



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
76th Annual Voice of Democracy Youth Essay Contest
2023-2024
“What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”**

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 Voice of Democracy Chairmen
District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairmen
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Thomas “Ace” Hanzes
State Voice of Democracy Chairman

Subject: 2023 - 2024 Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition

Theme: “What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

Welcome to another exciting year of the Annual State Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition. I know that with all your hard work and dedication to this program we will have a very successful year. The following information should help you to 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. Students can also complete a Voice of Democracy entry form on the National website using the Voice of Democracy link. The Department website is www.vfwpa.org; where you will find the following Department information: Department deadlines and the student entry brochure, the Department of Pennsylvania Voice of Democracy Teacher of the Year information and nomination form and the Department Perpetual Scholarship information and donation form. For more information on reporting program participation visit, vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard.

State Deadlines for the 2023 - 2024 Voice of Democracy 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, flash drive of essay, typed essay, head and shoulders photo of good quality, District summary report and District participation report in the hands of the Department Chairman, Thomas “Ace” Hanzes.
Address: 106 North 16th Street, Greenville, PA 16129.

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
Double Tree by Hilton – Pittsburgh Cranberry, 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

The 2023 - 2024 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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We are looking forward to meeting and talking with each one of you during this program year. Please review the Program and Entry Form as well as the PA State Perpetual Scholarship Fund information and donation forms. Please make copies for your Post Chairmen, Auxiliary Chairmen, and the Membership so that they can promote and work this very important Youth Activity. As you promote the programs, please encourage participation in the Perpetual Scholarship Fund.

REMINDER: One of Commander Gyger’s requirements for All State Post is a Voice of Democracy entry.

Department Division 1-6 \$250.00
Department Division 7-11 \$100.00

Thank you!

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

Thomas “Ace” Hanzes

Thomas “Ace” Hanzes
State Voice of Democracy Chairman

