

# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary HOSPITAL BULLETIN August 2022

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

Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

*National Theme: Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care*

*Department Theme: Be the Anchor for Our Veterans, Hold Them Steady and Safe*

Our *National Theme: Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care* perfectly fits for the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program!

## COMMUNICATION

Communication with Auxiliary members and non-members on what we do for our hospitalized Veterans is critical to our success. Social media is a GREAT way of communicating with everyone.

Post pictures of what you do on your Auxiliary Facebook page and on the Department page (Hospital-Michigan). Announce your upcoming Hospital Program events and items that are needed. This way you reach out to the community. You may be surprised at the responses you receive. Many people would like to help but don't know what to do or where to begin.

Soon Malta Hospital Resources will be updated with 2022-2023 information. There you will find ideas on activities and even how to recognize your hospital volunteers. Details on this year's National and Department Hospital awards will also be available on [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org).

Telling others what we do for our hospitalized Veterans may also spark interest in their becoming a hospital volunteer. Volunteering can be done at a VA facility, Veterans Home, VA community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC), local hospital, nursing home, health clinic or skilled nursing center. Recruiting is important and ANY member could earn recruiter awards.

To all the VAVS Representatives, please provide me with an updated "Needs List" for your facility/home. To increase communication, we want to post them to the department website. The needs of our Veterans and facilities change. So, let's keep those lists up-to-date so that facilities/homes get the items they need quickly.

## INNOVATION in SERVING VETERANS

Start planning today your creative projects for our hospitalized Veterans and those in rehabilitation and long-term care facilities. Make sure to check with the facility/home before finalizing your plans. They may even have a suggestion for you. Use your imagination and have fun!

After completing each project, be sure to report all the details (who, what, when, where, and how much (\$, hours, members, etc.) through the Department's online reporting system or send a hard copy report directly to me. Remember, awards are available.

## **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT and RECOGNITION**

Being a volunteer is a very humbling experience. I cannot think of one person who volunteers for the accolades or the pay (Ha! Ha! You earn zero dollars). We stress volunteer recognition because it is important volunteers feel appreciated.

An individual or group/family does not need to belong to the VFW Auxiliary to be a volunteer sponsored by your Auxiliary. Upon acceptance, the volunteer is governed by the same ethics and rules prescribed for members. More information is found in National's Hospital Guide. A link is on the Department website under PROGRAMS, then click on the Hospital tab.

## **STAR RAFFLE**

This is a great fundraiser for our Hospital program and lots of fun for participants. Auxiliaries are urged to donate to this raffle at least once during the year. Gift card values should range from \$5 to \$25 and be redeemable at any state-wide store, restaurant, gas station, etc.

The Hospital Table at Fall Conference will be manned for the STAR Raffle from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday (or as long as we have gift cards – we always run out).

## **REPORTING**

- Instead of reporting you or your Auxiliary did something for an Auxiliary member, please report that you did it for a **Veteran's family member**. This holds true for ALL chairmanships.
- If a project covers more than one chairmanship, split the hours, miles, and money/value between them. PLEASE DO NOT DOUBLE DIP! (i.e. youth making cards for hospitalized Veterans split between Hospital and Youth or attend a District meeting should be split between all your chairmanships).
- It is important to use the online reporting system whenever possible. However, the hard copy Quarterly Report Form can be found under RESOURCES and then click on the President and Secretary tab. If you do not have access, call me and I will mail you forms.

Together in Service,

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