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Willowbrook students to compete in national event



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Eight Willowbrook High School students have qualified to compete in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference, which will take place May 4-8 in Dallas, Texas. The theme for this year's event is "Go Beyond Your Limits." Pictured (left to right) are: senior Luis Ramirez, senior Bryan Ortiz, senior Aaron Bail, senior Maxwell Hirsch, senior Chris Nasi and senior Omar Mujahid. Not pictured are senior Charles May and senior Ryan Perez. The eight Willowbrook students qualified to take part in the national event with their strong performances at the recent BPA State Leadership Conference. Willowbrook's first-place winners at the state conference included Bail (first in Advanced Accounting), Nasi (first in C# Programming) and Hirsch (first in Personal Financial Management). According to BPA, its organization is the nation's leading Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) for students pursuing careers in business management, information technology, finance, accounting, office administration and other business-related fields. BPA features about 45,000 members in more than 1,800 chapters across 25 states and Puerto Rico, as well as an international presence in China, Haiti and Peru.

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VFW Post 2801 Auxiliary announces winners of its Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests

STAFF REPORT

The Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 Auxiliary recently announced the winners of its 2021-22 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. The auxiliary presented its awards at a program on Sunday, Feb. 27. Winners received monetary awards, as well as gift certificates.

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition was open to high school students. Contestants wrote an essay responding to the 2021-22 theme question: "America: Where do we go from here?" In addition to writing their response to that question, students made an audio recording (from 3 to 5 minutes) of their essay.

The Patriot's Pen contest was open to students in grades 6-8. Entrants completed an essay by writing an answer (300 to 400 words) to the 2021-22 theme question: "How can I be a good American?"

The participants in the Voice of Democracy competition included students from Fenwick High School, Timothy Christian High School and York High School. Contestants in the Patriot's Pen competition included students from three Elmhurst schools—Sandburg Middle School, Timothy Christian School and Immanuel Lutheran School.

Students who participate in the essay contests can advance to four different levels—VFW Post, district, state and national. With each level of advancement, students can earn more

scholarship funds.

The Villa Park VFW Post 2801 Auxiliary presented its first-place award in the Voice of Democracy contest to Grant Schleiter, a junior at Fenwick High School. He received \$250 from the Villa Park VFW, and advanced to the district level, where he placed second and received \$300.

Aiden Hoogstra, a sophomore at Timothy Christian High School, earned the second-place award in the Post 2801 Auxiliary's Voice of Democracy contest. He received \$200. Nicholas Kamenica, a junior at York High School, earned the third-place award and received \$150.

The Post 2801 Auxiliary presented its first-place award in the Patriot's Pen contest to Sophie Saldanha, a seventh-grader at Sandburg Middle School. She received \$150 from the Villa Park VFW and advanced to the district competition, where she earned the third-place award and received \$175.

Evan Frens, an eighth-grader from Timothy Christian School, received the second-place award in the Post 2801 Auxiliary's Patriot's Pen contest. He received \$125. Caroline Coan, a seventh-grader at Sandburg Middle School, earned the third-place award and received \$100.

The Villa Park VFW Post 2801 Auxiliary congratulates all of the participating students, as well as their teachers and parents. The auxiliary also thanks its scholarship committee, which includes Debbie Wesoloski, Mary Ciszek and Jan Bakes.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Kelso begins senior season

Willowbrook High School graduate Jonathan Kelso (No. 4) began his senior season with the University of Wisconsin-Platteville baseball team last week. Kelso, who graduated from Willowbrook in 2017, enjoyed a record-breaking junior season for the Pioneers, who play in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC). Kelso was named the WIAC Player of the year for the 2021 season. The American Baseball Coaches Association recognized Kelso as a second-team All-American. A center fielder, Kelso led the WIAC in hits (69), batting average (.442), slugging percentage (.782), on-base percentage (.532) and stolen bases (27) during the 2021 season. He finished second in the conference in runs scored (55), total bases (122), doubles (18) and triples (4). Kelso finished fourth in the conference in home runs (9). Kelso recorded a hit in 36 of 41 games in which he played. He recorded 25 multi-hit games and delivered a 13-game hitting streak during the season. He closed the year with a 10-game hitting streak. Kelso was the



