

Hospital Bulletin #1

Lori Nettles, Chairman

Welcome to a new year of hospital work as we “Work together to keep the home fires burning”.

Congratulations to all the Hospital Chairman, I am looking forward to making this a great year as we give back to those Veterans that have given so much to us.

We are so thankful that we can be in our VA's as well as nursing homes so that we can continue to bring smiles to our Veterans. I wish to thank all the VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) representatives for all the work that you continue to do to. I look forward to working with each of you this year. Please remember to send me a monthly report with a copy to Cindy Byrkey.

One of the first things that I would like to ask each Auxiliary to do is pay their hospital commitment of \$3.00 per member. This money will ensure that we can continue to support our veterans in all our facilities. Please send your money to Department Treasurer Cindy as soon as possible. If you are unable to send the full amount now, please send what you can now and the rest later. We had 13 Auxiliaries that did not pay any portion of their commitment last year for a loss of \$4140.00. So, you can see why this is such an important thing to do. As the money received is used to support all our Veterans in our VA facilities and Nursing Home.

As you plan things to do for hospital this year, I would encourage you to look for different ways that you can support the hospital and nursing homes. National is asking us to help hospitalized veterans “see the light from the beacon of the lighthouse” and to remind them that we are here for them. We can do this by sending cards, participating in local events, visiting veterans in VA's and local nursing homes and so much more. I look forward to hearing about what you come up with.

Remember you can have nonmembers volunteer alongside you. This would be a great way to let people in your community know what we do. You as well as the nonmember can earn Hospital Volunteer Service pins. Make sure to keep track of your VA and Non-VA Hours for the pins.

Also please remember your fellow Auxiliary members that may be in the hospital, nursing home or other facilities. Please keep them engaged and involved in your Auxiliary. You can do this by visiting them, bringing them a copy of your newsletter or other events of the Auxiliary. Try and come up with creative ways to keep them involved. If they can still participate but not attend meetings, then encourage them to do so in any way possible. This is so important to them and to your Auxiliary.

Also, I would encourage each of the Auxiliaries to do something for Women's Veteran's Health as well as the Honors Escort Program. Both are wonderful programs that we need to support.

We will again have the basket raffles at Midwinter and Convention. Even numbered Districts at Midwinter and Odd numbers Districts at Convention.

Thank you for all that each of you do for our Veterans in our VA's and Nursing Homes. Nothing is too small to make a difference. Let's make this a great year supporting our Veterans in all our facilities and remember that “From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans who keep us Free” will allow us to continue “Working together to keep the home fires burning.

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