



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
78th Annual Voice of Democracy Youth Essay Contest
2025-2026**

“How Are You Showing Patriotism And Support For Our Country?”

Info to: Department Commander Bill Roland
Department President Robin Kohler
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
District Voice of Democracy Chairpersons
District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Vince Gavin
State Voice of Democracy Chairpersons

Subject: 2025-2026 Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition

Theme: **“How Are You Showing Patriotism And Support For Our Country?”**

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 Chairpersons 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, 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 2025-2026 Voice of Democracy Program are listed below:

1. October 31, 2025 - Student Deadline Entry is at midnight.
2. November 16, 2025 - Post judging completed.
3. December 1, 2025 - District judging completed.
4. December 9, 2025 - 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 Chairperson.
 - a. **These Items Must Be Mailed.** If you have a digital recorded essay, please download it to a flash drive and mail it, for ease of judging.

DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

1. December 11, 2025 - Department judging (Time and location to be announced)
2. January 02, 2026 - Department Winner and Reports submitted to National Headquarters.
January 17, 2026 - Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet, Eisenhower Hotel,
Gettysburg

The 2025-2026 State Auxiliary Chairperson is Karen Mooney. If you have any questions or concerns, Karen 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 Chairpersons, Auxiliary Chairpersons, and the Members 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.

Thank you!

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

Vince Gavin

VFW Department of Pennsylvania Voice of Democracy Chairperson
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