

## SCHOLARSHIPS

As you will recall, the September 2021 Newsletter announced the kick-off the VFW and Auxiliary Post 392's Annual Scholarship Program. This is a reminder that the entry form for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year, are due at Post 392 by the deadline date of **October 31, 2021**.

Also mentioned in the last newsletter, entry starts at the Post level, moves to District level, then Department (state), and finally national. In addition to the awards given at the national level, awards and prizes may also be given at the Post, District, and state levels, as demonstrated below.

**Voice of Democracy:** (Students in grades 9-12.) An audio-essay contest lasting between 3-5 minutes, based on the theme ***“America: Where do we go from here?”*** Students will compete for more than \$2.1 million in college scholarships and incentives. Each first place Department (state) winner is brought to Washington, D.C. in February to enjoy our nation's capital and compete for \$154,000 in national college scholarships – first place receiving \$30,000, payable to any American college of their choice. Other national prizes range from \$16,000 to \$1,000. Each state winner will receive at least \$1,000 at the national level.

On the home front here at Post 392, the Post's first, second and third-place winners receive \$1,200, \$450, and \$200, respectfully, at a ceremony held in the spring at Post 392.

Your essay must be recorded to an audio CD or flash drive and submitted with your completed entry form and a typed copy of your essay, to Post 392 by the deadline date of **October 31, 2021**. The entry form may be downloaded by going to [www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships).

**Patriot Pen:** (Students in grades 6-8.) Students must provide a typewritten essay (in English) consisting of no less than 300 words up to a maximum of 400 words, based on the theme ***“How Can I Be A Good American?”*** Cumulatively, the awards provided from all levels of the competition total \$1.2 million each year. Each Department's (state) winner competes for \$55,000 in award money at the national level with the first-place national winner receiving \$5,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C. Other national prizes range from \$4,000 to \$500. Each state winner will receive at least \$500 at the national level.

Back at the home front here at Post 392, the Post's first, second and third-place winners receive \$700, \$450, and \$200, respectfully, at a ceremony held in the spring at Post 392.

**Teacher of the Year Award:** The VFW launched the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in 1999 to recognize certified teachers for promoting citizenship education. Three teachers, one from each level (grades K-5, 6-8

and 9-12) are selected as national winners. Each national award teacher winner receives the Past Commander-In-chief John smart Award and \$1,000. Their respective schools also receive a \$1,000 award.

Meanwhile, back at the home front, Post 392's first-place winner in each of the three categories each receive \$400 at a ceremony held in the spring at Post 392.

All currently certified/licensed teachers are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by the teacher themselves, fellow teachers, family members supervisors or other interested individuals.

To enter, you must submit a completed entry form, a copy of your resume (1-5 pages maximum), documenting your teaching experience, such as references, news articles, *etc.*, along with a decent quality head and shoulder photograph of the teacher.

The entry form can be downloaded by going to [www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year). **The deadline for entry is October 31, 2021.**

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The complete rules and eligibility requirements are set out on the entry forms.

Entries may be by mail or dropped off at the following location.:

VFW Post 392  
Attn: Scholarships  
2408 Bowland Parkway  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454  
Phone: 757-486-5875  
Email: [vfw392.org](mailto:vfw392.org)

Any questions, please contact Connie J. Mitchell at [cjmitchell02531@gmail.com](mailto:cjmitchell02531@gmail.com)