

Hospital Program Report
Council of Administration
June 11, 2023

Good day to President Diana, Line Officers, Past Department Presidents, and members. Thank you, President Diana, for asking me to be Chairman of the Hospital Program. This is a program that I have great passion for since it is the one where we can actually see immediately the impact we have on our Veterans, families and active military.

I would like to introduce this year's Hospital Team: Marlene Rafferty, Hospital Co-Chairman, Rosalind Jenkins, Hospital South, Iris Vogt, Hospital Central, and Kathy Smith, Hospital North. I have included their contact information so please contact them if you have any questions regarding the program. We are all here to help you succeed in the Hospital Program. Please take the time to read and become familiar with this year's Hospital Program.

For this year, I am trying to " **think outside the box**" as our National Ambassador, Della Steege, has asked us to do. The National President's theme is "***Bonding Together for our Veterans***" so I am asking our Department to work together on the Hospital Program for our Veterans.

VOLUNTEERS are still always needed at both VA and non VA facilities. They are needed every day across the country and many facilities have varying types of opportunities to suit different ages and abilities. Those of us who are lucky enough to volunteer in a hospital know how gratifying it is so it is our responsibility to share our passion and encourage others to give volunteering a try.

DONE IN A DAY. What does that mean? Many times after we pay the Hospital quota and make our Hospital donation, we wonder what else to do. Not all auxiliaries actually do fundraising for various reasons but members still want to help and not everyone is able to volunteer in person. How about doing collection events such as collecting Dollar Store eye glasses, crossword puzzles, white socks, bottles of water during the summer months, wrapped snacks, etc. Make a motion at a monthly meeting for members to bring to the next meeting the item selected then deliver it to your VA facility. You'll need to contact the Volunteer Supervisor at the VA facility for the items on their Wish List. This is an idea that can involve all members, especially our older members who have trouble getting out at times and doesn't involve any large amount of money spent by any one person.

REPORTING is important. We are actually mandated to report our all of our monies, hours and number of members to the VFW. We have an on-line reporting system that we can access on the Department web-site: vfwauxca.org, to utilize for our reporting convenience **but we also need to report our activities to our District Hospital Chairman**. So, in order to encourage this reporting, I am offering cash awards for reporting to both the Department and your District in a timely manner. I am asking all District Chairman to reach out to their auxiliaries to receive reports and then report to me the ones that they have received a report form. At each Council Meeting, I will award one (1) District Chairman who reports to me \$20.00 and pick four (4) auxiliaries to receive \$20.00 that sent reports to both the Department AND their District

Chairman. I don't know about you, but I like easy money. Contact me if you want more information: chefwalery@aol.com,

SWAP is an idea National introduced and it is a very simple idea: auxiliaries share their ideas about fundraising, program events, community activities, etc. I would like to incorporate this idea in my monthly message and call it "**SHARING**". Please send me your ideas about your Hospital Program successes so I can share them with other auxiliaries. Our State is large and very diverse and our members are talented and imaginative so let's tap into this wonderful resource for our Veterans.

I will be sharing more information in my monthly messages. I am excited about our Hospital Program. President Diana is asking us to be "**STRONGER TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS**" so I look forward to a successful year because we will be "**BONDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS.**"

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