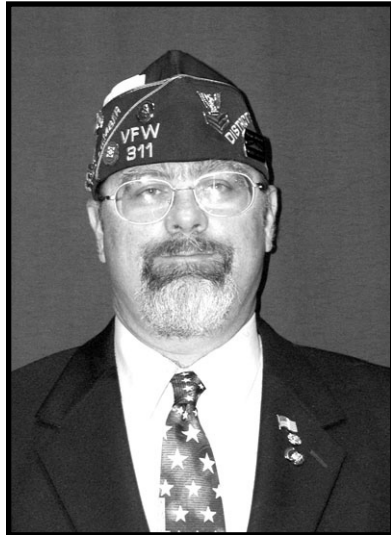




2011-2012



# AMERICANISM PROGRAM



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## AMERICANISM

“AMERICANISM”...is the unflinching 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 at ([www.vfwil.org/forms/programreports](http://www.vfwil.org/forms/programreports)) 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, 2011 through April 30, 2012.

There are three (3) categories to report: Be sure to report all hours, money, 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.

**“Americanism Awards”**

**DISTRICT AWARDS:**

*The Districts that are reported with the highest number in hours, money, and members participating in the following three Membership Categories will receive the following awards at the 2012 State Convention.*

Membership Category I - Up to 1,299 Members	\$30.00 Cash
Membership Category II – 1,300 to 2,099 Members	\$30.00 Cash
Membership Category III – 2,100 and Up	\$30.00 Cash

**POST AWARDS:**

Post Awards will be determined by the highest number of hours, money and members participating in the following three Membership Categories. Winners will receive a Cash Award at the 2012 State Convention.

Membership Category I - Up to 150 Members	\$30.00 Cash
Membership Category II – 151 to 300	\$30.00 Cash
Membership Category III - 301 & Up	\$30.00 Cash

**“Loyalty Day May 1, 2012”**

Loyalty Day or May Day is always May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**“National Citizenship Education Teacher Award”**

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) and **self-nominees are not eligible**.

National Headquarters mails these brochures out directly to the Schools in the Month of July but.....**Posts still need to contact the schools regarding this Program.**

Posts will need to follow up as **deadlines** for Post entries will be November 1, 2011, with Post judging being completed by November 15, 2011. All First place entries must reach State Headquarters by December 5, 2011 and State judging must be completed by December 20, 2011, and submitted to National Headquarters by January 15th, 2012. Post chairmen must send the following to State 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. (If no District Judging is held, District Commander must still sign official Post Entry Form before it is submitted)
- 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 State 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 specially engraved plaque, which will be presented by the sponsoring post at a time convenient to both.

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.

**Please keep in mind that in order to be considered for ALL AMERICAN HONORS, a Post must advance at least one entry for National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards to District Judging.**

**“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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

With your help and dedication we can lead this great State as

**“WE CONTINUE TO SERVE”**



# Post Teacher Entry Form



(Make a copy for each category winner.)

## Post Winners Section

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address/PO Box (City, State, Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level you teach \_ K-5 \_ 6-8 \_ 9-12

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

School's Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

School's Address/PO Box (City/State/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Post winner must provide a one page resume (no more than two sides), up to 5 pages of documentation (news articles or supervisors recommendations) and a good quality head and shoulders photo (no low grade computer printouts) to substantiate his/her nomination to the Post Chairman who will forward the packet to District Chairman.

## Post/Ladies Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected Post winner of the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Program in his/her grade level category and is our Post's authorized entry into the District finals. Deadline: On or about November 15, 2011 to District Chairman/designated District representative.

Signature of Post Commander/Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ VFW Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Post Address/PO Box (City/St/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Ladies Auxiliary President/Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Ladies Auxiliary No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies Aux. Address/PO Box (City/St/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of schools participating: \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of teacher nominations for all categories: \_\_\_\_\_

Total dollar amount spent by Post/Ladies Auxiliary for awards for all categories and other (citations, gifts, medals, banquet):

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### District/Ladies Auxiliary Chairman Section

I certify that the teacher named above is the duly selected District winner of the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in his/her grade level category and is our District's entry into the Department finals. Deadline for all District entries to Department is December 15, 2011. Must include the Post winner's original application, essay, resume and up to five pages of documentation and a good quality head and shoulders photo (no low grade computer printouts).

Signature of VFW Dist. Commander/Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/PO Box (City/St/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Ladies Auxiliary Dist. President/Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/PO Box (City/St/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of schools participating: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of teacher nominations for all categories: \_\_\_\_\_

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 2011 – 2012 National Citizenship Education Teacher Award in our Department in his/her grade level and is our sole official entry into the National judging. January 15, 2012 is the deadline for all Department entries to National Citizenship Education Department. VFW National Headquarters, 406 W 34 St, Kansas City, MO 64111. No extensions permitted.

I hereby certify that our teacher HAS BEEN or WILL BE (circle one) notified that they are the first place state winner in their grade level on the following date \_\_\_\_\_

REMEMBER: National Headquarters will contact your winner and Department Adjutant if he/she is selected as the National Winner.

Signature of Dept. Commander/Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/PO Box (City/St/Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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 (no low grade computer printouts). Remember this form is due back to VFW National Headquarters Citizenship Education Department by January 15, 2012.**