



## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Guide Sheet 2023-2024

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan

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***National Theme: Banding Together for our Veterans***

***Department Theme: Our Veterans, The Angels Among Us***

The VFW Auxiliary was established in 1914. The Hospital Program was one of the first programs created. The program provides us with an opportunity to offer smiles, compassion, hope and encouragement to Veteran's confined to medical or nursing facilities. Volunteers bring love and support to Veterans and their families, reducing their fear and loneliness. Remember these men and women who fought for our country and freedom.

Your Auxiliary can support the Hospital Program by donating money through the Department office. You can designate your donation to a specific hospital and/or earmark for specific use. Support all Michigan VA facilities and Veteran's homes by paying the Department Suggested Hospital donation. The Department places the money in the Hospital Fund and sends monthly checks to the VAVS Representatives to purchase what is needed for the patients.

Members can volunteer at any hospital or nursing home. Remember, every nursing home, local hospital and VA medical facility are different in their policies, allowable activities, and screening procedures. Contact volunteer services before solidifying your plans for an activity.

### **Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support**

Medical facilities are slowly allowing visitors and volunteers onsite. Consider joining the team of volunteers at a VA or non-VA medical facility in your area. Due to the shortage of nurses and medical personnel, volunteers are even more critical. Contact volunteer services to find out what positions are available. Some facilities may offer evening positions for those who work full-time.

Don't forget to recognize your hospital volunteers. This is key to retaining and even recruiting volunteers. They want to feel appreciated for their work. Recognize them with certificates, Volunteer Hour Service Pins, and/or gifts. One volunteer from each Auxiliary may be nominated for Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year.

### **Valentines for Veterans**

Share the love we have for our Veterans and service members on Valentine's Day by sending Valentine cards or hosting an event in their honor. It is time to say a heartfelt "Thank you" to the Veterans who are receiving care in Michigan's medical centers, outpatient clinics and nursing homes.

### **Veterans' Health Care & Women Veterans Health Care**

The VA strives to provide ALL Veteran's, regardless of gender, with high-quality primary care, preventative services, and specialty care. Women are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population; yet less than one-third utilize their VA health care benefits. To meet the unique needs of Women Veterans, the VA continues to tailor and develop comprehensive health services. Their privacy, safety and dignity are protected rights.

### **Honors Escort Program**

The Honors Escort Program is an opportunity for the Veteran's family and friends, other Veterans and medical staff to honor the departed Veteran with reverence and respect at the time of their death.

## NATIONAL AWARD 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, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Entry form required available on MALTA Member Resources. Citations to be mailed directly to winners after the National Convention.
2. "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year" plaque awarded to one Auxiliary member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. Entry form required available on MALTA Member Resources. Plaque to be mailed directly to the winner after the 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 after the National Convention.

## NATIONAL AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event that recognizes veterans on non-traditional Holidays.
2. Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that recognizes veterans on non-traditional holidays. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Hospital Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.
3. The Department Hospital Chairman must email national Headquarters by April 30, 2024, at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted and entry form.
4. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
5. Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that host the most outstanding activity and /or event recognizing veterans on non-traditional holidays.
6. The Department Hospital Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Hospital Ambassador by April 30, 2024, for judging.
7. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National convention.

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS

- Best **Hospital Program** in each membership category
  - \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary
- Best Promotion of **Veterans' Health Care (VHA) Women Veterans' Health Care** in each membership category
  - \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary
- Best Promotion of the **Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition**
  - \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary
- Best Promotion educating members and medical facilities on the **Honors Escort Program**
  - \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary
- Best Promotion of **"Valentines for Veterans"**
  - \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary
- Plaque presented to Michigan's Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year at the 2024 Department Convention

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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

<b>Achievements</b>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Reported</b>
Reported 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 throughout 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		
Promoted, participated any of the following activities: Honor’s Escort, National Salute to Veteran Patients-Valentines for Veterans, Veterans Health Care (VHA), Women Veterans Health Care Program		
Hosted/co-hosted with the VFW any of the following activities: Honor’s Escort, National Salute to Veteran Patients-Valentines for Veterans, Veterans Health Care (VHA), Women Veterans Health Care Program		
Total value of money to the “Department Hospital Program” or value of items to any VA or non-VA medical facility		

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