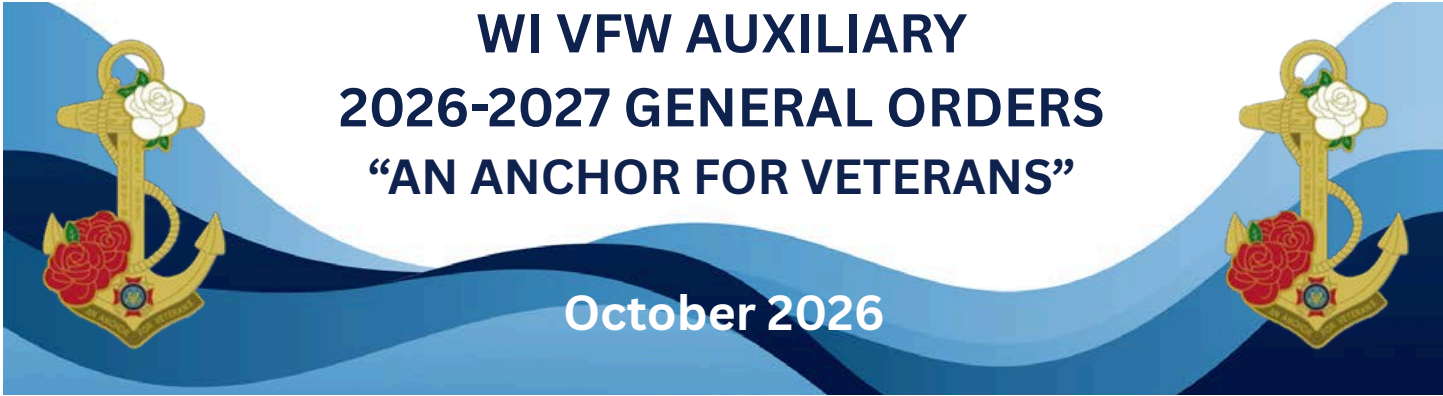




WI VFW AUXILIARY 2026-2027 GENERAL ORDERS “AN ANCHOR FOR VETERANS”

October 2026

WHY DID YOU JOIN?

For most of us the very simple answer is – someone asked us. That right there is why it is important to ask, you might get a no, I’ll think about it, or a yes but if you don’t ask it is always going to be a NO. On further reflection there are many reasons someone joins our organization. They are as varied as the members themselves.

In my case yes, I was asked but more importantly I am extremely proud of my paternal grandfather and father that chose to volunteer during World War II. I could only pick one to use as my eligibility in the Auxiliary and I chose my dad. He joined the Army in 1942 and didn’t even get to attend his high school graduation he was already off to the Army. He was sent to France, wounded and received a Purple Heart. He suffered from undiagnosed PTSD in his later life. My grandfather joined the Navy at 41 and served in the Pacific doing underwater demolition with the Seabees. I honored his service by serving in the Navy myself.

As proud as I am of their service the one, I am most proud of is my grandmother. She waited at home while her husband was in one theater and her only son (and baby) was in another. She kept the home going during rationing and shortages stateside so our troops would have what they needed. Our families that wait, no matter the time, are often left to their own devices or maybe minimal support from the military through a readiness group if they are fortunate enough to be close to one. They serve every bit as much as the service member they wait for.

As an Auxiliary member we have an amazing opportunity to be that support not only to one another but also to reach out to those in our community that may need us to be there for them, as well. Let’s actively look for ways to make a difference in caring for our Veterans by caring for their families wherever they may be.

Our special project this year (Foundation for Families) actually focuses on the families more than the Veteran so I encourage you to please give generously to help fund the Madison Fisher House. Normally it is the family that will be staying there, free of charge, while their Veteran is receiving care through the VA. It can’t be overstated the importance of having family near when you are ill or undergoing treatment; it can make all the difference in the patient’s attitude and overall well-being. Fisher Houses relieve families of the burden of figuring out where they will stay and whether they are going to be able to afford being with their loved one or not.

I am humbled and tremendously proud to be your President this year and to work with all of you as we not only support one another but also care for our Veterans, our organization, our communities and our country. Thank you so much for the dedication and commitment you bring every day. Keep making a difference as we continue to be:

AN ANCHOR FOR VETERANS!

