“AMERICANISM”…is the unfailing love of Country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, undivided allegiance to the Flag, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and for posterity”. As American citizens and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, we know what Americanism stands for. It was, and is still, our responsibility to defend the United States in a time of peace as it is in time of war, foreign or domestic. By practicing Americanism we show our love of Country and must do so.

As veterans we should promote and participate in Americanism every day of every year. There are many things a Post, a District and an individual can do to promote Americanism. Here are just a few ideas. I am sure you can think of many more.

- Fly the American Flag every day at your Post Home.
- Present Flags to different organizations or if you see a tattered flag, donate a new one
- Hold flag etiquette sessions with various other organizations
- Encourage your membership to be informed by studying political issues and get out the vote.
- Furnish Color Guards for Civic Programs, athletic events and Memorial Services

Reporting Americanism is easy: fill out the VFW of Illinois on line Reporting Form or if you don’t have a computer then you may contact State Headquarters (217-529-6688) to request the form and fill it in and mail it back to State Headquarters, P.O. Box 13206, Springfield, IL 62791-3206. Remember reporting dates are May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021.

There are three (3) categories to report: Be sure to report all hours, money spent, and number of members participating in an event. You should report every time you have an event. The more you report the better chance you have of winning awards.

**DISTRICT AWARDS:**

The Districts with the highest number in hours, money, and members participating in the following three Membership Categories will receive a $30.00 Cash Award at the 2021 Department Convention.

Membership Category 1 - Up to 2,500 Members
Membership Category 2 – 2,501 to 3,600 Members
Membership Category 3 – 3,601 Members and Up
POST AWARDS:

Posts with the highest number of hours, money and members participating in the following three Membership Categories will receive a $30.00 Cash Award at the 2021 Department Convention.

Membership Category 1 - Up to 100 Members
Membership Category 2 – 101 to 300 Members
Membership Category 3 - 301 Members & Up

“Loyalty Day May 1, 2020”

Loyalty Day or May Day is always May 1.

A truly inspired Holiday, Loyalty Day was created by the VFW Organization in 1921. It was through the efforts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that in 1958 Loyalty Day was officially established by an act of Congress.

The reason we have Loyalty Day is to continually encourage loyal Americans to speak out. It is a Day upon which patriotic citizens should:

1) Hold parades
2) Conduct Flag ceremonies
3) Sponsor public meetings
4) Conduct school programs
5) and other American activities

Loyalty is an intangible thing, but it causes people to form a Government, to obey its laws and rules and to willingly defend their country against its enemies.

If your Post does not hold a Loyalty Day parade, maybe your District will

1) Invite civic leaders to participate and to speak
2) Encourage neighborhoods to join in
3) Invite the youth to march, or play in bands
4) Give out flags
5) Hold your VFW Buddy Poppy Donation Day
Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

(Please note Deadlines)

This Program recognizes teachers who care about America. VFW annually recognizes the Nation’s top classroom Elementary, Junior High (Middle Schools) and High School teachers who teach Citizenship Education topics regularly and who promote American History, traditions and institutions. Nominations are submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors and other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

National Headquarters mails these brochures out directly to the Schools but……..Posts still need to contact the schools regarding this Program.

Posts will need to follow up as deadlines are as follows:

• Teacher Nominations to Post - October 31, 2020
• Completion of Post Judging - November 15, 2020
• Completion of District Judging - December 15, 2020
• Completion of Department Judging - January 10, 2021
• Department winners to National - January 15, 2021
• District participation reports due to Department Chairman - January 1, 2021
• Department Reports to National - January 31, 2021

District Chairmen must send the following to Department Headquarters for Judging:

Winner’s original entry form and essay of 350 words or less
Winner’s official Post Teacher Entry form with signatures at Post & District Level.
One page resume (no more than two sides)
Up to 5 (five) pages (both sides) of additional documentation (i.e. news articles, supervisor’s recommendations.)
Good quality head and shoulders photograph (color copies or low grade computer printouts will not be accepted)

(Note: No entries will be considered for Department Judging if all of the above criteria is not included with the nomination)

State Awards
The first place winner in each of the three categories will receive $100.00 Cash and a special engraved plaque. A special engraved plaque will also be presented to the winning Teacher’s School.