starting center fielder in all 41 of the Pioneers' games of the 2021 season. He did not commit any errors in 115 defensive chances. Kelso entered the 2022 season as the UW-Platteville program's all-time leader in career hits (197). He has a chance to set all-time program records in at-bats, runs scored, doubles, triples, runs batted in, total bases and stolen bases. The Pioneers began their 2022 season with a March 9 doubleheader against Bethel University at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bethel defeated UW-Platteville 5-2 in the first game. The Pioneers earned an 8-3 win in the second game. Kelso, who batted second for the Pioneers, went 1-for-3 and drove in one run in the opening game. He went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs in the second game. Kelso and the Pioneers are scheduled to play four games this week at a tournament in Pensacola, Florida.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 Auxiliary recently recognized the winners of its 2021-22 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition was open to high school students. The Patriot's Pen essay contest was for students in grades 6-8. The winner of the auxiliary's Patriot's Pen contest was Sophie Saldanha (pictured with her certificate), a seventh-grader at Sandburg Middle School in Elmhurst.

Willowbrook students earn Superior ratings at IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest

Several Willowbrook High School musicians competed in the recent Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Solo and Ensemble Contest, which took place at Reavis High School in Burbank on March 5.

Thirty-three Willowbrook students earned a Superior (Division 1) rating in the solo contest, while seven groups earned a Superior rating in the ensemble contest.

The Willowbrook students who earned a Superior rating in the solo contest at the recent competition at Reavis High School were: senior Ingrid Bantugan (voice), freshman Isabel Bates (flute), freshman Alice Bathje (voice), sophomore Natalie Bliss (flute), freshman Margaret Brennan (viola and voice), junior Mary Brennan (violin), sophomore Lillian Caron (flute), senior Katie Corsini (voice), junior Hudson De La Rosa (voice), junior Robert Ernst (voice), freshman Gillian Falco (voice), senior Nathaniel Falco (voice), freshman Abigail Finnegan (voice), junior Yavilin Garcia-Gutierrez (violin), sophomore Theresa Goodman (voice), freshman Olivia Gwaltney (voice), senior Lillian Hendrickson (trumpet), freshman Joshua Jackson (voice), junior Patrick Kozbial (snare drum), junior Neeraja Kumar (viola), senior Emily Maher (voice), sophomore Lauren Maher (voice), sophomore Sophia Marino (voice), sophomore Sean O'Brochta (voice), junior Caitlin O'Connor (French horn and voice), freshman Morgan Pierson (trumpet), senior

Damian Rocha (voice), junior Amelia Tortorici (voice), senior Eric Veal Jr. (voice), senior Imani Ward (voice), junior Oona Webster (voice), senior Katherine Wentworth (voice) and senior Magdalyn Zita (voice).

The Willowbrook students who earned a Superior rating in the March 5 event's ensemble contest were:

Flute ensemble: senior Regina Brisbois and sophomore Lillian Caron;

Percussion ensemble: freshman Gillian Falco and sophomore Nicholas Gillopo;

Mixed wind ensemble: senior Lillian Hendrickson and junior Lillian Larkin;

Mixed wind ensemble: junior Abe Kamm, junior Lillian Larkin, senior Regina Brisbois and senior Lillian Hendrickson;

Saxophone ensemble: senior Thomas Guilfoyle and junior Abe Kamm;

Saxophone ensemble: senior Thomas Guilfoyle, junior Abe Kamm, junior Kalli Reeves-Kohoutek and freshman Florencio Hernandez Jr.;

Vocal ensemble: sophomore Annabelle Deany, sophomore Theresa Goodman, sophomore Lauren Maher, sophomore Sophia Marino; sophomore Caitlin Spaeth, sophomore Lauren Schalk, junior Oona Webster and senior Magdalyn Zita.