Respectfully,
Charlene K. Cobb
WI VFWA President 2026-2027
ckcand2k9@yahoo.com
(262) 348-6547

Support for All Who Serve

The Military Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource for all service members, including members of the National Guard and Reserve, and Veterans, even if they're not enrolled in VA benefits or health care.

 **Dial 988 then Press 1**

 **Chat online**

 **Text 838255**



October 2026 / Veteran and Family Support
Jody Mc Kinney / studebaker1971@gmail.com

AMERICANISM

Sally Lamers, Chair

sslamers@gmail.com

(920) 475-0789



Greetings to the Department WI Americanism and Patriotic Instructors out there! I see you and hear you!

Photos are coming in with representation at school visits, VFW & VFWA Honor Guard with the Colors, veteran cemetery beautification projects, and many US Flag folding and presenting photos.

We make a difference, we stand up and be counted, we will never forget.

And we work together to get a job done-for our Veterans, for their families, for their benefits, and for their piece of mind!

Thank you Department of WI for supporting the Americanism Program so beautifully!

715-384-2500 or 715-650-2442

Source: Latin – auxilium, meaning help

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Gail Brown Bensen, Chair

gsbbensen@gmail.com

518-209-8362 (talk/text)

CALL TO ACTION! Congress is back in session and to protect veterans' earned disability compensation we need to keep up the pressure on our representatives in DC to remove Section 108 of the Take Care of America's Veterans Act.



Please continue to email/write/call our senators and ask them to oppose Section 108 of TCAVA (H.R. 9327/S. 4744): Sen. Tammy Baldwin: (202)224 -5653
Sen. Ron Johnson: (202)224-5323

[#VFW#ActionAlert#HonortheContract#ProtectVeteransBenefits#Veterans#StillServing](#)
THANK YOU FOR KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE! YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

MEMBERSHIP

Jennifer Mauritz, Chairman

jmauritz922@gmail.com

715-383-8628



"All Aboard: Every Member, Every Stop, Every Opportunity"

Celebrate Membership Wins! Michigan Stop — Progress, Pride, and a Push Toward 100%

Hello Riders! We are rolling into **Michigan**, our first major stop on the Membership Train — and it's the perfect moment to celebrate how far we've come and keep pushing toward that beautiful 100%.

As the Membership Train rolls into October, the energy is unmistakable. Every mile we've traveled reflects the dedication, teamwork, and heart of our Auxiliaries across Wisconsin. This journey isn't just about numbers — it's about connection, commitment, and celebrating the incredible progress we've made together. Michigan marks our first big stop, and it's the perfect moment to pause, cheer, and then push forward with purpose.

October is where recognition meets action. It's where Auxiliaries feel seen, members feel valued, and momentum becomes measurable progress.

Membership Actions for October

- **Recognize Auxiliaries hitting milestones** Celebrate loudly — recognition fuels motivation and keeps the train rolling strong.
- **Reach out to members who haven't attended recently** A warm "We miss you" can reignite connection and bring riders back aboard.
- **Encourage renewals before the holiday rush** Early renewals = less stress later and stronger numbers now.
- **Ask each member to invite ONE person** One invitation can change everything — growth starts with a single ask.
- **Share success stories with Department** Your wins inspire others statewide. Shine a light on what's working. Share how you recruit and send pictures of your membership recruiting set-up. Let's share what we do and maybe it can help others with their recruiting.

October is a celebration AND a push forward. Let's make this stop unforgettable and keep the Membership Train charging ahead with pride, purpose, and unity.

Let us all be "An Anchor for Veterans".

National Scholarships

Alicia Weix, Chairman

duds444@gmail.com

(715) 370-2096



ARGH!!! Summer is over and cooler weather is coming. That also means that we are super close to the deadline for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen (October 31). Everything should be in motion at this point. Do you have your judges lined up? Once the initial deadline hits, you only have a few weeks before the district deadline. Winning entries need to be submitted to district by November 15.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

Eligible to students in Grades 9 – 12. The deadline is March 31. A few have called or emailed to confirm the deadline. This deadline has not changed.

What are the Scholarship Submission Requirements?

- Two-dimensional art must be on canvas or paper. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media taught may be used.
- Do not frame two-dimensional pieces.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mats, including mounted and floating mats, may be used.
- The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", INCLUDING mat.
- Complete entry form and attach to back of entry.
- Submit a typed explanation of patriotism expressed in art (250 words or less).

