



## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Bulletin – August/September

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Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan

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**National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans***

**Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire***

Reading the reports that are coming in, it is amazing what each Auxiliary is doing to help our veterans, their families and the local VA hospitals. Keep up the good work!

While many can volunteer at our VA and non-VA hospitals, not everyone can do in-person visits to volunteer. Let's think about our "seasoned" Auxiliary members who still want to contribute but are not able to get out to a meeting or volunteer in person. These members may be able to sew, knit, or crochet and can contribute by making chemo caps, lap size blankets and quilts, pajama pants, walker and wheelchair totes, scarves and caps for the winter months for our homeless veterans. We can also use handmade baby items for those Auxiliaries who hold baby showers for our female veterans. Check with your VA or non-VA hospital activity director to see what their needs are.

Another way for everyone to help our veterans who are in the hospital or CLC (Community Living Center) is making small favors that can be put on their meal tray or if you are able to do patient visits have a small gift to give the veteran. Start saving empty toilet paper tubes, wrapping paper, soft candy and ribbons! In my next bulletin I will have what you can do with them.

It's not too early to plan activities for the coming winter months and Christmas. At your Auxiliary monthly meeting plan for the winter months, including Thanksgiving, and Christmas for our veterans. Don't forget there may be veterans at your local nursing facility. Sometimes we forget about them as we plan for activities at the local VA hospital and CLC. Maybe try a little skit, reading the "Night Before Christmas" with your volunteers playing out the story as one volunteer reads the story. Let's think outside the box!

As promised, I have a little bit more to share with you about how your Auxiliary can be a MASH unit. Each Auxiliary reporting is eligible to get points based on (1) outside-the-box activities, and (2) the most detailed description in your report, (3) how many reports approved, (4) Posts on Hospital page. A 5th way to accumulate points is finding a code word in the Hospital bulletin. The code word will be in bold type. Mention the code word in your report, you can earn extra MASH points! In the report description, type in "The code word is \_\_\_\_\_." The code word idea is to make sure you are reading the Hospital bulletins and having fun along the way. So, when you read the Hospital bulletin at your meeting and you have 10 members present, note that in your report.

That would count as 10 points. And, yes, there will be a prize for the Auxiliaries who become MASH units.

We will be having the Star Raffle Hospital Table for the Fall Conference. We would like each auxiliary and district to donate Gift Cards in the amounts from \$10 to \$25.00. The proceeds go toward the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program. Volunteers are needed to help work at the Hospital table during the conference. If you can help for any length of time or just one hour, you can help your auxiliary chock up some points for the MASH unit program. Your auxiliary will also receive MASH points for gift cards donated.

If you have any questions, **suggestions**, or ideas, let me know.

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