



Department WI Americanism Chair

Patriotic Instructor Bulletin

August 2026 Bulletin

Sally Lamers sslamers@gmail.com

Greetings everyone! Time to jump right in to a new year of promoting Americanism!

Department President Charlene and Your District Presidents received 3X5 foot flags at the Council of Administration in Onalaska last month. Each Auxiliary in the state will receive one at an official visit or a District meeting. This year every flag has instructions for presenting the flag, along with how to fold the flag. Start thinking about the school, youth group, or event with youth present that your auxiliary will present the flag. Have fun with this = do something to encourage the next generation to be involved with veterans, to support the program and grow up to be involved in their community!

THANK YOU for everything you do to encourage patriotism wherever you are.

As you know, National VFW and VFWA recently made a change encouraging both sides of the organization to work together in support of the Department of Wisconsin VFW Teacher of the Year (TOTY) Program. VFW TOTY Chair Mel Zehm and Co-Chair Tina Flanagan have kindly included me as the VFWA Liaison Chair.

In the past, the Auxiliary had very little involvement in this program. However, we know the Auxiliary strongly supports the educational side of all VFW programs. By working jointly, we can make this kickoff year one we are all proud of.

About the Award:

The VFW Smart/Maher Citizen Education Teacher Award was established in 1999 and is named in honor of VFW Commander John Smart and Quartermaster General Larry Maher. The award recognizes exceptional educators in three categories: elementary school, middle school, and high school.

Three Wisconsin winners are typically honored at the National Convention. Each recipient receives an all-expense-paid trip to the convention, an award for professional development expenses, and a donation made directly to their school. Next month I will have submission details.

How Auxiliaries Can Help: If you are unable to participate by helping promote this outstanding program, please

consider having your Auxiliary send a monetary donation earmarked for TOTY to: DEPT. WI VFW, QM Heath, PO Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716-0128