

HOSPITAL PROGRAM

2026-2027

Rosalind Jenkins

27060 Yorba Linda Ct

Menifee, CA 92586

(310) 874-1242

email: rosalindjenkins99@yahoo.com

It is not difficult to *Remember your Whoo*, according to California Department President Prill when you are working with the Hospital Program, because it is the backbone of all of the Auxiliary Programs, since it is the oldest (1914) and the most necessary for all Military Personnel, active, injured or retired. The Hospital Program definitely demonstrates how we, the Auxiliary, are *Serving America's Heroes*. Many of our Nations Heroes are growing older and no longer have a family. VA bedside volunteering, as well as at any and all facilities/nursing homes is most important. Not only to provide the small personal essentials, but provide a bit of comfort and companionship to those who are alone is invaluable. Any act of kindness or a smile can make a positive and lasting impact on the many lives in a hospital.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Volunteer in Medical Facilities
2. Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition
3. Traditional/Non-Traditional Holidays
4. Women Veterans Health Care
5. Honors Escort

Who can volunteer

(1) Members, (2) Non-Members, (3) Community Groups, (4) Youth Groups, (5) Families

Volunteer Place

(1) Local Hospitals, (2) Veterans Homes, (3) Nursing Homes (4) Domiciliaries (5) VA and non-VA Medical Facilities and clinics

Performed/Assigned Duties

Most facilities already have a volunteer program outlined with specific jobs and needs. Events will be a bit different at each location. Volunteers help create a friendly, positive and caring atmosphere, no matter the location. Many facilities will have a variety of opportunities to suit different ages and abilities. Most important that all facility policies, rules, and regulations be adhered to when considering just a visit or any type of project. Auxiliary approval is necessary before beginning any project.

Recruiting New Volunteers

The volunteer program has suffered greatly, even though the COVID-19 PANDEMIC is behind us. New volunteers are desperately needed across the country, as they will help bring a sense of warmth and friendship to those that are ailing or alone in any facility. Everyone should be able to set aside a few hours a month to help/entertain America's Heroes and then to bring a friend as well.

C – Catch the member when they first join.

A – Ask her/him to participate

R-Remember what it felt like when you were new

E-Engage them in a Program that suits them (Hospital, of course)

Be specific about what volunteers will be doing, including the time commitment.

Find out how each person communicates best, whether by telephone, email or texting. Youth groups are good candidates, as the hours volunteered in any VA facility go toward a NAC Scholarship.

Volunteer Recognition

For volunteer hours, VFW Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer Service Pins and Bars, sponsored hospital Volunteer Pins and Hospital Recruiter Charms are available from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters. Let all know that public recognition of current volunteers is always available. Non-member volunteers can also earn a one-time-only volunteer pin for 100 hours.

The Challenge

This year's challenge is to create a different approach to serving our veterans in a hospital setting. This is where the Traditional as well as the Non-Traditional Holidays come in. The lesser-known holidays will provide the perfect opportunity to connect with any veteran or simply remind them of something pleasant from their past.

Traditional Holiday

Memorial Day

Thanksgiving

Christmas

Valentines Day

Non-Traditional Holiday

National Hug-a-G.I.-Day-March 4

National Chili Dog Day – July 31

National Donut Day – June 2

World Chocolate Day – July 7

Remembering veterans during special holidays or events can do wonders to lift their spirits. Shows your love and appreciation for all they have done to keep us free. National Salute to Veterans Week is the week that features Valentines Day in it. In addition to all of the Traditional Holidays why not celebrate the various Branch of the Service Birthdays.

