



SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION 2026 -2027



Hello Everyone,

My name is Emily Arnold and I'm your 2026-2027 Department of Washington Chaplin and your Department of Washington Auxiliary Hospital Program Chairman.

Did you know that the VFW Auxiliary has supported hospitalized and nursing home veterans for over 100 years? That the hospital program is one of the oldest programs in our organization.

This years Hospital Ambassador is Debbie Sturgis, she reminds us of the Veterans Health Administration mission, **“Honor America’s veterans by providing Exceptional healthcare that improves their health and well-being.”** Debbie Sturgis emphasizes in the National Program book that we support this mission of VA hospital's nursing home and clinics. Volunteers are needed to perform a wide range of duties, some work with patients directly, others provide assistance to professional staff, some simply serve coffee and provide companionship to veteran patients, others donate what they can to hospital programs / events, and others still help with fund raising throughout the year.

As YOUR 2026-2027 Department of Washington Auxiliary Hospital Program Chairman. My goal is to enlighten and encourage different ways in which you can participate and support the hospital programs near you.

Did You Know?

- VAVS stands for Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS). Traditionally this is how we referred to our representatives who worked directly in the hospitals and nursing facilities around the state. The VAVS acronym is changing to CDCE.

- CDCE stands for Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) which is the volunteer program run by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (formerly known as VAVS). In this year of transition you will see references to both VAVS and CDCE.
- The VFW Auxiliary was formed in 1914. It was established to support veterans and their families, honoring the sacrifices made by those who served in the military.
- It took six years before the VFW Auxiliary organization received its charter and was recognized officially in 1920.
- During WW1 Auxiliary volunteers rolled bandages, served meals, assisting anywhere they were needed.
- VFW Auxiliary members have been working to meet the needs of hospitalized veterans in VA Medical Centers, VA Nursing Homes, other medical facilities as well as any public or private hospital, nursing facility, group home, or rehab center since the organization's inception.
- Today the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program continues to serve where needed and holds a very important role as we provide care and compassion for our veterans helping them feel included and appreciated. Letting veterans know they are not forgotten!
- The VFW Auxiliary members alone volunteer more than 400,000 hours annually. That one in 15 members volunteer through the Hospital Programs., (that is 575 Auxiliary members in the state of WA, mind you these are only those who log their hours!).
- Be sure to contact your Auxiliary hospital chairmen who directly work with the VAVS / CDCE Representatives at a VA medical facilities near you, they are your first line for information. Your hospital chairmen know what hospital directors and/or their volunteer coordinators need and how you can help.
- Tell your hospital chairmen about any private facilities near you. Ask to speak with the Executive Directors (ED's) at any private facility. Don't be afraid to ask: Do you have any veterans or veteran family members staying here? Will you accept donations? What would you like more of? What do you need? How can we help?

Our national ambassador has highlighted that she wants us to remember to honor and celebrate veterans on traditional holidays as well as non-traditional ones. A few ways that your auxiliary could do this is by sending cards. A good way to get our youth involved, especially elementary students, is to have them

make some cards. You may be surprised how much this small act puts a smile on someone's face. Imagine getting a card that said "Happy donut day." Depending on the holiday, treats or tray favors are always a welcome surprise.

Debbie Sturgis goes on to mention some of the non-traditional holidays such as National Popcorn Day January 19th, National Hug a GI Day March 4th, and National Donut Day June 2nd. Whatever you choose to do please be sure to check with the hospital chairmen first. I will post a list of chairmen on the department hospital program page soon.

As I mentioned in Bulletin 1, I'm going to list a few ideas and ways that your auxiliary can support hospitals and nursing homes. Here's a short list of some ideas that you can donate to veterans in hospitals and nursing homes.

Veterans Homes, possible donations

Bingo prizes, or small gifts
Clocks for residents rooms – Larger display size
Envelopes & Stamps for residents to mail letters
Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, Coast Guard baseball caps
Electric razors (small, hand held & Pen type)
Body wash unscented
Coffee cups with lids and handles
Magnified reading glasses 4, 5 and 6 power
Eye shades for sleeping
Birthday cards or prizes
Individually packaged snack food items for lunches
Candy Bars (with and without sugar, for diabetic options)
Cookies (with and without sugar, for diabetic options)
Boxes of Kleenex (not travel packs)
Stick Deodorant unscented when possible
Dove, Ivory, Irish Spring, Lever or Dial soap bars

There are plenty of opportunities to donate, help or volunteer at one of the VA hospitals or at nursing homes near you.

Remember:

Please pay your hospital pledge of \$3.00 per member. This is the only way our program stays afloat! Our hospital chairmen coordinate with the CDCE representatives and use this money to provide additional perks for veterans in the hospitals and homes. This can be for prizes for games, snacks,

communal microwaves or TVs. They can purchase clothes and hygiene products for men and women to use at the hospital or at home. Our chairmen keep track of monies spent for these projects, cards, gifts etc. and report on those expenses each month.

Once again, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of paying your \$3.00 obligations at the beginning of the year:

- Can YOUR Auxiliary donate more than \$3.00 per member? Of course they can!

Some additional help needed -

- As in the past Even numbered Auxiliaries please donate a Basket for Mid-Winter Conference.
- Odd numbered Auxiliaries please donate a Basket for June Convention.
- Each Auxiliary needs to donate three to five gift cards, valued between \$5.00 - \$25.00 these will be used as game prizes.

Don't forget to please be generous!

"We serve Veterans that are in VA Hospitals, VA Nursing Homes, as well as any public or private hospital, nursing facility, group home, or rehab center."

Yours In Service,

Emily Arnold

Dept. Chaplin 2026 -2027

Dept. Hospital Chairman 2026 – 2027

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Year End Report 2026-2027

SUBMIT TO: BY APRIL 15, 2027

This form is for statical purposes and determination of awards at the end of year convention.

Auxiliary Name: _____ Auxiliary #: _____ Number of Members: _____

1. Number of Auxiliary Members that volunteered in <u>ANY</u> VA and/or non-VA medical facility. (Auxiliary member to be counted only once per year.)	# _____
2. Total Number of hours that Auxiliary members volunteered at any VA and/or non -VA medical facility.	# _____
3. Total number of hours that Sponsored Volunteers and/or student volunteered under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship and supervision at any VA and/or non-VA facility.	# _____
4. * Did your Auxiliary promote, host or co-host any activity with the Post at any VA and/or non-VA facility. (This does include helping in an activity or program at the facility.	YES____ NO____
5. Total dollar amount spent on all Hospital Program related items and/or projects. Include your Hospital Pledge and additional donations.	\$ _____
6. *Did your Auxiliary do anything fun or special for a traditional or non-traditional holiday at a VA hospital or a nursing facility?	YES____ NO____

*Please give expanded details for your answers to numbers 4 and 6 on a separate sheet of paper.

Signed AUX Chair: _____ AUX President: _____

Chair Email: _____

Chair Phone Number: _____

SEND TO –

DEPT OF WA HOSP. CHAIR, Emily Arnold, 17 Rustemeyer Rd. #19 , Aberdeen, WA 98520

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Sign Up Sheet For Auxiliaries

I would like to volunteer for the hospital program!

Name

Phone

Interested In

[illegible]