



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Guide Sheet 2022-2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan

National Theme: Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care

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

Program Goals

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support

Valentines for Veterans

Women Veterans Health Care

Honors Escort Program

Innovation in Serving Veterans

The Hospital Program is one of the first adopted by the VFW Auxiliary since the organization's formation in 1914. It provides us with an opportunity to offer smiles, compassion, hope and encouragement to Veterans confined to medical or nursing facilities. Support our Department President's theme, ***Be an Anchor for our Veterans Hold them Steady and Safe*** by becoming a Hospital Volunteer. Volunteers bring love and support to Veterans and their families, reducing their fear and loneliness. Give back to the men and women who have served our country.

Your Auxiliary can support the Hospital Program by donating money through the Department Office. Support all Michigan VA facilities and Veterans' homes by paying the Department Suggested Hospital donation. You can also earmark special donations for a particular VA facility or Veterans' home.

Remember, every nursing home, local hospital and VA medical facility are different in their policies, allowable activities, and screening procedures. Find out from them what is possible before solidifying your plans for an activity.

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support

During the last two years, medical facilities had to shut down visitors and onsite volunteering due to COVID-19 and its variants. Facilities are slowly beginning to open their doors to volunteers. Consider joining the team of volunteers at a VA or non-VA medical facility in your area.

With the current shortage of nurses and medical personnel, volunteers are even more critical. Recruit family, friends, neighbors, and people in your community to become volunteers. New adult or youth volunteers can be auxiliary members or non-members sponsored by your Auxiliary.

Volunteer Recognition is key to retaining and even recruiting volunteers. At an auxiliary meeting or a special recognition event, present Volunteer Appreciation Certificates, Volunteer Hour Service Pins, and/or gifts. One member volunteer from each Auxiliary may be nominated as Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year.



Valentines for Veterans



Do you have a **heart** for Veterans? The week of Valentine's Day (February 14) is "National Salute to Veteran Patients Week". It is a time to say a **heartfelt** "Thank You" to the thousands of Veterans who are receiving care in Michigan's medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes.

Honor Veteran patients on Holidays.

EVERY day is the perfect day to honor our Veteran patients! Many Veterans need something to brighten their day, especially those without family coming to visit on holidays. Think "out of the box"! Why not plan an activity for Easter, Ground Hog Day, 1st Day of Summer, Super Bowl Sunday, Sweetest Day, Patriot Day, or POW-MIA Day?

Women Veterans Health Care

The VA strives to provide ALL Veterans, regardless of gender, with high-quality primary care, preventative services, and specialty, clinical care. Women are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population; yet less than one-third use their earned 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.

“Women Veterans Day: She Served, She Sacrificed. She Deserves”. Start the year off right by planning an event or activity for the June occasion.

Honors Escort Program

Some of Michigan’s VA medical facilities have already adopted this program as part of the end-of-life protocol for Veterans who depart while in their care. It provides an opportunity for the Veteran’s family and friends, other Veterans, and medical staff to honor the departed Veteran with reverence and respect.

We need to promote this program to Michigan VA and non-VA facilities. The Honors Escort Program may differ based on the facility’s resources.

Innovation in Serving Veterans

Our lives changed as a result of the pandemic. We must look for new, creative ways to serve our Veterans in hospitals, nursing home and Veterans receiving outpatient medical care. Also, Veteran patients would appreciate a change through innovative ways of recognition for their service and for their entertainment. Be creative and keep in mind our National President Jane’s theme: **Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care.**

NATIONAL AWARD FOR MEMBERS

- Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.
- “Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year” plaque awarded to one member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.
- Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

NOTE: Member entries are due to Department Hospital Chairmen by March 31, 2023.

NATIONAL AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES

- Citation to every Auxiliary demonstrates an innovative method to serve hospitalized Veterans. Criteria and entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Hospital Chairman by March 31, 2023. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most innovative method to serve hospitalized Veterans. Awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, AZ.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

- ✓ Best **Hospital Program** in each membership category
\$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary; Citation to the Chairman
- ✓ **Most Innovative Method of Serving Hospitalized Veterans** in each membership category
\$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary; Citation to the Chairman
- ✓ Best Promotion of **Women Veterans’ Health Care** in each membership category
\$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary; Citation to the Chairman.

- ✓ Best Overall Promotion of the **Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition**
\$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary; Citation to the Chairman.
- ✓ Best Overall Promotion of educating members and medical facilities on the **Honors Escort Program**
\$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary; Citation to the Chairman.
- ✓ Best Overall Promotion of **“Valentines for Veterans”**
\$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary; Citation to the Chairman.
- ✓ Plaque presented to Michigan’s **OUTSTANDING HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** at the 2023 Department Convention
- ✓ Special Citation to **each Auxiliary who nominates an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer** of the Year
- ✓ Special Citation to **each Auxiliary who submits a National Entry Form for their Most Innovative Method of Serving Veterans**
- ✓ Special Citation to each Auxiliary who recruited at least one **new Hospital volunteer**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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

Achievements	Completed	Reported
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 or hosted/co-hosted 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 (Report whether done with/without your VFW Post)		
Donated money to the Department Hospital Program or items to any VA or non-VA medical facility		
Sponsored or conducted an event or activity in any VA or non-VA medical facility		
Demonstrated an “Innovative Method of Serving Hospitalized Veterans”		
Recruited new ADULT Hospital Volunteers		
Recruited new YOUTH Hospital Volunteers		
Recognized volunteers with Hospital Volunteer Appreciation Certificates and Service Pins		
Chairman attended a School of Instruction – Sunday 2022 Convention Training, District Meeting, Fall Conference or Mid-Winter Conference		
Chairman attended their own District Meeting		
Reported every quarter		

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