

# Hospital & VAVS



## DIRECTOR

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### “IT’S TIME FOR AMERICA’S MILITARY HEROES”

Once upon a *Time*, a brand new nation came into being. It became the United States of America. In due *Time*, our nation needed to defend itself and later on help defend others. We’ve been blessed with those who have answered that call. ***They are our veterans.*** Will this be the year that we take the *Time* to not only let our veterans know we are thankful for their sacrifices, but that we will take the *Time* to put this thankfulness into action? *Time* sits so heavy on those who have so little hope, but you can be that hope when you support our veterans by giving your *Time* to them. There are some things that only family, loved ones or volunteers can bring to our hospitalized veterans. If you reach out, there will be more than one person benefitting. When you give, you also receive.

Volunteer hospital work became the second national program adopted by the Ladies Auxiliary VFW in 1928. Over the years, we have seen many military service personnel return from foreign battles, seeking treatment in VA medical centers. Today, as in the past, our volunteers continue to be dedicated to serving these individuals and showing that their sacrifices are not forgotten. I encourage all of you to volunteer and get others to participate with you. You can bring hope to all in many different medical facilities, and involving the youth would also let our veterans know that all Americans are thankful for all they have done for our freedom and safety.

A great way to cheer up hospitalized veterans is by participating in the *Operation Uplink™* program. Phone cards are provided to Departments, Auxiliaries and Posts. Please go to the Veterans & Family Support Program for more information.

A useful tool in recruiting young people is the *James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship*. Applicants must be under the age of 20, have completed 100 hours of scheduled volunteer service and be nominated by the medical center director. Ask your local VA medical center for details.

*The Outstanding Hospital Volunteer National Award* is given out each year in each membership group. Forms must be completed and sent to me directly by May 15, 2010. The hospital volunteer may be any Auxiliary member who serves as a Ladies Auxiliary VFW volunteer in any of the medical facilities in your Department.

The *Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project* is a therapeutic writing program designed to acknowledge veterans’ experiences and build self-esteem through creative expression and possible publication in the *Veterans’ Voices*, which is published in March, July and October. Ask your VA medical center about it or contact HVWP Headquarters, 5920 Nall, Room 101, Mission, KS 66202 or visit [www.veteransvoices.org](http://www.veteransvoices.org) for information about how to get involved.

The VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) recognizes an Outstanding Adult Volunteer of the Year with an award. Please submit your typed application, not to exceed 300 words, to me by February 1, 2010. I will judge them, submitting one female nomination to the NAC Executive Committee for final judging. The National winners will be announced at the annual NAC meeting held in May 2010.

**The Annual Joint Review (AJR)** is conducted to assess the organization's participation in the VAVS program during the preceding year and to develop goals for the next year. The AJR provides an opportunity for the organization's representatives and the Voluntary Service Program Manager to develop plans that will ensure active participation by the organization in programs for the welfare of veteran patients. The AJR should be done in November, and reports must be received by the national Hospital & VAVS Director no later than January 15, 2010.

**AWARDS FOR VOLUNTEERS:**

- 1. \*Charm to each member recruiting one or more volunteers between July 1, 2009, and May 31, 2010.
- 2. \*Beginning with 150 hours, a pin or pin/bar to each Auxiliary member when she reaches hours as stated in *VAVS & Hospital Volunteer Guide*.
- 3. \*A pin to each sponsored non-member volunteer including youth volunteers who serves a minimum of 100 hours under Auxiliary sponsorship at any hospital.

**AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS & DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:**

For each program award, unless otherwise noted, \$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 for the best overall promotion to recruit regularly-scheduled volunteers.

- 3. Award to the Department for the best overall promotion of the Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project.
- 4. Outstanding Performance Award in each Membership Group based on criteria listed on Page 1.

**SPECIAL AWARDS:**

- 1. **“It’s Time for America’s Military Heroes” Plate** to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer and a citation to the runner-up volunteer in each Membership Group.
- 2. \*Applicant submitted to the NAC by the National Director will receive a plaque and signed picture of the National President.

**AWARD FOR 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 awards will be mailed to the 2009-2010 Department President for distribution.**

**CONFERENCE CHAIRMEN**



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