



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Contest  
2023-2024**

**“How are you inspired by America?”**

**Info To:** Department Commander David W. “Spike” Gyger  
Department President Mary Jean Mastridge  
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers  
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman  
District Patriot’s Pen Chairmen  
District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairmen  
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

**From:** William D. Lamond III  
State Patriot’s Pen Chairman

**Subject:** 2023-2024 Patriot’s Pen Patriotic Youth Essay Competition

**Theme:** **“How are you inspired by America?”**

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Welcome to another exciting year of the Annual State Patriot’s Pen Youth Essay Writing Contest. I know that with all your hard work and dedication to this program we will have yet another successful year. This year, the theme “How are you inspired by America?” encourages young minds to examine America’s storied history as well as their own experiences in American society. I thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to this program. With your support, we will have a very successful year. The following information should help you get started:

Post and District Chairmen can access the program guides, find participating Posts, download student brochures or purchase them online (Item #04420) from the National VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Students can also complete a Patriot’s Pen entry form on the National website using the Patriot’s Pen link. The Department website is [www.vfwpa.org](http://www.vfwpa.org); where you will find Department deadlines and the student entry brochure.

State Deadlines for the 2023 - 2024 Patriot’s Pen Program are listed below:

- 1.) October 31, 2023 - Student Deadline Entry is at midnight
- 2.) November 18, 2023 - Post judging completed
- 3.) December 3, 2023 - District judging completed
- 4.) December 9, 2023 - District Winner Entry Form, typed essay, head and shoulders photo of good quality, District summary report and District participation report in the hands of the Department Chairman, William D. Lamond III, 3360 Nashotka Road, Madison Township, PA 18444

**\*\*\*DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS\*\*\***

- 5.) December 11, 2023 - Department judging (Time and location to be announced)
- 6.) January 15, 2024 - Department Winner and Reports submitted to National Headquarters
- 7.) January 20, 2024 - Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet  
at the Double Tree by Hilton – Pittsburgh Cranberry, 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

Please note that all Patriot's Pen participation reporting is completed on the All-American Dashboard, starting at the Post level. Once the Post completes their judging and forwards their winners to the District Chairman, the Post must enter the participation stats (Auxiliary participation, number of participating students, number of winners advanced, monetary awards and additional money expended) into the dashboard. When the District and Department approves your participation report, National will approve and turn status to MET in the dashboard. This process will ensure each Post receives credit. For more information on reporting program participation visit, [vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard](http://vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard).

The State Auxiliary Chairman is Joan Faddis. If you have any questions or concerns, Joan and I can be contacted as follows:

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Thank you!

In Support of our Troops and Friendship in the VFW and Its Auxiliary,

*William D. Lamond III*

William D. Lamond III  
Department of Pennsylvania VFW  
Patriot's Pen Chairman

