

Hospital Program

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.

As you plan things to do for the hospital program this year, I would like to encourage you to think outside of the box and come up with new ways to help our veterans. Some Auxiliaries do the same project or projects every year. Please remember that some of our veterans have remained in facilities for many years. Reach out to your members that are no longer able to attend meetings. They may be able to knit or crochet or be able to write letters or cards to the facilities. Anyway, we can keep them engaged and participating is a wonderful thing.

Our National Ambassador has challenged us to think outside the box and come up with new ways to help and entertain our Veterans. She is encouraging us to volunteer to do a movie night or another event that would encourage all members of the facility to be able to participate and enjoy.

I look forward to hearing what you come up.

I have updated the Hospital Facebook hospital page. This is another avenue to share ideas and events. Please share what you are doing so this can also be shared with our membership. Also please make sure to check the department website periodically for any updates as this is where almost everything will be available to you.

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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Hospital Chairman
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Program Goals

- **Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support**

The Hospital Program has been in existence for 100-plus years and is one of the oldest programs in the VFW Auxiliary. There are so many ways that we can support the Hospital program. You can volunteer in a local Nursing Home or VA, help with fundraising to support the many programs. Remember you can send gift cards or other needed items to help support the Veterans in all our facilities.



New volunteers are needed every day. Volunteers offset millions of dollars in expenses in health care, while helping create a caring and friendly atmosphere. Volunteers are needed now more than ever. If you know of someone who might be interested in volunteering, help them find ways that will work for them.

Remember that volunteers are not limited to only Auxiliary members. Volunteers can be nonmembers and or students as well. This is a great way to let people in your community know what we do. You as well as the nonmembers can earn Hospital Volunteer Service Pins.

Contact your local facility and see what is needed or what they might like to do for their residents. They may want someone to sit and visit with a resident or read to them. They may want you to help in putting together some type of event.

Think out of the box and find ways that you or nonmembers can do to support the facilities.

Make sure to do public recognition of your volunteers and thank them for what they do.

For more information on the hospital and other topics on the program download the Hospital Program Guide from our Department Website.

- **Valentines for Veterans**



What better way to honor and show the care that we have for our Veterans by sending them handmade and or store-bought cards not only on Valentine's Day but all year long.

You could also hold a party or recognition event for them if the facility allows it. Don't forget to include a local school and or community members to show compassion and care for our Veterans and service members.

- **Women Veterans Health Care**



Women have served our country for generations. Our VA Facilities are now offering comprehensive health services that tailor directly to women's health.

I would encourage you to find out what special needs these programs have so your Auxiliary can help them.

- **Honors Escort**



Honors Escort programs gives an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful way at the hour of death. It allows the family, fellow residents, other Veterans, and staff to participate in a reverent display for the Veteran at the time of their passing.

Reach out to administrators at your local facilities and help them to understand the importance of this program. You can help them in setting up an Honors Escort program and help connect them to those who can give them the most assistance or answer questions.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Member Awards

- 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, 2025, to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available on our Department Website and on MALTA Member Resources. Winners will be announced, and awards will be presented at the 2026 National Convention in Reno, Nevada.
- “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, 2025, to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available on our Department Website and MALTA Member Resources. Winners will be announced, and awards will be presented at the 2026 National Convention in Reno, Nevada.
- Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions Entry form (required) available on our Department Website and MALTA Member Resources. Citations to be mailed directly to winners after the National Convention.

Awards for Auxiliaries

Most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to Veterans in hospitals. (VA and non-VA facilities).

- Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities).

Entry form (required) available on our Department Website and MALTA Member Resources.

The Department Hospital Chairman must send a copy of all submitted entry forms to National Headquarters by April 30, 2026.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.