What are the Scholarship Submission Requirements?

- Three-dimensional art can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric, etc.
- Pieces should be no larger than 18" in any direction.
- Art cannot be more than 5 lbs. in weight.
- Complete entry form and submit with entry.
- Submit a typed explanation of steps taken to create three-dimensional art/artists statement (total of 250 words or less).

Also, do not forget during the year to share pictures on your local Department's social media pages and with National (info@vfuvauxiliary.org).

WI VFW NEWS

Sharon Kamrowski, Chair

skshar@aol.com

(608)406-0924



As we are in a time of transition for the VFW NEWS newspaper, please be patient as we work through the process.

At this time, the first electronic magazine, followed by printed for the remainder of the year, is being worked on.

Also, a reminder to please send the \$1 per member donation to the WI VFW NEWS. Send to Secy-Treasurer Faith Elford ASAP so we can do our part to help defray some of the cost of the publication.

Please have all future emails sent to news@vfwwi.org.

Thank you for your patience as we work through this time of transition.

VFW National Home
Louise Engness, Chairman
wagnerla4@gmail.com
715-308-9302



Fall Festival October 23-25, 2026

Registrations for the bus are now open. You can go to our website at www.vfwauxwi.org and scroll down to see the Hocus Pocus Poster. Click anywhere on the poster to go to the registration site. You will be able to register for the bus trip and order t-shirts. There are also links for the hotels. There are two hotels with open reservation blocks, all prices subject to change. The bus will stop and pick up at these two hotel locations:

Hampton by Hilton Lansing West

900 North Canal Road
Lansing, Michigan 48917
+1 517-999-7900

Rooms & Rates (20 rooms)

- 1 King Bed with Sofa Bed - \$119.00
- 2 Queen Beds - \$119.00

Hilton Garden Inn Lansing West

633 N. Canal Rd.,
Lansing, MI 48917

+1 517-999-9930 option 0 (online group code 909)

Rooms & Rates (20 rooms)

- 1 King Bed - \$129.00
- 2 Queen Beds - \$129.00

The bus will be thru Kobussen. Cost of the bus will be \$150, prices subject to change, per seat for each individual.

Come along on the trip to see the old fire house, visit the museum, see the #35 Wisconsin home, visit the new store and meet the fellow Missouri VFW members!

Remember this is our time to volunteer at the National Home and find out firsthand how the National Home supports our service members, veterans and their families!

The morning of Oct 24th will start with the annual meeting and then a tour of the VFW National Home community. Dress for cool or hot weather for the tour outside.

We will be hosting the Fall Festival this year and Missouri will be there also to help. We will plan on 75 children at the festival. We will serve the meal and set up and run the games and hand out prizes! Plan to come and have Fun!!!

Plan to come with on the bus ride and stay for the fun at the Nation Home Festival!
Plan to dress up for a Hocus Pocus Fall Festival!

FROM YOUR SECRETARY/TREASURER

REMINDER: NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Remind your new members that want to pay by credit card – they must respond to National Auxiliary's email or text message and call and give them their credit card number. Your new member has just 30 days to reply to National or you will need to contact me to put the new member back through the system again.

YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING ... how do we give to the National Commander-in-Chief and President's Joint Project – "Operation Bring Them Home". The poster in these General Orders will give you everything you need to know.

ROSTER UPDATES:

Guard Amanda M Williams has a new email address: VFWAPatriotWithPurpose@gmail.com
Dist 10 President/Ways & Means Chair Vicki Newbauer's new address is 242 N. Main, Medford, WI 54451.
The Roster has been updated in the Members Only section of our website at www.vfwauxwi.org

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Patty Jansky, Chair

pajansky@charter.net

715-723-0408



SPONSORING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS

Let's get our kids involved! Your Auxiliary can engage boys and girls in any one of our many Programs, including activities to honor our veterans and display patriotism. What are some things that we can do with our youth? Here are just a few ideas:



- Make cards or gifts for veterans.
- Visit nursing homes and hospitals.
- Deliver groceries to disabled veterans.
- Help a veteran with yard work or repairs.
- Teach computer skills to a veteran.
- Discuss proper flag folding and etiquette.
- Conduct a Missing Man Ceremony.
- Start a VFW Auxiliary Lending Library.
- Send care packages and mail to troops.
- Help with "Buddy" Poppy drives.
- Support the Illustrating America Contest.
- Take part in parades and patriotic events.
- Conduct a flag retirement ceremony.
- Help choose a VFW Scout of the Year.
- Get involved in Wreaths Across America.
- Promote Patriotism Through Literacy.
- Organize food and clothing drives.
- Send cards/gifts to the National Home.
- Recognize youth with patriotic awards.
- Honor students going into the military.
- Award scholarships to graduating seniors.
- Place flags on veterans' graves, and more!



