Thank you to all our Auxiliaries that participated in the GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE! National Anthem Singing Contest and the ILLUSTRATING AMERICA Patriotic Art Competition. Winning entries will soon be judged at the Department level and those first-place winners will continue on to the National Competition. We have a lot of talented youth in our state – hopefully we’ll take some National honors. Go, Wisconsin Youth!

Even though our two big contests have met their deadlines, our Youth Activities Program is still bursting with ideas for our boys and girls. The PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY Program is a wonderful way to share our nation’s rich history with our youth. I have fond childhood memories of sitting in the shade beneath the branches of a big oak on a warm summer’s day and enjoying a good book. Also, remember to recognize our youth for their patriotism and support of our veterans. Has your Auxiliary awarded any YOUTH GROUPS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS CITATIONS, individual PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARDS, or RAP CARDS AND COINS? It’s never too late to give our youth a “pat on the back” for all they’ve accomplished.

There are many events coming up where your Auxiliary can involve area youth. Here’s just a few ideas:

**April 17 – Easter:** Veterans love to receive homemade gifts from children. Help a group of boys and girls design cards, create Easter egg and bunny crafts, and pick out some candy for local veterans.

**April 22 – Earth Day:** Clean up your community! Our youth can help pick up trash and litter in a park or neighborhood and could clean up the yard at the home of a veteran or elderly person. They could also plant shrubs and flowers at your Post home, a local park or a veteran’s home.

**April 29 – Arbor Day:** Why not plant a tree or trees in honor of veterans in your community? What a lasting tribute!

**May 1 – Loyalty Day:** At our Chippewa VFW and Auxiliary Loyalty Day celebration, we recognize our local youth contest winners (Patriot’s Pen, Voice of Democracy, Young American Creative Patriotic Art, Illustrating America, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! and more). This is a great addition to a day proclaiming patriotism and a love for our country.

**May 21 – Armed Forces Day:** Help youth appreciate the sacrifices of our active service personnel by putting together and sending out care packages.

**May 30 – Memorial Day:** Share the meaning of Memorial Day – explain to youth the differences between Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Enlist their help to place flags on the graves of veterans. Tell children about the “Buddy” Poppy and help them to create a poppy craft. Encourage them to participate in a local parade – your Auxiliary could sponsor a contest for the best float by a youth group!

**June 14 – Flag Day:** Educate children on the history of our flag. Ask a Boy or Girl Scout Troop or other youth group to assist in a flag retirement ceremony.

Although our Program year is drawing to a close, we still need to encourage our youth to be involved in patriotic activities. Thank you for all you do with our youth – our citizens and leaders of the future!

“Don’t FUDGE on Care for Veterans” while “Soaring Above & Beyond”.

Patty Jansky
Youth Activities Chairman
12758 43rd Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
715-723-0408 / pajansky@charter.net