

Irene Nowacki

Scholarships

The program reporting year for us may be over, but there is no rest for the weary.

We have programs to work all year long regardless of program year end dates. Please make sure you reach out to as many people as possible about the scholarships and contests that we sponsor.

Congratulations to the 2025-2026 VOD winners who were just recently announced at a ceremony at the historic Union League of Philadelphia. The first-place winner was from Maine.

Get the youth interested in entering the Voice of Democracy or Patriots Pen for next year. The new theme has been announced:

2026-2027 VOD & Patriots Pen Theme is
"What a Veteran Taught Me About America"

If you know of an artistic youth, let them know about the [Young American Patriotic Art](#) and [3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests](#). It is never too early to promote these. Give them a chance to come up with their ideas for next year. Get teachers and youth groups involved. There is nothing wrong with helping explore as many ideas as possible.

I cannot wait to judge the first-place entries from your auxiliaries. All these talented youth deserve a big pat on the back for their efforts in showcasing their idea of Patriotism. Will the first-place winner be from your auxiliary? We will find out at Department Convention.

And let us not forget about the [Continuing Education Scholarship](#). I am excited to hear just how much we have collected across the nation for National President Lois Callahan's special project. This scholarship may be closed to entries now, but it will be available again after National Convention announces the winners from each conference.

Speaking of Department Convention, have you booked your room yet? You don't want to miss out on the chance to cheer on the winning entry that will make its way to National Convention in Reno Nevada. Let's show up strong for these youth and show them that we support them 100%.

Keep working hard and informing your communities about the wonderful scholarships and contests that we offer.

