

VA&R – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

PURPOSE:

- to provide an opportunity for members and non-members to support the needs of our veterans and their families
- to ensure veterans' transition and/or restoration to normally functioning lives

Activities ONE member can do:

- ✓ act as a contact person for the Veteran Service Officer
- ✓ Visit your local senior center or nursing home to inquire if it would be possible to start a “Veterans Voice” roundtable where veterans and those that support veterans can share conversation and stories with the Auxiliary women and junior members
- ✓ if allowed, bring special treats made by the Auxiliary to veterans in nursing homes and senior centers
- ✓ encourage unit members and community members to volunteer at VA medical centers, and to perform field service and home service
- ✓ host and participate in stand down events; invite community members to assist
- ✓ encourage the local Veterans Administration Medical Center to start local VCAF programs.
- ✓ Apply for the Local Veterans Creative Arts Festival/ Creative Arts Workshop Grant to get started with an art festival
- ✓ remind members to visit veterans in hospitals on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and other days

Activities for 2-3 members:

- ❖ act as a contact person for the Veteran Service Officer
- ❖ identify veterans in the community by placing a reply box in local area business establishments with a bright header asking “Are You a US Veteran or Do you Support our Military?”
- ❖ Supply slips of paper where people can complete 2 or 3 simple questions:
 - Are you a US Veteran? If so, do you have any special needs?
 - Would you like to volunteer to help other area veterans?
 - Your name and how can we contact you?
- ❖ develop a relationship with the businesses and urge them to become a community partner to help and support veterans in your area and state

- ❖ encourage the local Veterans Administration Medical Center to start local VCAF programs.
- ❖ apply for the Local Veterans Creative Arts Festival/ Creative Arts Workshop Grant to get started with an art festival
- ❖ remind members to visit veterans in hospitals on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and other days

Activities for the UNIT:

- provide information and guest speakers to members and veterans on the hot issues facing today's veterans-- PTSD, Suicide, Homelessness and delays in VA benefits
- educate Auxiliary members and the community about homeless veterans with information from the County Veterans Service Officer or the homeless coordinator from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- start a Homeless Veteran Grant Fund with poppy monies and donations to build a source for giving financial help to veterans who are in danger of losing their residence or need a little help to acquire a new one.
- host parties and get-togethers at the post inviting all veterans in the community, whether a post/unit member or not
- host and participate in stand down events; invite community members to assist
- encourage the local Veterans Administration Medical Center to start local VCAF programs.
- apply for the Local Veterans Creative Arts Festival/ Creative Arts Workshop Grant to get started with an art festival
- remind members to visit veterans in hospitals on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and other days

Activities to involve JUNIORS:

- ★ visit your local senior center or nursing home to inquire if it would be possible to start a "Veterans Voice" roundtable where veterans and those that support veterans can share conversation and stories with the Auxiliary women and junior members
- ★ if allowed, bring special treats made by the Auxiliary to veterans in nursing homes and senior centers
- ★ identify service projects that are suitable for Junior members