

August Hospital Promotion

Kathy Walery

Dept. Hospital Chairman

The Hospital Program remains essentially the same every year which focuses on Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support. Volunteers are continually needed at our VA Hospitals, Outpatient Clinics, community hospitals, Hospice, Senior Care Centers, etc. Our Veterans are located at many different sites and our help is always needed. The time that we spend with our Veterans, the smiles we give and the caring we show can make a positive difference in their day.

One of the ways we can volunteer is the **Compassionate Contact Corps**. This program is ideal for those members who are unable to physically volunteer in a hospital facility but want to lend a helping hand to veterans. The VA's Compassionate Contact Corps is a telephone friendly visitor program. This program was developed for those Veterans who are feeling lonely, lack companionship and are feeling isolated. Veterans who are feeling lonely can have a higher rate of depression and, unfortunately, increased suicidal thoughts and chronic loneliness puts the Veteran at a higher risk for physical health problems. As a Compassionate Contact Corps volunteer you will be matched to a Veteran for a weekly friendly phone call. These calls can be as short as 15 minutes or longer as you both get to know each other. There is no physical contact just a friendly phone call. The Veteran's care provider is the one who refers the Veteran for the program. Please consider this program as a way of making a difference in a veteran's life. Contact the CDCE Supervisor (volunteer services) at your VA Hospital to get started.

The Cancer Grant Program is reported under the Hospital Program this year. The quota is \$2.00 per member and is a valuable benefit for our members. The Cancer Grant application is available on the National website through MALTA. Many of us are aware of the Cancer Grant benefit but many of our members are not. This was brought to my attention this week when I was talking to an auxiliary member whom I had not seen for several months. In our conversation, she mentioned that she was being treated for cancer but did not want anyone to know. I asked her if she was aware of the Cancer Grant for auxiliary members and she said no. I was surprised because I just assumed that all members knew about it. I got her a copy of the grant because she also was not signed in to MALTA. I worked with her granddaughter to get the member signed in to MALTA and explained all details. So this tale is told to ask all of us to reach out to those members who we don't see often and remind them of the wonderful benefits our auxiliary has.

How is your **Done in a Day** projects going. I hope that you have brought this idea to your auxiliary. I've had a report from one auxiliary who made a motion to bring in used books and magazines to help replenish the book cases in the waiting rooms at the VA Hospital. A simple project which provided much appreciated reading materials.

In this promotion, I am including the message from our National Hospital Ambassador, Dells Steege, a copy of the National Hospital Program and information about the Hospital Program Awards. If you have any questions, please contact me at chefwalery@aol.com or 916-967-0323.

BANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS