

Hospital Bulletin #1

Virginia Carman, Chairman

Welcome to a new year of volunteering. This is the first time I have been Department Hospital chairman, but not new to volunteering at the hospital. I have over 2500 hours in the last 12 years at the Seattle VA, received outstanding volunteer for our state in 2012-13, been Auxiliary Hospital chairman for many years and was National Hospital Director in 2001 before climbing the chairs to National President in 2008.

Pay hospital donation

Even though volunteers weren't able to go into the facilities, our VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) representatives have continued to have a presence. Payment of your Department hospital donation of \$3.00 per member should be your first order of business in this new year. That will ensure the VFW Auxiliary can continue with our hospital programs. Send your donation to Department Treasurer Cindy.

Hospital not open for volunteers yet

As I write this, the VA medical facilities are not yet open for volunteers. You don't have to be near a VA or State health facility to be involved in the hospital program. Veterans are hospitalized or in care facilities in every city of our state.

Plan your year out now

The years seem to go by more quickly each year. So, after you pay your hospital obligation think about what else you can do for our Veterans.

- Hospital parties (contact the Hospital Reps, they are listed in the Department Web Site)
- Send extra donations for Christmas and other events the VAVS representative wants to do
- We will again have basket raffles at Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention
 - Even number Districts at Mid-Winter and Odd numbered Districts at Convention
 - Decide on a theme and plan contents
- The week of February 14th is National Salute to hospitalized veterans.
 - Valentines; tray favors, etc.
- Plan how you will recognize volunteers
 - Certificates; Volunteer Service Pins (free from National); Shout out at District meeting
- Something special for Women Veterans Health

Convention report

Thank you to all who came to Department Convention and participated in the raffles and games benefiting the hospital fund. The Duck Pond was a hit. For the duck pond and the raffle, we took in over \$2900 and the grab bags sold out bringing in another \$400 thanks to Ellen Kotilla from AUX 1561 Boyer Daniel, half going to hospital. So the total was \$3147. Here's a big shout out to Shauna Dancer from AUX 7952 Cooks-Erickson, Kirsten Moylan from AUX 10018 Narrows Bridge, and for all their help in making these events a success.

Margie says "Thank you to all the Auxiliaries and Posts that donated a basket/s and gift cards!! Let's keep this momentum going!"

If you have any questions, or I can help with anything, please contact me. My information is in the roster.

Virginia