Army – June 12

Air Force – September 18

Marine Corp– November 10

National Guard – December 13

US Coast Guard – August 4

Navy – October 13

US Space Force – December 20

Women Veterans Healthcare

Women have served our nation for generations and are the fastest growing group within the veteran population. June 12 is Women Veterans Day. She served, She sacrificed, She Deserves. Ensuring women veterans receive veterans' benefits and services that honor their brave military service is important. Currently, women comprise 15% of the active-duty military and 18% of the Guard and Reserve. With the steady increase of women wearing our nation's uniform and their increased role in military operations, it has never been more important that we ensure women veterans have a VA that is ready and able to care for them in the service and when they transition back to civilian life. Comprehensive health services are available and tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. There are Special Clinics within the HealthCare System that include: Female specific services for Birth Control, Maternity Care, Screening for cervical and breast cancer testing, as well as heart disease and diabetes and Mental Health counseling for military sexual trauma.

Women veterans may be eligible for a wide variety of benefits available to all U.S. military veterans. VA benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment and burial. More information is available on the Women Veterans Benefits website: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-women.asp>

Honors Escort

The Honors Escort Program in VA facilities is part of the end-of-life protocol veterans who pass away while in a VA facility. The Honors Escort is an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful and open manner. It provides a way for the veteran's family, friends, associates, other veterans as well as facility staff to participate in a display of reverence and respect to the veteran at the time of death. Volunteers should inquire if the VA Hospital or facility has this program in operation. Why not make an inquiry to see if the facility can implement one, if this is possible.

Hospital Quota Donation

A suggested donation of \$1.00 per member is requested from each Auxiliary. The total amount is based on the membership as of June 30. Seventy-Five cent of each dollar goes toward the hospital fund. These funds are then presented to VA Hospitals and clinics by the current President as her annual visit is made through-out the State of California. Hospital donations should be made by December 31.

Hospital and VAVS Programs

While the Hospital Program started in 1928, our members had already been volunteering in hospitals for a number of years. Some Auxiliaries would 'adopt' a hospital unit, wing, ward or even the entire hospital and bring all veteran patients homecooked meals, host holiday parties or have fundraisers to donate for emergency needs in poorly funded/equipped hospitals. The Auxiliary has always supported VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, now known as CDCE- VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement.) Founded in 1946 by the Federal government, VAVS/CDCE assists veteran patients through volunteer work in community-based volunteer programs, hospital wards, nursing homes, VA medical centers and veteran outreach centers. It is the largest centralized volunteer program of the Federal government.

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HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAMS

The VFW Auxiliary provides volunteers and resources to VA facilities across the country and saves the Department of Veterans Affairs millions of dollars a year.

The table below illustrates how the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program supports the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)* Program.

HOSPITAL PROGRAM

VFW Auxiliary establishes relationships with:

- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Veterans homes
- VA facilities
- Other medical facilities where veterans are served

PROVIDES NEEDS

How VFW Auxiliary members participate:

- Participate in projects voted on and accepted by the Auxiliary.
- Make items such as lap robes, hats, quilts, cards, etc.
- Fund raise for the Department's Hospital fund.
- Encourage volunteers in ALL medical facilities.
- Promote projects and volunteer opportunities to all members and the community.
- Present Hospital Volunteer Appreciation certificates.
- Order VFW Auxiliary Hospital Pins for total hours earned from all facilities.
- Hours are earned in ALL VA and non-VA facilities.

HOURS earn VFW Auxiliary Awards!

VAVS PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs created the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program for organizations to serve in VA medical facilities:

- Members participate in this VA partnership with Veterans Service Organizations.
- In addition to Auxiliary recognition, the VA National Advisory Council awards a Volunteer of the Year award. For more information, contact either the Voluntary Services personnel or the VAVS National Representative or Deputy Representatives.

COMMUNICATES NEEDS

How VFW Auxiliary members participate:

- Be a Regularly Scheduled (RS) or Occasional volunteer.
- Regularly Scheduled (RS) volunteers:
 - Comply with VAVS Guidelines.
 - Participate on a regularly scheduled basis.
 - Are supervised by a VA employee.
 - Are appointed by the Department President as VAVS Representative or Deputy Representative.
- Occasional volunteers:
 - Do not meet the requirements of RS volunteers.
 - Volunteer with a group or organization occasionally.

