 PAST 2 OF 3 VOD NOMINEES WENT ON TO WIN AT DPA LEVEL WITH OUTSTANDING PLACEMENTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL. ALL STUDENT PARTCIAPTNTS ARE WINNERS!