

I want to talk to you today about scholarships. I know there are other topics that we could discuss, and this may be redundant, but with the deadline looming, I feel this is important to address. The due date for all applicants to submit their scholarship applications is March 1. Yep, that means there is just one month left for students to fill out the application for the scholarship they want to apply for, and then either take it to the Unit President for Department Scholarships or submit online for the National scholarship applications.

Department Scholarship applications are found on the Department website at calegionaux.org. Once you bring up the home page, you can see a blue banner with drop down menus. (draw banner) Click on "Resources" which will bring up a drop-down menu, scroll down to "Scholarships", and then click on "Education Scholarships". That will bring up the process of applying, the names of the scholarships, the application, and more information. There is also a link under the heading of each scholarship name that takes you right to the application once the applicant clicks on it.

Applicants for any of the following Department of California Scholarships must be a resident of the State of California and planning on attending a college or university in California in the Fall except for the Lucille Ganey Scholarship. The California scholarships offered are:

- the Educational Assistance Scholarship which offers one \$2,000 scholarship, four at \$1,000 each, and three that pay \$500 each; and
- the Continuing/Re-entry Students or students pursuing a higher degree Scholarship offers one Mel Foranda Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000, two \$1,000 scholarships and two \$500 ones;
- the Lucille Ganey Memorial Scholarship is one \$500 scholarship for a student living in California and going to Stephens College in Missouri.
- Connie Settles Memorial Scholarship offers one \$5,000 scholarship.
- And the Past Department Presidents Junior Scholarship. This one is handled differently – it gets sent to the Junior Activities Chairman. Contact Martha Romano for more information.
- The PPP Scholarship goes through the PPP chairman, and she would be your contact.

There are three National scholarships for winning California candidates in the event they did not win one of the Western Division National Competition. These are the Spirit of Youth for Juniors, Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship and the National President's Non-Traditional Scholarship. Each one of these is payable at \$500.

National Scholarships can be found on the National website and are to be submitted online no later than March 1st. Go to legion-aux.org, the National Auxiliary home page comes up. The banner looks different from the Department's, you will see one topic that says "Scholarships" so click on that. (draw it showing "About Us", "How We Serve", "Scholarships" and 3 more squiggly lines) It will bring up a menu showing ALA, Legion, VAVS, and Scholarship FAQs. Click on the first one, ALA Scholarships. You can check out the Legion and VAVS scholarships later, I'm going to talk to you about the ALA ones.

The four scholarships offered by National are:

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship

Three \$5,000 scholarships are awarded annually per geographic division, for a total of 15 scholarships. These scholarships are for undergraduate study only at an accredited college or university, and may be used for tuition, books, fees, room, and board.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

One \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually per Auxiliary geographic division. Applicants may be pursuing training in a certified, trade, professional, or technical program, or a two-year or four-year degree program.

Spirit of Youth Scholarship

The Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund is an umbrella that supports three separate scholarship opportunities for participants in American Legion Auxiliary programs. One is for American Legion Auxiliary Junior members, another for the Junior Members of the Year, and one is for participants in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program.

Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members are the future of our organization. To reward those who retain their membership into adulthood, the American Legion Auxiliary offers the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship to current college students. Ten scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, will be awarded to current college students. Two scholarships will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. The scholarship is a grant, not a loan.

When judging the applications, follow the directions on the judging form. Grammar is very important – make sure the applicant has dotted the "i" and crossed the "t". Spelling is of course very important.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, just text or email me.