

October 2023 Hospital Program Promotion

**Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale.
And it matters profoundly.
It does more than help people beat the odds, it changes the odds.
~ William J. Clinton**

One of the main goals of our Hospital Program is Volunteer Recruitment. It is essential that we do all that we can to ensure that our Veterans have volunteers to assist them in our nation's VA Hospitals, community hospitals, clinics, adult day-care centers, hospice, Community Living-Centers, etc. The VFW Auxiliary is always looking to recruit new volunteers and they do not have to be just Auxiliary members. We can look at our family and offer them the opportunity to be a Hero but also offer this opportunity to friends as well. Many of our friends are at the age of retirement and looking for a meaningful project to fill their extra time. Don't be shy but tell them about our Hospital Program; remember that a volunteer can be full-time, part-time with just a few hours a month or an occasional volunteer who helps with special events.

You will want to check with your local Hospital Volunteer Supervisor to find out what volunteer opportunities are available; you'll want to have the correct information when you talk about volunteering. The opportunities could be Hospital greeters, shuttle drivers, patient attendant with meals, a reader and more but you need to be sure what is available. Have a contact person and phone number available to give to interested persons. And don't forget to mention some the benefits of volunteering: learning new skills, staying physically and mentally active, meet new people, trying something new, giving back to America's veterans, making a difference and Having Fun!

One of the ideas that our National Hospital Ambassador, Della Steege, asked us to do was "think outside the box" when planning events for our hospitalized veterans. We always think about the recognized Holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Memorial and Veterans Day, 4th of July, etc. but how about celebrating non-traditional holidays? There is an award for the Auxiliary celebrating the Most Outstanding activity and /or event and a citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or an event that recognizes veterans on non-traditional holidays. The entry form is available on MALTA Member Services. Contact the website for monthly days: calendar.com/united-states/observances-2003.

Here are some ideas for October: October 17 – National Pasta Day, October 21-International Nacho Day, October 27-Navy Day, October 30-National Candy Corn Day, and, of course, October 31-Carve a Pumpkin Day and Halloween. This would be a good time to check on the fun days in November to make your plans.

Be sure to read the October Hospital Program from National Hospital Ambassador, Della Steege. You can find it in the October 1, 2023 message sent via email or on the National website.

Have you sent for your Department Hospital Pin that is a "thank-you" from our President, Diana Russell-Milton? These are available to all volunteers that donate 10 hours or more in a facility or work knitting, crocheting, baking, cooking, etc. Non-members are also eligible for this Thank-

You gift. Contact Hospital Co-Chairman, Marlena Rafferty, for more information:
miraffety@comcast.net.

I want to thank those Auxiliaries that have already paid their hospital quota / \$1.00 per member, their Cancer Grant quota / \$2.00 per member and their hospital donation/any amount. To those of you who have not yet paid these quotas, please put that on the agenda for your next meeting. Remember to write a report for these donations and send a copy to me, the Department Hospital Chairman and to your District Hospital Chairman. Please remember that there is a money award at this upcoming Council meeting, October 21, for a District Hospital Chairman that reports to me the Auxiliaries that have sent them a hospital report AND a money award to four Auxiliaries that sent a report to their District Hospital Chairman. Winners will be picked at random and announced at the C of A. It's not too late to send in your reports and contact me:
chefwalery@aol.com.

Our Department President's theme "***Stronger Together For Our Veterans***" should serve as an inspiration for us to do all that we can to serve our Nation's Veterans and step up to volunteer.