

**AMERICANISM  
JULY/AUGUST 2010**



Congratulations on being appointed the Americanism Chairman for the 2010-11 auxiliary year. I am so thrilled and proud that our Madam Department President, Charlotte, has put her faith in me to be the Department Americanism Chairman. Together we will have a very successful and fun year educating our youth in our communities, celebrating the patriotic holidays while educating our community, holding our POW/MIA ceremonies, retiring of the flag ceremonies, and so very much more this coming year.

All the District Presidents and District Americanism Chairmen have been given loads of information to pass onto the Auxiliary Presidents. They will provide you the tools to work with this coming year but it is up to you and your auxiliary to use the tools and have a very successful and fun year promoting Patriotism throughout your community and schools.

We will be having a Department Coloring Contest this year. Detailed information regarding the Department Coloring Contest can be found in the packet your District President & Americanism Chairman received or you may contact me and I will forward the information to you.

We will be promoting Veterans in the Classroom again this year. So now is the time to start planning and contacting the schools. It is one of the best ways to teach our children the meaning of Patriotism. They learn straight from the veterans who can pass history onto our children that is not in their history books.

Never forget to include the Home Schooled children when planning programs. Promote your programs in your local newspaper, local radio station and TV station, flyers, and the best way of all "Word of Mouth".

One of the programs that we need to start planning for now is the Teacher of the Year program and get the information into the schools. Although it is a VFW program, it is vital that we work with our Post to recognize our elementary, middle school, and high school teachers who promote America's history, patriotism, and civic responsibility and flag etiquette. The deadline for entry on the Post level is November 1<sup>st</sup>. The information on how to nominate your special teacher can be found on the VFW Web site at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and in your packet received from your District Chairman.

It is time to start planning for POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September. You do not necessarily have to have your program on that day but as close to that date as possible. I encourage all to hold POW/MIA ceremonies throughout the year. Loyalty Day is a great time to have a POW/MIA program along with your Loyalty Day program. Set up a Remembrance table at your local Post, local library, your local bank, etc. Be creative!!!

Due to the wonderful wide world web, we now have so much information available to us with just a click of the mouse. I realize that some do not have access to the Internet, but I'm sure that everyone has a librarian, friend, child or grandchild with Internet access that will be more than happy to obtain information off the web for you. There is a wealth of information on the Americanism program at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and the VFW Store at [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) has a wealth of tools that can be used to help educate our youth.

If you are not also the Patriotic Instructor, please work closely with her and also with the Patriotic Art and Voice of Democracy chairmen. Together you can come up with fantastic and great ideas to promote your programs in the schools. Always remember that our youth are our future!

One of the best ways that we can show respect to our Veterans is by saying just two small words. THANK YOU!!! They are just two small words but they can reach, touch and change a heart so very much. We read in the book of James that the tongue can harm us but in Psalms we also learn that a kind word is like honey.

So, let's aim to spread a whole lot of honey this year as we promote Patriotism throughout the State. Let's have a great year by "HONORING OUR VETERANS...THEY EARNED THEIR WINGS" and "UNITED BY LOVE FOR OUR VETERANS AND COUNTRY".

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