



Department of Colorado
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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Subject: Patriot's Pen Campaign 2011-2012

Along with Gloria Otwell of the Ladies Auxiliary, I am pleased to help your Post participate in this wonderful program this year. In 2010-2011, 46 Posts and 41 Ladies Auxiliaries participated and encouraged 1355 students to participate with 87 advanced from Post to District. Our Department entry, Katie Fink, took 12th overall nationally and was awarded a \$2,000 prize.

The Department of Colorado has 119 Posts, 79 Ladies Auxiliaries, and 15 Men's Auxiliaries. One Post sent 227 students to District in 2010-2011, but less than half the Posts participated at all last year. Colorado has 2,118 schools with 788 containing 6 through 8 graders and we simply need to reach more of them this year.

I know Colorado can do a lot better with early action by enthusiastic leaders at the Post and District level. The Patriot's Pen scholarship program not only recognizes outstanding students in our state, it simultaneously helps our organization's recruiting efforts by showing our relevance to the community through positive media opportunities and expanding person-to-person contacts. With only 6% of VFW under 39 years of age, we must reach younger combat veterans (the future of the VFW) and potential Ladies Auxiliary members through the effective use of the Patriot's Pen program. Many participant families are military affiliated.

I am uploading a spreadsheet of all eligible schools at the Department web site with zip codes, phone numbers and addresses that can also be converted to labels by your Posts/Auxiliaries to send letters to schools you contact currently. Even more importantly, you can use the list to contact schools in your area who haven't participated before or have not done so for a long time.

The deadlines for the Patriots Pen Program are shown at the Department web site, with the first major requirement for entries due at the Post by midnight, November 1. Forms, applications, and brochures are also available online.

Thanks for making this one of the best scholarship campaigns ever!

Tony Wolusky
Department Patriot's Pen Chairman