

OCTOBER 2023

Deadlines are coming up. October 31st is the Deadline to submit The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen to your local VFW Post.

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the October 31st deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories, and possessions: or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

The theme for 2023-2024 is "**What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?**"

Record an original 3–5-minute audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. Submit the recording, typed essay and a completed entry form to the VFW Post for judging on or before October 31, 2023.

Patriot's Pen is open to students in grades 6-8 by the October 31st deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school in the United States, its territories, or its possessions. Home schooled students are also eligible. Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.

The theme for 2023-2024 is "**How are you inspired by America?**"

Download and complete the Patriot's Pen entry form. All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and 300-400 words in length. The essay must be the contestant's original work and a product of their own thinking. The Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused.

A complete list of all contest rules can be found in the following resources.

- o VFW website: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education
- o MALTA Member Resources

- o VFW Auxiliary National website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships

Please make a monetary donation to all our wonderful scholarships – Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Oregon Continuing Education Scholarship, VFW Auxiliary continuing Education Scholarship and Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Make your checks out to the Department noting that they are for scholarships and send them to the Department Treasurer Sonya Sallee. The more money donated the more and/or larger amounts that can be awarded. Invest in the future of our children, helping them with money that can help towards their future education.

National says - Don’t forget to help the Patriotic Art Escrow Fund!!!! You can make your donation through MALTA, or you can mail a check to National Headquarters, Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund.

REMEMBER THOSE DEADLINES. You don’t want some deserving student to miss out because we forgot to check our calendars.