

This year has come to an end. I would be very grateful for the responses and reports received from the Auxiliaries. Six (6) Auxiliaries sent the National Citation Award form with just beautiful projects they have done with Youth in their area. Only one could be chosen!

Illustrating America entries, for each age group category, have been sent to the National Organization. Twenty entries, in all were received, 3 of those came from ONE Charter School in Quartzite, they had 18 entries. Auxiliary 769 has embraced this charter school and it is really paying off! A Community member, who has 3 grandchildren, loving the positivity the VFW Auxiliary Programs have to share, invited Auxiliary 769 into the school to speak about art, patriotism and embrace citizenship in their community.

From that, the BEST project this year has been Auxiliary 769 and the students of the Charter School coming up with a plan and painting a mural at the local Community Center on an Annex Wall to Celebrate America's 250th Year! To see the Youth involved in a way that is positive, celebrated in their community, and will last their lifetime is a legacy on its own merit.

Take-aways from this year's Program- not nearly enough was reported in the use of the Citations- Patriotic, Acts of Kindness or even the RAP (Random Acts of Patriotism) cards. So much is available, unused or unreported?

Patriotism through Literacy- only two (2) Auxiliaries reported donating books from the Patriotism through Literacy list to community libraries.

Hashtags- A way to share ALL WE DO- to the Community, State and Nation, used very little.

"Reading Buddies"- Veterans reading to Youth, Youth reading to Veterans, I heard of ONE- one, noted AFTER the National Citation deadline had passed.

You, as the Auxiliary and member, are on the frontline of representing this fantastic organization and the positive impact it CAN have on our Youth and future. If you see something, SAY SOMETHING! A checked box on an outline

form does not recognize all the wonderful work YOU are DOING. Please take 3 minutes to REPORT to your Department Chairmen. A simple “we did this” or “Did you see the Facebook Post” would have opened the doors to bragging rights and included your Auxiliary in a newsletter or shared idea.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Department of Arizona Auxiliary as the Youth Chairman. I feel so very fortunate to call you all my family.