

# AMERICANISM PROGRAM



**Sean Conner**  
*Chairman*

604 E. North Central Ave.  
Tuscola, Illinois 61953  
Phone: 217-317-1036

E-mail: seanconner21@gmail.com

Post 10009-17

“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
- Remember Memorial Day, Independence Day, Patriot's Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Loyalty Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and other memorial military days from our Nation's past.

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, 2021 through April 30, 2022.

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 2022 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, 2021”**

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, 2021**
- Completion of Post Judging - **November 15, 2021**
- Completion of District Judging - **December 15, 2021**
- Completion of Department Judging - **January 10, 2022**
- Department winners to National - **January 15, 2022**
- District participation reports due to Department Chairman - **January 1, 2022**
- Department Reports to National - **January 31, 2022**

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 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, and 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

National Awards

(as shown on our National Headquarters web page, [www.vfw.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.**

With your help and dedication, we can embody "Mission First - Veterans Always".

## 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](http://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](http://www.VFW.org).

Contact: <Name>  
<Phone Number>  
<Email>



## VFW Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form.  
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

### To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #:  Sponsoring District #:   
Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

### VFW Post POC

Full Name:   
Phone:  Email:   
Address: (where to mail entry)   
City:  State:  Zip:

### Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:   
Phone:  Email:

### Nominee Information

Choose appropriate teacher citation:(Elementary, Middle, High)   
Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)   
Phone :  Email:   
Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)   
School Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)   
Address of School:  
  
City:  State:  Zip:   
School Phone:  School Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above by the Oct. 31 deadline. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form. All winning Post entries must be received by their VFW Department Headquarters no later than Jan. 1. If you have any questions, please contact your Department Headquarters.



## SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD CITATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SCHOOLS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Effective this year, VFW Post Teacher Award Chairman may submit a candidate to their **Department Headquarters by January 1** in each category. The Department may select a single candidate for each of the three awards and submit those to **VFW National Headquarters by February 1**. VFW's Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school in each grade category.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" which is now available on the VFW website. Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](http://vfw.org/#login), log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on VFW Training & Support, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs, then look under Additional Resources. The Teacher Entry form, Instruction sheet, Citation Request form and Chairman's manual will be up on the VFW website in the near future.

### Who Is Eligible?

1. 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.
2. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

### Documentation required for all Candidates:

1. All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves. These items will be forwarded on to the Department with the winning Teacher Entry form.

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street      Office 816.756.3390  
Kansas City, MO 64111      Fax 816.968.1157

#### WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.      Office 202.543.2239  
Washington, D.C. 20002      Fax 202.543.6719

[info@vfw.org](mailto:info@vfw.org)  
[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

MATERIAL FOR THE DISTRICT CONTEST

**VFW DISTRICT CHAIRMEN ONLY**

**DISTRICT REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE  
SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD**

**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](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org)

## DISTRICT PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD

DISTRICT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_

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)*

Posts	Auxs	Participating Schools	Nominated Teachers
			\$ _____
			<b>Awards Amount</b>

**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.