The Categories are:

Kindergarten through 5th Grade, 6th through 8th Grade, and 9th through 12th Grade.

National Awards
(as shown on our National Headquarters web page, www.vfw.org.)

Included in this Program is the end of the year Post Report Form that the District Chairman is to fill out and submit to the State Americanism Program Director by no later than January 1st, 2021.

With your help and dedication, we can embody “100 Years of Veterans Service”.

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Local Teacher Could Be Honored With National VFW Award

<city>, <state abbreviation>. (<month> <day>, <year>) – Commander <full name> of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Post <Post name/number>, announced the kick-off of this year’s VFW’s “Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award” contest.

Every year, the VFW recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. The three winning teachers receive $1,000 for their professional development, $1,000 for their school plus an all-expenses-paid trip to the VFW’s National Convention in July.

Teachers of grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 can be nominated by fellow teachers, students, supervisors or other interested individuals. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism, and strive to help students develop a better understanding of democratic values and beliefs are prime candidates for the award. Nomination forms are due to your local VFW Post by October 31.

Nominated teachers compete at the local VFW Post level with the winners advancing to District. District winners compete in the state level competition with state first-place winners advancing to the National Competition.

The VFW enacted the Teacher of the Year award contest in 1999 as a way to identify and recognize America’s best educators. The VFW annually recognizes the nation’s top teachers who instill a sense of national pride in students by teaching citizenship education topics regularly and promoting America’s history and traditions effectively.

If you are interested in nominating a teacher for this contest, you should contact the Citizenship Education Chairman at VFW Post <Post number> by phone at <XXX-XXX-XXX> or e-mail the Post at <Post contact email address> for more information.

FOR DETAILS VISIT: www.vfw.org/teacheroftheyear.

-vfw-

About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation’s largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally-chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.6 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in 6,200 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans’ service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at www.VFW.org.
Identify and recognize America’s best educators. Wouldn’t you like to see them get the honor they deserve?

Now you can.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Grades K-12

Deadline: Submit to local VFW Post by October 31.

© 2017 Veterans of Foreign Wars  www.vfw.org  Revised 4/17
Recognize teachers who care about America

VFW Cares About Education

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America’s youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America’s educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America’s history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

VFW wants to identify and recognize America’s best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. It offers cash awards, commemorative plaques and all-expenses-paid trips to the VFW National Convention for these worthy teachers. The trip provides an opportunity for winners to network with like-minded individuals.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They’re concerned about the perpetuation of America’s noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn’t you like to

VFW annually recognizes the nation’s top classroom elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America’s history and traditions effectively.

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today with the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure. In 350 words or less, describe why you feel your nominee should be selected. Describe the teacher’s innovative teaching and resource development methods, as well as his or her dedication to education. Please submit your completed nomination form and signed essay to your local VFW Post. Visit www.vfw.org/find-a-post for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at (816) 756-3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest to you.

All Post-level nominees, if they win, should provide a one-page resume, up to five pages of documentation of their teaching experience (references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves. These items will be forwarded on to the District with the Post Teacher Entry form, nomination form and essay.

When is the deadline?

Nominations must be submitted to your local Post by October 31. Judging occurs November 1-15.

What are the National awards?

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards include the items below:

- A national $1,000 Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart award for each of the top K-3, 6-8 and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses.
- $1,000 award for each winning teacher’s school.
- Plaques for both the winning teacher and school.
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention.
- Top 10 high school teachers invitation to attend a summer Graduate Seminar at Freedoms Foundation in Pennsylvania.

NOTE: (Winners will receive a 1099-MISC as a result of their award and all-expense paid trip.)

Nominate Someone Deserving

Have a teacher in mind? Complete the nomination form and required essay, then submit it to your local...
Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Advancement Form (Post Teacher Entry Form)
(Attach to original Post entry documentation for each teacher nominated.)

Nominee’s Full Name_________________________________________________________________________________________
Street _____________________________________ City _______________________   State _____________   Zip_____________
Home Phone ____________________
Grade level
❍ K-5  ❍ 6-8  ❍ 9-12
Name of School______________________________________________________ School’s Phone __________________________
School Address _____________________________________________________________________________________________

Post/Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected Post winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Program in his/her grade level category and is our Post’s authorized entry into the District finals.

