



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Bulletin - June/July 2024

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Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan

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

As we come into the summer months, let's look forward to new ways to work on our Hospital programs and think outside the box on how we can accomplish that.

One way could be to find some unique unofficial holidays to use as themes for our hospital work. June 1st, we have Men's Health Month, Wear Blue Day, National Heimlich Maneuver Day, National Eyewear Day, and Hot Air Balloon Day. June 13th is National Career Nurses' Assistants Day. July 3rd is National Stay Out of the Sun Day. Take an unusual, unofficial holiday using that theme for visiting veteran patients, parties at veterans' homes, VA CLC, etc. Or create your own unique theme.

To accomplish these parties and events for our hospitalized and nursing home veterans, we need more volunteers so we need to **RECRUIT**. This is the time to begin your search for new volunteers to have more helping hands to help serve our veterans. This 2024-2025 year we have a very special award to each Auxiliary who recruits five new hospital volunteers. Invite your friends, family, and youth to come along on your hospital visits and show them how much fun and rewarding volunteering is for our Nation's best – our veterans.

After your hospital work, you then need to **REPORT!** Let's not just give a sentence or two, hours and money spent. Just as you think outside the box to utilize new ways to work this program, when writing your report let us know how you came up with the idea, how you planned for it and lots of details on what was easy or difficult about it, and what you might do differently.

Reporting is important, however, just as important is **RECOGNIZING** the Auxiliary brothers and sisters for the hospital work they do. It is important to recruit; however, retaining those volunteers is vital to keep our hospital program going for our veterans. Have a special recognition event, use the Volunteer Appreciation Certificates available on MALTA, keep track of their hours and use the VFW Store to get the Volunteer Hour Service Pins. Recognition is equally important as working the program, getting volunteers and reporting.

Did you know each Auxiliary can be a MASH unit? More details in the next bulletin, so stay tuned.

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

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