



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS

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TO: ALL COMMANDERS

FROM: MARK CYBULSKI, STATE V.O.D. CHAIRMAN

SUBJECT: VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

In August, the initial mailout kicking off the 48th Annual Voice of Democracy program was completed. "My Vision for America" has been selected as the theme for the 1993-94 program, and again this year, there will be 3 State winners selected from the 13 finalists representing each District in the state.

Total scholarships of \$4,500.00 are awarded as follows: 1st place, \$2,000.00; 2nd place, \$1,500.00; 3rd place, \$1,000.00. The National program offers \$100,000 and 54 places.

U.S. citizens who are students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades in public, private, and parochial high schools are eligible for participation.

The State winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., during the VFW's annual Mid-Winter Conference, at which time the twelve national scholarships will be awarded.

Posts and Auxiliaries should:

1. Contact local schools early in the fall semester so the students will have at least three months to complete their scripts and recordings. The deadline for school judging is November 15.
2. Be aware of when the District competition is being held to ensure the Post entry is submitted in time, along with the official entry form, completed by the school winner and signed by the appropriate individuals.
3. Be careful to choose competent judges. Select persons involved in broadcasting and journalism whenever possible. If the school selects its own winner, be sure the tape is of good sound quality and within the prescribed time limits before being forwarded to the next level of competition. Judging of entries is by the recorded tape only.

4. You may sponsor more than one school and submit both first place school winners into District competition. Only one Post or Auxiliary can sponsor the V.O.D. in a given school unless conducting the program jointly.
5. Keep accurate records of participation. The District Chairmen should be advised of the number of participating schools, students, radio and TV stations, and monetary value of the scholarships and award presented to the winners as soon as the local program has been completed.