

HOSPITAL PROGRAM & VAVS 2026-2027

Program Goals:

*Volunteer Recruitment & Recognition * VAVS (CDCE)

* Women Veterans Health Care * Honors Escort

Department President Theme

“Growing Stronger for our Veterans”

National President Theme

“Serving America’s Heroes”

The Hospital Program is one of the first adopted Programs in the Auxiliary, dating back to 1914. This program is about giving ourselves to our Veterans. So many Veterans sustain life long injuries and illnesses while in the service of our country. They suffer every day. What we can do in the Auxiliary is recognize them, let them know they are not forgotten. We can share ourselves with the Veterans and their families, by showing compassion, kindness, and hope. Every Auxiliary member can participate by volunteering at a facility or making things and sending them. By providing happiness to our Veterans through creative and interactive events is a very rewarding experience . At your Auxiliary meeting, share ideas of how to help with their needs. Remember, Veteran hospitals, Domiciliaries, and nursing homes are more than brick buildings. They are the home of a Veteran.

We need to remember the families of our Veterans and help with food, clothing and whatever else they may need. Perhaps Participate in programs to help veteran patients with PTSD

Did you know that Women Veterans comprise 15%-18% active and reserve duty. Helping them transition back to civilian life is very important. We can help at our VA facility to ensure women veterans have a VA that is ready and able to care for them when they transition back to civilian life. There is information at benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-woman.asp.

You can always use more volunteers to assist with our Veterans. Have an auxiliary hospital volunteer recruitment month. Ask your local VA facility or nursing home representative to visit your meeting to explain the importance of human interaction and healing. Your volunteers can be students at least 14 years old, or sponsored volunteers such as friends, neighbors, and family members. Incentives, like awards for volunteer hours, or a contest for creativity are encouraging. Recognize for volunteers for their hours volunteered and exceptional creativity.

Final Salute, or Final Escort for a Veteran:

This provides the a dignified remembrance of a Veterans service. A procession within a hospital or nursing home with other Veterans and staff lining the hallways as the deceased veteran is moved.

Also consider participating in the final ceremony with traditions such as a flag presentation and the playing of Taps.

We will be holding a Christmas in October for our Veterans. The money will go towards helping our Veterans have a great Christmas. All donation must be sent to the Dept. Treasurer by October 31, 2026. This is part of the Circle of Champions Criteria

Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) Representatives and Deputies represent our Auxiliaries at the VA. Our Department President appoints the VAVS Representatives. They communicate with the VA and keep us informed of activities at the facilities we can assist with. Communicate to the Auxiliaries the needs requested by the VA for clothing and food. The Auxiliary Hospital Chairman can coordinate with the Representative or Deputy for up-to-date information. VAVS or CDCE, Center for Development and Civic Engagement, works to accommodate veteran patient needs after medical care. It is a great opportunity to assist veterans through compassion, caring, and comfort.

This year let's make a huge difference in the lives of our Veteran patients by spending a few hours a week with them. Simple acts like reading, playing a game, or simply sitting outside with them and letting them talk. Connect with our veterans and let them know they are not forgotten.

DEPARTMENT MEMBER AWARDS

1. A citation and monetary award will be given to one Auxiliary member in each membership group who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027. Required entry form is available on the Department website under Programs – Hospital or in MALTA under Resources. Entry form needs to be mailed to the Department Hospital chairman.
2. One Special award for the most “Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of Year”. Required entry form is available on the Department website under Programs – Hospital or in MALTA under Resources. Entry form needs to be mailed to the Department Hospital chairman by March 31, 2027.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS AUXILIARY

3. Citation and monetary award to one Auxiliary in each membership group for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in the hospitals. Entry form needs to be mailed to the Department Hospital chairman by April 15, 2027. Entry form is available on the Department website under Programs – Hospital or in MALTA under Resources.

NATIONAL MEMBER AWARDS

1. Citation to one Auxiliary member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027. Required entry form is available on the Department website under Programs – Hospital or in MALTA under Resources. Entry form needs to be mailed to the Department Hospital chairman. Citations will be mailed directly to winners from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 National Convention.
2. “Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of Year” plaques awarded to one Auxiliary member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital volunteers from July 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027. Required entry form is available on the Department website under Programs – Hospital or in MALTA under Resources. Plaque will be mailed directly to winners from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 National Convention. Deadline is March 31, 2027 and must be mailed to Department Chairman

3. Citation to the “Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year” in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Required entry form is available on the Department website under Programs – Hospital or in MALTA under Resources. Citations will be mailed directly to winners from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 National Convention. Deadline is March 31, 2027 and must be mailed to Department Chairman

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in the hospitals. Entry form needs to be mailed to the Department Hospital chairman by April 15, 2027. Entry form is available on the Department website under Programs – Hospital or in MALTA under Resources.



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