



Hospital Program



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" Look up not down, Look out not in. Look forward not backward and lend a helping hand."

History:

The Hospital Program was one of the first programs which was nationally adopted by the VFW Auxiliary since its inception in 1914. Members of this organization have been volunteering in hospitals and medical facilities for decades. These volunteers have helped to comfort veterans and families as well as put a smile on a veteran's face with visits, cards and small gifts of gratitude. It is our way of thanking veterans for their service to our beautiful country.

It is our way to say, "we appreciate your sacrifice to keep us safe." Don't forget to thank the family who stood behind and beside this soldier helping to give him faith and courage to serve. Let them know we are proud and honored to serve those who have served this country. We will be **Busy as a Bee working together for our veterans!**

Who can serve? Members, Non-members, Youth and Families.

Where can we serve?

Members, non-members, and youth can volunteer in many different types of facilities, domiciliary, both VA and non-VA hospitals and clinics, long-term care and assisted living facilities. Volunteering includes the care of the veteran as well as their family. Volunteering includes giving a family member (or members) a ride to and from where their loved one is cared for.

What can we earn?

Members can earn Hospital Volunteer Service Pins from National for their hours. Chairmen should track total hours (both VA and non-VA) and submit an application for pins. More information along with forms can be obtained from the Department Chairman or in MALTA Member Resources.

Members can also be named an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in their Program Division. Applications are available from the Department Chairman. Non-members can also earn a one-time volunteer pin for 100 hours.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT, RECOGNITION and SUPPORT

New volunteers are needed every day across the country. Volunteers offset millions of dollars in expenses in health care. A few tips for recruiting and keeping volunteers: Monthly signup sheet for regular events at your meeting, emails and phone calls for special events, and public recognition for current volunteers. Find out how each person best communicates, whether by phone, email, Facebook or texting. If someone says "No" to the first invitation, be sure to ask again!

Recruiting both member and non-member community volunteers and engaging them in the work of the Hospital Program is integral to its success. In most medical facilities, an extra hand can help lighten the load for staff and is greatly appreciated. Hospitals and nursing homes are in almost every community and often include veteran residents who do not have spouses or close relatives to assist them.

For more information about being a volunteer, how to handle a Department Hospital Fund and other topics, download the Hospital Program Guide and VAVS Guide in MALTA Member Resources.

CARDS FOR VETERANS

Share the love we have for our veterans and service members during special occasions and holidays. Celebrate Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Memorial and Veterans Days by sending store-bought or handmade cards, hosting a party, recognition event or dinner in their honor. Encourage local schools to participate by making cards and/or posters to show our veterans that they are loved and not forgotten. Fellow members, individuals and youth groups in your community can use their creativity to show compassion for our veterans and service members.

HONORS ESCORT

This program is an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful and open manner. It provides an opportunity for a veteran's family and friends, other veterans and medical facility staff to participate in a display of high regard and reverence for the individual at the time of death.

WOMEN'S VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

Women have served our nation for generations and are the fastest growing group within the veteran population. Comprehensive health services are available and tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Learn about the resources and health care services available and help them receive benefits and services they deserve. Inquire at your local VA clinic or hospital for more information regarding what is available.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

Entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. The Department Chairman must receive completed entry form by March 31, 2027.

- 1) Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 2026 – March 31, 2027. Winners will be announced and citations presented at the 2027 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 2) Hospital Volunteer Recruiter for the Year plaque awarded to one auxiliary member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2026– March 31, 2027. The winner will be announced, and a plaque will be presented to the winner at the 2027 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 3) Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Winners will be announced and citations presented at the 2027 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

- 1) Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to Veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities).

The Chairman must receive a completed entry form by March 31, 2027, for judging. The Department Hospital Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry form to the National Hospital Ambassador by April 30, 2027. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 National Convention.

DEPARTMENT AWARD - Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of Year

A Department Award will be presented at the June Convention 2027 for an Outstanding VFW Auxiliary member who serves as a Hospital Volunteer in any medical facility within the Department of New York. The volunteer must serve from July 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027. VAVS Representatives and Deputies are eligible to be considered as an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer. Volunteer hours for VA and non-VA facilities may be combined for award purposes. Applications must be completed and received by the Department Hospital Chairman no later than April 1, 2027. Contact the Department Hospital Chairman to obtain an application.

“Honoring America’s Heroes” because we stay ***“Busy as a Bee working Together for our Veterans”***

