

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Guide Sheet 2025-26

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan

National Theme: From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free
Department Theme: We Don't Know Them All, But We Owe Them All

PROGRAM GOALS

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support – Valentines for Veterans
Women Veterans Health Care – Honors Escort

The Hospital Program is one of the oldest Programs in our organization and it is one of my favorites because we are serving and helping our veterans, which is our mission, as well as supporting our Department President's theme "***We Don't Know Them All, But We Owe Them All.***"

There are so many ways we can serve and help our veterans through the Hospital Program. Sometimes we can keep doing what we usually do, however, it's also fun to think outside the box on how we can serve and support our veterans who are hospitalized or in nursing homes.

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support

We need to work on recruiting volunteers to help in VA, non-VA facilities and nursing homes. Talk to your family and friends about how fun it is to put smiles on the veterans' faces. Don't forget to recruit youth volunteers. Many schools look for ways youth can help in the community. Once we recruit, we need to retain our volunteers, and one way is to recognize their volunteerism with Appreciation certificates and the VFW Auxiliary Hour Service pins.

Valentines for Veterans

Valentines Day is one of those fun holidays for giving and receiving Valentines. This is another great way to include youth as they love to make homemade Valentines. Seek out youth organizations, such as Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls to work with them on making Valentines and even help delivering them to the local VA or nursing homes. Our veterans love to see youth come to visit them.

Women Veterans Health Care

As we are now having more women veterans, it is important to not forget them. At one VA, there is a women's health center, but it is hidden away from the regular clinics, so it is easy to not find them. One idea is donating women's items to their clinic area and the staff can hand them out as the female veterans come for appointments. Make sure you put a label on it from VFW Auxiliary with your post name and contact number.

Honors Escort

Some of Michigan's VA medical facilities have adopted this program as part of the end-of-life protocol for veterans who depart while in their care. It provides an opportunity for the veteran's family, friends and other veterans, as well as the medical staff, to honor the departed

veteran with reverence and respect. We need to promote this program to Michigan VA and non-VA medical facilities.

NATIONAL 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, 2025, to March 31, 2026. Entry form required available on MALTA Member Resources. Citations to be mailed directly to winners from National Headquarters after the 2026 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, 2025, to March 31, 2026. Entry form required available on MALTA Member Resources. Citations to be mailed directly to winners from National Headquarters after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
3. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Entry form required available on MALTA Member Resources. Citations to be mailed directly to winners from National Headquarters after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and Non-VA facilities).
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that were the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veteran patients. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Hospital Chairman by March 31, 2026. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW National Convention.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

- Most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and Non-VA facilities). Must send required National entry form to Department chairman. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best Hospital Program in each membership category. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best overall promotion of Women Veterans' Health Care. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Best overall promotion of educating members and medical facilities on the Honors Escort Program. \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.
- Plaque presented to Michigan's Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year at the 2025 Department Convention.

- Special Award to each Auxiliary member who recruited **one** new Hospital Volunteer.
- Citation to top five (5) Auxiliaries becoming a MASH Auxiliary.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

#1 -10-36	#2 -37-50	#3 -51-68	#4 - 69-84	#5 - 85-98
#6 - 99-115	#7 - 116-139	#8 -140-166	#9 -167-237	#10 -238-OVER

Achievements	Completed	Reported
Report total number of Auxiliary members who volunteer at any VA or non-VA facility (Auxiliary member to be counted one time per year.)		
Total number of hours that Auxiliary members volunteered at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility (Report through the year every time.)		
Total number of hours that Sponsored Volunteers and/or students volunteered under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship and supervision at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility		
Promote, participate or host/co-host with your VFW any activity such as/but not limited to Honor's Escort, National Salute to Veteran Patients- Valentines for Veterans, Veterans Health Care (VHA), Women Veterans Health Care Program		
Total dollar amount spent on all Hospital Program related items and/or projects		
Recruit new ADULT or YOUTH Hospital Volunteers		
Recognize volunteers with Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Certificates and Service Pins		
Total Number of Hours promoting Women Veterans Health Care Programs		
Attend and register at a School of Instruction – District Meeting, Fall Conference or Mid-Winter Conference		
Attend and register at own District meeting		
Report every quarter		

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