

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY
HOSPITAL BULLETIN
May 2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Hospital Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

Congratulations on being appointed as Hospital Chairman. Valuable hospital volunteer information is located on the National and Department websites. You now have an opportunity to bless many hospitalized Veterans along with those in nursing homes and Veterans homes.

The Hospital program includes VA Medical Centers, Community-based Outpatient Clinics, local hospitals, and nursing homes along with Veterans Homes. The Auxiliary can take credit for volunteering at any of these and donating toiletries, clothing, lap robes, snacks, etc. Monetary donations to VA Medical Facilities and Veterans homes should be made through the Department office and can be earmarked for a particular facility.

Read the guide sheet and let's start working on those goals. The goals are simple. This year, Department President Sara Manke has decided the goals won't include attending a district meeting or school of instruction.

Where can we volunteer?

Members, non-members, and youth can volunteer in many different types of facilities under this program:

- Local hospitals
- Veterans' homes
- Nursing homes
- Domiciliaries
- VA medical facilities and VA clinics

What can we do?

Volunteer opportunities are based on the facility where you are volunteering. Some facilities will have a volunteer program in place with specific jobs, events and needs. Many facilities will have varying types of opportunities to suit different ages and abilities. Be sure you follow all the guidelines given by the facility.

Don't forget the Star Raffle at the Department Convention. Donate gift cards \$5-\$25.

Hospital Bulletin

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New volunteers are needed every day across the country. Volunteers offset millions of dollars in expenses in health care. They help create a friendly and caring atmosphere no matter where they volunteer. For more information about being a volunteer, how to handle a Department Hospital Fund and other topics about this program, download the Hospital Program Guide and VAVS guide in MALTA Member Resources.

Consider doing a Hospital Volunteer sign up at your next Auxiliary Business meeting. You may have a member just sitting there waiting to be asked.

VFW Auxiliary members can participate in projects voted on and accepted by the Auxiliary. Members can make items such as lap robes, hats, quilts, cards, etc. Auxiliaries can donate items or money to hospitals and homes. Do a fundraiser for the Department Hospital program or pay your suggested hospital donations. Suggested donation sheets will be loaded on the Department website.

Women Veterans Health Care

Women have served the U.S. military since the American Revolution. They served in combat, disguised as men during the American Revolution and Civil Wars. They served on the front lines during the World Wars. In 1919 hospitalization and medical care for women who served as Army or Navy nurses during World War I was first authorized. The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the predecessor to Veterans Health Administration, approved the first hospital spaces in 1923. In 2023, VA is celebrating 100 years of providing health care for women Veterans.

Today, more than 1.9 million women Veterans live in America, and more than 600,000 women Veterans receive health care at VA each year. At VA, women Veterans now have access to a full spectrum of comprehensive health and gender-specific care, including fertility services, mental health care, and maternity care and more. Veterans do not have to be disabled or have a service-connected injury to be eligible for care.

Together in Service,

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