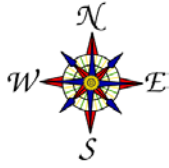
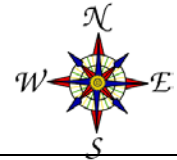


HOSPITAL
CHAIRMAN: CHRIS SCHMALTZ
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PROGRAM GOALS



Volunteer Service in Medical Facilities
Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support
Veterans Voices Writing Project
Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention



VFW Auxiliary members have been volunteering in hospitals since this organization was founded in 1914. In 1928, the Hospital & VAVS Program became the second National Program adopted by the VFW Auxiliary. Since the beginning, the VFW Auxiliary has pledged their unwavering support to help our Country's heroes. Too many veteran patients have no family to support and comfort them when they need it the most. When we make our bedside visits, host a bingo, serve lunches, etc., etc., we really do make a difference.

The theme of our National President Sandi Kreibel is "**BELIEVE ~ WE CAN DO IT**" - Her Symbol is **Uncle Sam & Rosie the Riveter**

Our Department President Ellie has chosen the **Compass** as her symbol. Her Theme: **360 Degrees for our Veterans & Their Families.** So, let's get our bearings and navigate our way through this program.

Where can we serve?

Local hospitals
Veteran's homes
Nursing homes
Domiciliary
VA & non-VA medical centers and clinics

Who can serve?

Members
Non-members
Youth
Families

What can we do?

Every facility has different needs. Some facilities have a volunteer program in place with specific jobs, events & needs. Contact the Voluntary Service Office and ask how you can help.

What can we earn?

Members can earn Hospital Volunteer Pins from National and Department Headquarters for their volunteer hours. Members can also be eligible for several awards. Additional information and forms are included at the back of the program.



Volunteer Recruitment

The need for hospital volunteers is greater than ever. Volunteers help free up millions of dollars in health care expenses that can be used for critical services needed for our veterans. Volunteers bring comfort and friendship to patients in hospitals and nursing homes. Our Nation's heroes more than deserve a few hours a month of our time. The next time you make a hospital visit, bring a friend with you. Find what interests and skill sets your friends have and then try to navigate them in a direction that will benefit them, our veterans and our organization. Let them reap the rewards of volunteering for our heroes. Then keep them motivated and show them that you care. *Always* Thank them. A little goes a long way.

Community Volunteer Recruitment Week is set for November 5 - 11, 2018 and April 7 - 13, 2019. A Hospital Volunteer Recruitment kit is available from the National website at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources. This kit includes posters, public service announcements, reporting and award guidelines.

Veterans Voices Writing Project

The Veterans Voices Writing Project (VVWP) was created in 1946. It is a writing program that helps veterans express themselves and communicate in a creative way. VVWP publishes "Veterans Voices" a magazine that prints a selection of submissions. The project accepts stories of personal experiences, fiction, poems and artwork from veterans.

Some veterans choose to write their stories using humor. Some write about the horrors they experienced during combat. Using writing as a creative expression allows many veterans to heal and gain self-esteem.

Members can become involved with a local VVWP representative and assist veterans in writing, recording or typing. Training and resources are provided. For more information and to get involved, visit veteransvoices.org, call 816-709-6844 or email volunteer@veteransvoices.org.

"It is our mission to enable military veterans to experience solace and satisfaction through our writing program. Our vision is a world where people appreciate that writing can both heal and entertain."

-VVWP



Website www.veteransvoices.org

Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness

We may never understand the struggles and challenges of a veteran who has seen war. The physical and mental wounds they have endured leave many in dire circumstances. WE can make a difference by educating ourselves and others about the warning signs of suicide. We can help veterans and their loved ones by sending them in the right direction for help. Veterans Crisis Line can be their life line. For more information go to www.veteranscrisisline.net.

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, [chat online](#), or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hearing impaired individuals is available.

The Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness Blue Teardrop sticker is the VFW Auxiliary symbol to bring attention to the issue of Military suicide. Wear this teardrop to open the conversation. Printable sheet can be found online at www.vfwauxiliary.org



Hospital Donation should be sent to Department
By December 31, 2018

A suggested donation of \$1.00 per member is requested from each Auxiliary. The amount is based on your membership as of June 30, 2018. These funds are presented to medical facilities by the Department President when he/she visits.

*All auxiliaries are encouraged to also donate to the VA Hospital Fund. This is a separate fund from the Hospital Fund. The VA Hospital fund is intended to be used at specific facilities and funds must be requested by the VAVS Representative of that particular medical facility. These donations should also be sent to the Department Office and earmarked, for example, "Hospital donation for Tibor Rubin VAMC" . Do NOT send this donation to the medical facility. *Also, please donate to *National Veterans Wheelchair Games* and *Golden Age Games*.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

This special assistance is available to all Auxiliary Members who find themselves in need of help with their hospital bills. \$.25 of your \$1.00 per member Hospital Quota goes to fund this special assistance. This is another important reason to send your Hospital Quota. Not only does this fund help our VA Medical Centers, but it helps our Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters as well.

DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER PIN

President Ellie has designed a Hospital Pin that she wants all hospital volunteers to receive. To earn this pin, members & non-members need a minimum of 10 volunteer hours at VA and/or non-VA Medical Centers. Please see the enclosed form for ordering pins.

FISHER HOUSE

The Fisher Houses are a network of comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay, at no cost, while a loved one is receiving treatment. They are located at major military and VA medical centers nation-wide, close to the medical center or hospital they serve. The Fisher House Foundation also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members. For more information go to www.fisherhouse.org.

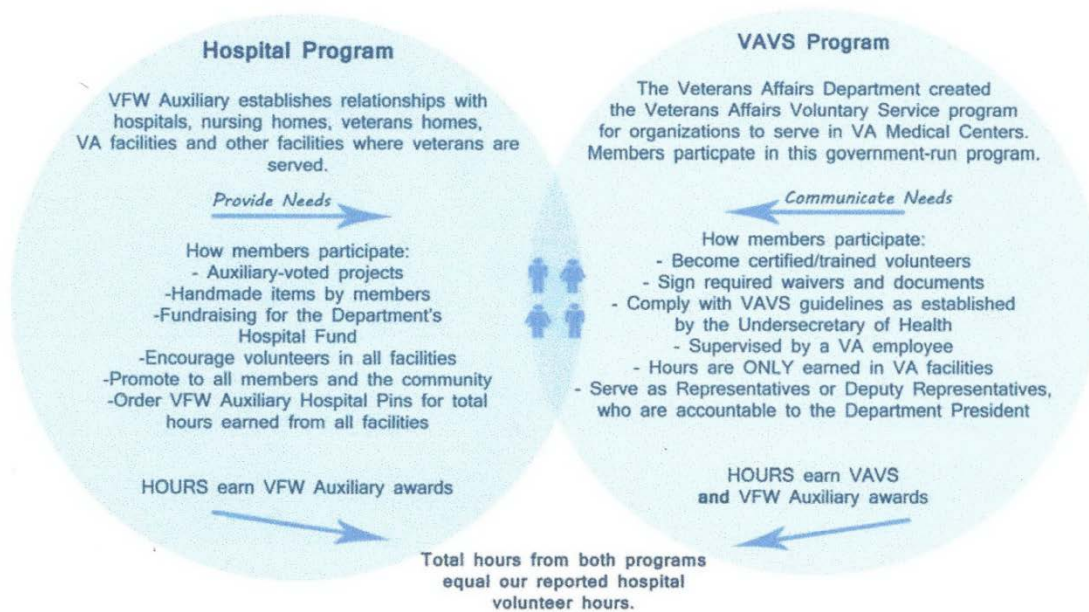
The "**Hospital Program & VAVS Guide**" is your greatest resource for the Hospital program. You can find the Guide on the Department website under "Hospital Program" or the National VFW Auxiliary Website: www.vfwauxiliary.org

WHAT ABOUT VAVS?

For more information on the VFW Auxiliary's participation in Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program, please see that section in the Hospital Program Guide or contact the Department Hospital Chairman.

The Diagram below illustrates how the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program overlaps with and supports the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program.

The VFW Auxiliary provides volunteers and resources to VA Facilities across the country, saving Veterans Affairs more the \$60 million a year in expenses.



To help you stay on course

The 2018/2019 Hospital Team

Hospital Co-Chair

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714-225-9714

DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR DISTRICT CHAIRMEN:

1. Citation to each **District** Chairman for participation in the program.
2. \$25.00 to one **District** Chairman for the Best Promotion of

Veterans Voices Writing Project (VVWP)

3. Plaque to the **District** Chairman with Best Promotion of the program goals

DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARY:

- Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership group with the Best Volunteer Recognition event.
- Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership group with the most New Volunteers signed up.
- California hospital pin to every volunteer who serves a minimum of 10 hours, or donates \$25.00 in cash or goods to the hospital program.
- **LEGACY AWARD** for Best Overall Hospital Program in Honor of PDP Bonnie Gladden.
- **LEGACY AWARD** for Best Overall Fisher House Program in Honor of PDP Fran Swanson.
- **LEGACY AWARD** for Best Overall Veterans Games in Honor of PDP Marilyn Vernon-Leisure.
- **LEGACY AWARD** for Best Overall Military Suicide Awareness in Honor of PDP Joyce Bilyeu.

NATIONAL AWARDS

AWARDS FOR MEMBERS:

1. Award to one member with the most VA volunteers recruited.
Form required.
2. Award to one member with the most sponsored non-member volunteers recruited.
Form required.
3. Award to one member with the most non-VA volunteers recruited.
Form required.
4. Award to one member with the most total recruits from all categories.
Form required.

In addition to these special awards, Hospital Volunteer Service Pins are also always available.

In addition to these special awards, Hospital Volunteer Pins are also always available

1. Award to one member with the most VA volunteers recruited. Form Required

2. Award to one member with the most sponsored non-member volunteers recruited. Form Required
3. Award to one member with the most non-VA volunteers recruited. Form required
4. Award to one member with the most total recruits from all categories. Form required

