

**Hospital Presentation  
School of Instruction  
August 14 in Spokane Valley & August 20, 2021 at Skyway**

I am Virginia Carman, this year's Department Hospital Chairman.

The VA Hospitals are not yet open for volunteers, but there are still things we can do.

The most important thing is for all Auxiliaries to pay their hospital donation. It is \$3.00 per member.

We still support each of our VA and State facilities with a representative in each.

There are a total of 5 VA Medical Centers

- American Lake in Tacoma
- Seattle
- Mann-Grandstaff in Spokane
- Vancouver division of the Portland VA
- And Wainwright VA in Walla Walla

Also 3 State Veterans Homes in

- Orting
- Retsil
- And Spokane

Our Representatives continue to work on your behalf doing what they can. Some of those things are:

- Buying and distributing gift cards
- Paying for WIFI systems for the veterans
- Transportation/bus & transit cards
- Personal Care Items
- Underwear
- Activity Books
- Donating cash to different department for special needs.

Some have also purchased larger items like Computer Tablets, popcorn Machines and Bar-b-ques.

Visits by the Department President and Commander are planned and we are still awaiting confirmation from each facility. I hope we can visit in person this year. Donations are given from the Department at that time which come from your hospital donations.

So, you see your donations are more important than ever.

This year the focus will continue to be in recruiting new volunteers. Both adults and youth. Hopefully we can get back into the hospitals soon. Even if we can't for a while, I will be getting wish lists from each facility. Before the wish lists are distributed, you can always send cards and notes for any holiday. The cards have had to be quarantined for two weeks before distribution, so plan ahead and get them to the facilities in plenty of time. You can also do local nursing homes. There are flyers on the National website you can put up inviting hospital volunteers.

Since we can't go the facilities yet, this is a good time to show appreciation to all our Volunteers and there are several ways:

Prepare and present citations to all who volunteer. Certificates are available on the National website under resources where you can just fill in the name and print them.

The National organization provides free of charge a pin honoring volunteers. Any member serving 150 hours or more can receive the pin. That includes VA facilities, State facilities, private nursing homes or working from home, like sewing projects and preparing greeting cards or notes. New pins are available as their hours accumulate. There are also pins available for youth and non-members. The application is on the website and should be sent to me for processing. No documentation is needed.

Or you can also recognize them at your meeting or events.

Awards to members from National include:

1. Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2022 National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.
2. "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year" plaque awarded to one member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Winner will be announced and award presented at the 2022 National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.
3. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2022 National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri

The "Hospital Volunteer" may be any VFW Auxiliary member who serves as a VFW Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer in any medical facility in your Department (VAMC, military, community, children's hospital, nursing home, therapy center or clinic). VAVS Representatives and Deputies are also eligible to be considered as Outstanding Hospital Volunteer. Volunteer hours at VA and non-VA facilities may be combined for award purposes.

We continue to bring attention to Women Veterans Health Care as we do all Veterans. National is looking for us to host or participate in an event for Women Veterans Health.

There is something new that I need your help with. It is called Honors Escort Program. That is a ceremony at the passing of a Veteran where family, friends, other veterans and medical facility staff can show with respect and reverence the passing. What The National Ambassador wants to know is if it is done at our facilities and for us to get involved in starting one.

I did ask each Hospital representative if it was done and only Walla Walla got back to me saying they didn't as it is an outpatient facility.

There is a citation from National for every Auxiliary that provides outreach education on the program. So, I am asking you to let me know if you have ever seen or been involved in such a ceremony. If you check with any facility on their

protocol and report back to me, I will include you in that award. There is also an extra award and money if you get one started.

Does anyone have any questions?

If you ever do, please feel free to contact me.