

Irene Nowacki

Scholarships Chairman

Thank you all for your due diligence in getting your entries to me on time for the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest** and **3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests**. We have a few more weeks to get the last of them in. Please make sure that they are packaged correctly and securely to limit any damage during shipping. I am super excited to be able to see all the entries and have the honor to judge these. Department Convention will be an exciting time to reveal who the winners are in each contest.

Don't forget, we still have our very own **Department of Arizona VFW Auxiliary Educational Grant** and **VFW Auxiliary Merit Scholarship**. These are **due to me by April 1st, 2026**. Let's get our auxiliary members some much needed help for their academic future. The department has budgeted for this, so let's give the money to those that need a little extra help. These applications are available on the department website www.vfwauxaz.org under the Scholarships.

There is still time to make your donations to National President Lois' special project **Continuing Education Scholarship**. Let's see how much the department of Arizona can donate to this wonderful scholarship.

The program year is coming to an end soon. Don't forget to tell me about your **most creative/unique activity and/or event educating your community about the Scholarship opportunities in the VFW and VFW Auxiliary that you have done in your area and across the state**. A citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 program divisions will be awarded. Will it be to your auxiliary? Make sure to fill out the entry form in MALTA (www.vfwauxiliary.org) behind member log in that is under Member Resources and then the Scholarships tab. These need to be sent to me by no later than **March 31, 2026** for judging.

I hope that you are all making plans to attend the Department Convention in Tucson. It will be very exciting to be able to reveal the winners of the National art scholarships and the winners from the Department Grant and Scholarship. Until then, keep those art projects coming!