HOURS earn VAVS AND VFW Auxiliary Awards!

**TOTAL HOURS FROM BOTH PROGRAMS
EQUAL OUR REPORTED HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER HOURS.**

For more information on the VFW Auxiliary's participation in Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program, please see the VAVS Participation Guide or contact the Department Hospital Chairman. The VAVS Participation Guide is available behind MALTA login in MALTA Member Resources.

* VAVS is now known as Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE).

California Medical Assistance Grant

Twenty-Five cent of the one dollar Hospital donation goes to fund the Medical Assistance Program (Grant). This grant assists our members with hospital bills not covered by their insurance. This special assistance is only to be recommended for a member who has had continuous membership for at least one (1) year prior to application. It does NOT COVER CANCER (The Cancer Program provides grants for that purpose). Only two (2) grants are allowed per member; and a full twelve (12) months must pass before a second request is made. The Assistance will not exceed Five Hundred and Seventy-Five (\$575.00) per hospitalization. The check will be sent directly to the Auxiliary Member; if the member has passed on, the check must be returned to the Department Office.

This request must be confidential, and the Auxiliary must, to the best of its ability, thoroughly investigate and find that this Auxiliary member does qualify.

Criteria for Approving Medical Assistance Grants:

- Minimum number of years of membership
- Confirm member has hospitalization insurance (attach proof of insurance)
- Percentage of Hospital Bills covered by insurance (attach copy and statement from insurance to show amount covered)
- Receipts from Hospital or Medical Bills
- Need for Assistance (complete application for Medical Assistance Grant)
- Physician's statement and prognosis. (Submit completed form to Department President)

Application for Medical Assistance Grant
VFW AUXILIARY - DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Complete and mail one copy directly to the Department President: President Angela Prill,
c/o CA- Dept. Office, 9136 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 101, Elk Grove, Ca 95624

AUXILIARY NAME _____ # _____ DISTRICT _____

NAME OF AUXILIARY MEMBER _____

DATE JOINED AUXILIARY _____ DATE CURRENT YEAR'S DUES PAID _____

DATE PREVIOUS YEAR'S DUES PAID _____ MARITAL STATUS _____

DOES MEMBER (OR SPOUSE) HAVE HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE _____
OR MEDICARE _____

NAME OF INSURANCE COMPANY _____

NAME OF HOSPITAL AND LENGTH OF HOSPITAL STAY _____

PERCENTAGE OF HOSPITAL BILLS PAID BY INSURANCE _____
(copy of hospital showing what insurance does not pay)

MEMBER HAS _____ HAS NOT _____ RECEIVED A PREVIOUS HOSPITAL GRANT
(IF SO, GIVE DATE) _____

Please advise (in detail) why you feel this Member needs assistance:

Approved by Auxiliary Treasurer:

_____ DATE _____

Address:

_____ ZIP CODE _____

PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT

Name and Location of Hospital (if hospitalized)

Date confined from _____

to _____

Diagnosis _____

Prognosis _____

Signed:

Physician's Signature

Date



Application Granted Denied Date _____ Amount _____

If Grant denied, please explain reason for denial:

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NATIONAL AWARDS

Awards for Members:

1. Citation to one VFW Auxiliary member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. Required entry form is available on MALTA Member Resources. Citations to be mailed directly to winners from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

2. "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year" plaque awarded to one VFW Auxiliary member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027. Required entry form is available on MALTA Member Resources. Plaque may be mailed directly to winner from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

3. Citation to the "Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year" in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Required entry form is available on MALTA Member Resources. Citations to be mailed directly to winners from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities)

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Hospital Chairman by April 15, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Hospital Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National Hospital Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

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AWARDS for DEPARTMENTS and DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary Department Hospital Chairman in each of 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding promotion of creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities).

Winners will be announced and citations will be presented at the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention. Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary Department account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention for disbursement to the winning VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman.

2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on page 5 of the promotion of the Ambassador's Program goals.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention. Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary Department account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.