

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary HOSPITAL BULLETIN September 2022

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

AWARDS

As you plan your program for the year, please keep in mind the National and Department awards available to your Auxiliary and members. Check the Hospital Guide Sheet for the criteria and use the National Entry Form when required. 2023 Entry forms will be available soon on the Department website.

INNOVATION in SERVING VETERANS

When reporting your innovative activities, be sure to use the specific activity for INNOVATION.

Here are a couple ideas:

- Contact kid's summer or day camps in your area to see if the children could make greeting cards for hospitalized Veterans and those in nursing homes. Provide the materials and perhaps even a prize for the most creative card. (Credit can be split between Hospital and Youth.)
- Contact churches and youth groups to see if they would collect new personal care items for hospitalized Veterans. Get the community involved. Then deliver the items to a nearby VA or non-VA hospital or nursing home. You could even (with permission) place collection boxes in local stores. Make sure the box is clearly marked with a list of new items needed and where they will be taken.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT and RECOGNITION

Here are some suggestions to help you recruit and keep your Hospital volunteers:

- At your auxiliary meeting, have a sign-up sheet for events. Let your members know you need help.
- Announce upcoming events on Facebook, by email or even by phoning/texting members who may want to volunteer. Ask how each person would like to receive communications.
- Be specific about what volunteers will be doing at your event and include a time commitment.
- If someone says "no" to your first request for help, be sure to ask again.

FALL CONFERENCE

Hope to see you in Flint at the Hospital presentation on Saturday, October 1st to be held during our Fall Conference. Join us and learn more about this year's program.

STAR RAFFLE

Just a quick reminder – We need Gift cards. Values should range from \$5 to \$25 and be redeemable at any state-wide store, restaurant, gas station, etc.

REPORTING

- In the New Reporting system, each Hospital Activity should be reported separately as a new report. The exceptions are if you are a hospital volunteer, you may report the summary of volunteer days. In the description, please include the number of times you volunteered or the actual dates.
- To all VAVS Representatives and Deputies, please report your Volunteer Hours along with any non-reimbursed mileage (for shopping, delivering, etc.) so your Auxiliary gets the credit.
- If hours for a volunteer have already been reported, please type zero in the member count on all subsequent reports for that member until April 20, 2023.
- If you forgot to report an activity that occurred in previous months (April 21, 2022 forward), you can report it in the current quarter; however, it will record under the quarter it was reported.

CANCER GRANTS

While there is no longer an Auxiliary Cancer Program, Cancer Grants are an important benefit of membership. Cancer Grants are available to any member who is in good standing for at least a year. Up to two grants are available during a member's lifetime.

It is confidential in that an updated, fillable CANCER GRANT form is available on the National website. A member can print it, have their doctor complete the medical portion, and send the form directly to National.

VAVS Representatives, please let me know about upcoming events so they can be posted to the Hospital Facebook page and/or in my bulletins. Include a list of items you need donated.

Together in Service,

Mariann Hamann
810 Sherbourne Street
Inkster, Michigan 48141
Ph: 313-378-8103
Email: mhamann61547@hotmail.com