Remember the new deadlines for the Illustrating America Art Contest. Artwork and entry forms are due to your Auxiliary by December 15, 2026. First-place winners must reach me for Department judging by January 15, 2027. It's not too late to contact your local schools and youth groups! For your convenience, this year's entry form is included with this bulletin.



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Marge Southworth, Chair

dmsouth2228@yahoo.com

(715)551-3487



October is already here and all the District meetings are in the books. Did you all attend your District meeting? Did someone from your Auxiliary at least attend? The more meetings you attend the more you understand our programs. You also get to hear what other auxiliaries are doing to recruit or fund raise.

Big 10 and Fall Festival are upon us. Did you make plans to attend? Also, November is fast approaching so keep in mind to attend the Council Meeting and take care of your administrative duties. Keep track of the programs and record your activities.

Happy Halloween and be An Anchor for our Veterans as we are Serving America's Heros.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

LILLIAN CAMPBELL MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM REPORT



Mental health is more important than ever. PTSD, depression, anxiety, and other invisible wounds continue to affect our veterans, service members, first responders, and their families.

Your support helps prepare compassionate healthcare professionals who will be there when they are needed most. Just think—one of our scholarship recipients could someday be the professional caring for someone you love.

Together, we can award more scholarships to deserving students, build a stronger future for healthcare, honor the legacy of Lillian Campbell, and support students whose careers will change lives for generations to come.

Your gift helps students achieve their dreams of serving others through healthcare.

One Auxiliary. One donation. One student. One changed life.

Thank you for believing in this remarkable program and for your continued commitment to our veterans, their families, and our communities.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Visit **VFWauxWI.org**, click on Programs, and scroll down to Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship. The application, eligibility requirements, and complete scholarship information are available online.



Please mail donations, clearly earmarked "LCMS," to:
Faith Elford
Department Secretary/Treasurer
1414 Montclair Place
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

INVEST IN EDUCATION TODAY AND INSPIRE TOMORROW!

Kimberly Goss

Department of Wisconsin

Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship Chairman

WAYS & MEANS

Vicki Newbauer, Chair

vnewbauer1950@gmail.com

715-257-2099



“Good day, Department of Wisconsin Auxiliary members! As your Ways & Means Chairman, I’m here to talk about the program that drops anchors with flair, confidence, and maybe a little sass — Ways & Means.

Now, Ways & Means isn’t just any anchor. It’s the anchor that keeps our Auxiliaries from drifting into the land of We can’t afford that, Who took the fundraiser sheet? or Did someone spend the raffle money on snacks? When our financial waters get wavy, Ways & Means drops a friendly anchor and says, ‘Relax, sweetheart, I’ve got you.’

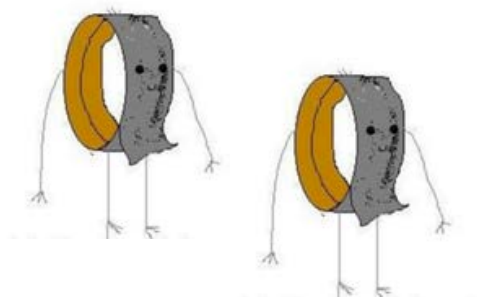
Ways & Means is our anchor of stability, creativity, and financial sanity. It’s the anchor that keeps our programs funded, our projects possible, and our dreams from floating off into the sunset without us. And yes — every time your Auxiliary runs a fundraiser, sells a ticket, or launches a creative idea, it’s like dropping a mini-anchor — boop — keeping our mission steady. One raffle? Boop. One donation? Boop. One wildly successful bake sale? Big boop.

These little anchors add up, and suddenly our Department becomes the most financially stable ship on the water. We’re basically the Ways & Means Coast Guard, minus the uniforms — although if anyone wants to wear a captain’s hat while selling tickets, I fully support that.