Signature of Post Commander/Chairman ____________________________ VFW Post No. ___________ Phone________________
Post Address  ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Signature of Auxiliary President/Chairman ________________________   Auxiliary No.________ Phone  ________________
Address  __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Total number of teacher nominations for all categories _______    Total dollar amount spent by Post/Auxiliary for awards for all categories and other (citations, gifts, medals, banquet) $___________

District/Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected District winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in his/her grade level category and is our District’s entry into the Department finals.

Signature of Dist. Commander/Chairman __________________________ Dist. No._________________ Phone ________________
Address  __________________________________________________________________________________________________
Signature of Auxiliary Dist. President/Chairman ____________________ Dist. No._________________ Phone ________________
Address  __________________________________________________________________________________________________

List all Posts participating in program_____________________________________________________________________________

Total dollar amount spent by Posts/Auxiliaries for awards for all categories and other (citations, gifts, medals, banquet) $ __________

VFW Department Commander/Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher listed above is the duly selected winner of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in our Department in his/her grade level and is our official entry into the National judging. This winner will be/was notified that they are the first place state winner in their grade level on the following date:  ___________________________

Signature of Dept. Commander/Chairman ____________________________________________ Phone __________________
Address ____________________________________________________________

Note: Be sure this form is entirely completed before sending to National Headquarters with your state winner’s original nomination form, essay, one page resume, up to five pages of documentation and a good quality head and shoulders photograph. Remember this form is due back to VFW National Headquarters Programs Department by January 15th.

Mail to:  VFW PROGRAMS, VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 406 W. 34TH ST., KANSAS CITY, MO 64111.
USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO COMPLETE THE ATTACHED:

The guidelines listed below are intended to help clarify the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award reporting process and to ensure that all participation and expenses incurred by Posts/Auxiliaries are completely and accurately reported for proper credit:

TOTAL POST PARTICIPATION
List Posts in your District that had a declared winner. Please list the participating Posts in numerical order on the report form.

TOTAL AUXILIARY PARTICIPATION
If Post has an Auxiliary, credit their participation by indicating YES or NO.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS
Number of schools that had teachers nominated.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING TEACHERS
Number of teachers that actually were nominated.

AWARDS AND MONEY EXPENDED
Total dollar values of awards presented to teacher participants at Post & District level. All additional moneys allocated and expended in conducting their program. (Banquet, gifts, medals, citations, etc.)

Forwarding Smart/Maher VFW Natl Citizenship Education Teacher Award
District Winners to Department

District Chairman: The District winner’s materials that should be forwarded to the Department Chairman (immediately after the District judging is completed) are:

1. District winner’s original nomination form and essay of 350 words or less signed by person nominating the teacher.
2. District winner’s official Post Teacher Entry form w/signatures at Post & District level.
3. One page resume (no more than two sides).
4. Up to 5 pages (both sides) of additional documentation (i.e. news articles, supervisor’s recommendations.)
5. Good quality head and shoulders photograph (low grade computer printouts will not be accepted.)

If you have any questions, please contact VFW Programs (816) 756-3390 x 287 tbeauchamp@vfw.org

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The VFW Posts and Auxiliaries identified in this report participated in the VFW annual Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award Program.

**GRAND TOTALS FOR POST COMPETITION:** *(list totals taken from District report forms)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Auxs</th>
<th>Participating Schools</th>
<th>Nominated Teachers</th>
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$ ________________

**AWARDS AMOUNT**

**MONETARY VALUE OF DISTRICT COMPETITION:**

- District Awards $ ________________
- District Additional Expenses $ ________________

**GRAND TOTAL of POST/DISTRICT $ AMOUNT** $ ________________

Signed by: __________________________________________________Date __________

*District Commander/Chairman*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**GIVE THIS REPORT TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN**

The report form and this summary should be in the hands of your Department Teacher Award Chairman (or Citizenship Ed Chrm) immediately following the completion of your District judging.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POST #</th>
<th>AUXILIARY</th>
<th>NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF TEACHERS NOMINATED</th>
<th>POST $ AMOUNT EXPENDED</th>
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GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ARE LISTED ON THE ENCLOSED LETTER. PLEASE REVIEW.