

Community Service



DIRECTOR

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Today, Americans of all ages and abilities are donating their time and talents to schools, churches and hospitals in an effort to improve their communities and serve a purpose greater than themselves.

Volunteering is a necessary aspect of meeting many of the needs facing our communities, and with guidance, there is no limit to what neighbors can achieve together. *It's Time for America's Military Heroes*, and what better way to convey this message than in our communities. As members of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW, we have the opportunity and obligation to place our military heroes in the forefront of our communities. Through our work, we are reminding our neighbors of the privileges these heroes have provided for us, and thus, we become more visible in our communities as an organization in which eligible women will want to participate.

Along with all the projects your Post and Auxiliary will participate in, there is one you might consider doing as a joint venture: mentoring. Volunteer at your local school to help those students who need extra help in reading, writing or math. Some schools also call this program Foster Grandparents.

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

The Veterans History Project is vital to keeping the stories of our country's heroes alive. Legislation began the process of creating living histories of America's war veterans. Public Law 106-380, enacted October 27, 2000,

called upon the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to develop a program that collects and preserves audio and videotaped oral histories of war veterans, and we have been invited to participate. An online kit has been prepared to assist you with this task; you can call 1-888-371-5848 or go online to www.loc.gov/vets.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Make a Difference Day, October 24, 2009 - This is the most all-encompassing national day of helping others. Make a Difference Day, always held the 4th Saturday in October, is a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Anyone young or old, individuals and groups, can carry out a volunteer project to help others on this day. It might be as ambitious as collecting a truckload of clothing or food for the homeless or community pantry. It can be as personal as spending an afternoon helping one of our American heroes. For ideas, go to www.usaweekend.com/diffday.

REMINDER: All community service projects must be approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the minutes prior to doing the projects. No individual participation can be counted as Community Service. It is so very important that each Auxiliary works with its Post in reporting the number of hours and actual dollars spent (from Auxiliary Treasury) on each project to the VFW Department Chairmen.

RESOURCES:

www.vfw.org

www.vfwdepartmentresources.org

(to print off VFW program material)

Checkpoint Newsletter

(subscribe through VFW Headquarters)

Ladies Auxiliary VFW Supply Catalog

www.volunteermatch.org

www.usaweekend.com/diffday

Local media: newspapers, television, radio

Veterans History Project: 1-888-371-5848

www.loc.gov/vets

AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:

For each program award, \$25 will go to the first-place Department and a keepsake to the Chairman. Second-place Department will receive \$15 and a citation to the Chairman.

1. *Citation to each Department Chairman with at least 80% participation by Auxiliaries.
2. Award to the Department with the most unique promotion of the Veterans History Project.
3. Award to the Department with the most unique promotion for Make a Difference Day.
4. Outstanding Performance Award in each Membership Group based on criteria on Page 1.

AWARD FOR THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN:

“It’s Time For America’s Military Heroes” Plate to the National Chairman based on quality and timeliness of material.

***NOTE: Winners will be published in the *Year-End Officers’ & Directors’ Report* and will be mailed to the 2009-2010 Department President for distribution.**

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