This year, I’m inviting every Auxiliary to join our Department Ways & Means fleet. No sailing experience required. If you can smile warmly, sell a ticket, or remember where you put your cash box, you’re already qualified. Your mission is simple: help us keep our Ways & Means anchor strong. Drop it often. Drop it proudly. Drop it like you mean it.

So here’s your call to action: choose one thing your Auxiliary can do this month to boost Ways & Means. One fundraiser. One creative idea. One moment of ‘Hey, this could work!’ Think of it as preventing Department from becoming a nautical sitcom with no budget. Finalize your “Don’t Come Dinner” project and make sure donations reach the Department Treasurer Faith Elford by November 4, 2026!

Together, we’ll keep our sails full, our anchors happy, and our hearts pointed toward service. Thank you for being the crew that keeps Ways & Means strong — and for not letting me drift off into the Craft Isle at Walmart.”



2026-2027 JOINT SPECIAL PROJECT

OPERATION BRING THEM HOME

RETURNING **ALL** OF OUR HEROES TO
THEIR FAMILIES AND BRINGING
THEM HOME WITH HONOR

VFW AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

DONNA K. MILLS

& VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

CORY L. GEISLER



The DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) is a Department of Defense agency that works to account for and repatriate U.S. service members who are or were Prisoners of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA) from past conflicts. Its mission is to provide families and the nation with the most complete record of these missing personnel. The DPAA uses a combination of historical research, recovery operations and forensic science including analyzing DNA to identify remains and **bring them home**.

To support this project, select the “**Make a Gift**” tab and then “**National President’s 2026-2027 Special Project**” in MALTA. Or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked “National President’s/Commander-in-Chief’s 2026-2027 Special Project.” Members may also mail gifts earmarked for the special project to the VFW Foundation.

Members can report this under the **Veterans & Family Support Program**. Also reportable under Veterans & Family Support and integral to DPAA’s efforts is what is called a Family Resource Sample (FRS). DNA from surviving family members is key to identifying missing loved ones. It is technology that did not exist when these troops were lost.

Helping this organization means helping families find peace. Your contributions will help fund the DPAA’s efforts. To learn more about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil.





VFW Auxiliary National Patriotic Art Contest

Illustrating America

Official Rules and Eligibility 2026-2027

VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present this national art contest designed to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through artistic expression. Entries will be judged on effort and the process of creation through elements like line, shape and color with focus on patriotic themes and techniques.

VFW Auxiliary National level awards

Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Grade s 3-5

First place: \$ 100 gift card
Second place : \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

New Deadline Date

Student entry is due to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
December 15, 2026

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or a VFW Auxiliary member to enter.
- Students in grades K-8 by **December 15** deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America Art Contests on the National level are **not** eligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner. However, the students may enter the subsequent grade division.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be original and created by the student, copying and tracing existing works is prohibited.
- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two-dimensional art that has length, width and is flat.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper, cardboard or foamboard.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Crayons, paint, glitter, marker, pastel, pencil, watercolor, mixed or other media may be used.
- Coloring sheets, digital art, AI and photography are not accepted.
- If the American Flag is displayed in a manner that clearly identifies it as such, it **does not** need to adhere to the Federal Flag Code specifications regarding its colors and number of stars and stripes.
- Students' name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Patriotic Art Contest

New Deadline Dates!

Illustrating America

Entry Form

2026-2027

Please print or type. Incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____

School Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____

Media used: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I certify that I have read the foregoing Official Rules and Eligibility (page 1) and fully understand and agree to the contents.

*I hereby grant permission for my child's art and name to be published on the VFW Auxiliary National website and social media and to be used for all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization.

*VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of scholarship.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Contact Information

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____ VFW Aux. No.: _____

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely **by VFW Auxiliary** at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries from the **Department President**.

Participating Sponsoring VFW Aux. Name & No: _____ Dept: _____

December 15: Student entries due to participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

Authorized VFW Aux. verification signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

January: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Aux. due to VFW Aux. District judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary District verification signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

January 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Aux. or optional VFW Aux. District judging due to the VFW Aux. Department judging.

VFW Aux. Department President signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

January 31: First place winner from each VFW Aux. Department must be received at VFW Aux. National Headquarters for judging.

February/March: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries may be announced on VFW Aux. National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Aux. National Convention.

March/April: Returning process begins. All art entries received at VFW Aux. National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.