

BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 2023



JANET KAYS
AMERICANISM

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I want to express my appreciation to the many auxiliaries that have been diligently working on and promoting the Americanism program. Please continue to celebrate our upcoming patriotic holidays and honor our veterans and military on Veterans Day (November 11) and Pearl Harbor Day (December 7); promote flag education; distribute information on the coloring, poster, and essay contests; and serve your communities by encouraging proper flag displays and patriotic activities.

Have you ever considered how important it is to choose your words wisely? I recently read an article where the author described meeting (several years later), someone he had worked with briefly. He scarcely remembered anything about that person. But when they later reconnected, she told him that he had changed her life. It was from a casual comment that he had made about his personal choices which, by the way, was a lifestyle that reflected what is considered to be good American values. What does this have to do with the Americanism program? When you serve your organization by promoting the basics of this program, you are encouraging those you have contact with to be good citizens. When you speak favorably about the accomplishments of the VFW Auxiliary, the importance of helping others, supporting veterans, and respecting our flag and our country, you will make a difference. The next generation will also be positively influenced by example and by education.

The Auxiliary is a diversified community with members coming from different backgrounds, beliefs, and ideas. Our one common denominator is veterans. Respect the opinions and ideas of other members and listen to what they have to say. We must remember to work together as a team to accomplish the most for our organization.

December 31 is the deadline for Auxiliaries to receive a citation for being reported in the program. December 31 is also the deadline for District Chairman to receive a citation for all auxiliaries in their District to be reported in the program. Other reports will be due in March and April for the most outstanding activity or event that educates their community about Prisoners of War, Missing in Action, and Killed in Action. Department and National Awards will be presented for this event. Chairman reports will also be due in April and the winning District coloring, poster, and essay contests must be received by the Department Chairman by April 15, 2024.

77 Auxiliaries have reported in the program as of the writing of this article. Some auxiliaries have reported multiple times - thank you very much. (This is just a little over half of the auxiliaries in the state.) Several districts are nearing 100%. Keep reporting all of your hard work in a timely manner and enjoy what you are doing to help the veterans and citizens in your community.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.