

VETERANS AFFAIRS and REHABILITATION  
BETTY SNYDER (MELVIN)  
1942 South 72<sup>nd</sup> Road, Talmage, NE 68448

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R), purpose is to: initiate, sponsor and participate in programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families.

We need to reach out to veterans outside of the Veterans Medical Centers, to promote veteran related activities in all fields of the VA&R; Rehabilitation, Field Service, (with orientations) and our many hours of Home Service. Remember to include the Juniors and others in your unit who are not active. They might just become more active if asked.

National has asked that each VA&R chairman select three main objectives from the VA&R programs for the year, set goals, and develop a plan to achieve the goals. My objectives are:

1. Increase donations to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival so our Department can donate \$3000.
2. Increase volunteer services within our Department's VAMC and outpatients clinics by 10 volunteers, increase Field Service and Home Service volunteers by 15 and to encourage members to keep good records of hours and costs.
3. Increase awareness and participation in the Ride 2 Recovery (R2R) program. This is a new cycling program used to help wounded veterans recover. We'll learn together! These are the 3 major programs for 2009 – 2010. More information will be outlined in newsletters, bulletins, and at District and Department meetings. Please read and share them with your Unit. We have many more ongoing programs that need our attention through the year:

**Homeless Veterans Initiatives:** Work with the VA Homeless Veterans throughout the year. Omaha has a "Stand Down" the first Saturday of December. The homeless look forward to this event. Donations of money are always needed. Closer to December donation of clothing is needed.

**Welcome Home Celebrations:** Provide assistance for returning service men and women and their families in your community. What a small thing we can do for those who fought for our freedom!

**Fisher House:** Continue to be helpful to those who are staying close to their loved ones while they are in a rehabilitation hospital. Once again donations are appreciated.

**National Recognition Program:** Annually salute "American Heroes" the week of February 14<sup>th</sup>. Send a personal valentine to someone in service; also include a blank one or two that they can send to their special person(s). Remember the veterans in a Medical Center or VA Home.

**National Volunteer Month (April):** Recognize and celebrate the important work volunteers do every day on behalf of veterans. I encourage Units and Districts to recognize these ladies.

**Support American Legion Programs:** Promote the Legion's legislative effort on the National and Department level. Be informed; order The Dispatch, a legislative publication by the Legion. Call 317-630-1298 to order.

NATIONAL AWARDS

**Reconnecting Our Service Through Veteran Support Award:** A Citation Plaque will be presented to the Unit that implements and carries out the **Most Outstanding Event** that brings honor and recognition to our Veterans and or service members at any VAMC or VA Facility, Veterans Home, Fisher House, Vet Center, Homeless Veterans Shelter or any facility where more than 60% of the residents are Veterans. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words. Pictures and newspaper articles may be included but not to exceed six pages. Entry cannot be in a bond book or hard cover. Cover sheet must include, Unit Name and number, address, Unit Chairman's name, address, and phone number, date and location where the event was held. Submit to this Department Chairman by May 1, 2010.

**Unit VA&R Program Awards:** A Citation Plaque will be presented to a Unit Chairman in each Division reporting the **Most Outstanding Overall VA&R** as per the goals stated in this Plan of Action. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words. Units submit entries to this Department Chairman by May 1, 2010.

**National Creative Arts Festival Contribution Recognition (NCAF):** The NCAF will recognize Departments who contribute, Bronze (\$1,000 - \$1,999); Silver (\$2,000 - \$2,900); Gold (\$5,000 and above). This recognition will be made at the 2010 Festival. National Headquarters will submit qualifying donations to the NCAF staff in July. Donations considered are those received into the National office September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

#### DEPARTMENT AWARDS

**Genie McGlasson Gavel:** A traveling award for the Best Hospital Work carried out by a Unit not located where there is a VA Medical Center. Application for this award is included with the end-of year annual report forms.

**Sullivan Gavel:** A traveling award to the Unit reporting best overall Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation accomplishments during the year, judged from the Unit annual reports.

**Certificates:** Eighteen (18) certificates given for outstanding work in VA&R. Fifteen (15) certificates will be presented to Units, three (3) will be presented to Districts.

**Certificates:** To Units with contributions of \$.50 per member to the Dollar Day program by November 1, 2009.

**Certificates:** To Units contributing \$.10 per member to National Creative Arts Festival.

**Certificates:** To Districts with 100% participation by Units with a donation sent to Department for National Creative Arts Festival. (Donation does not have to be \$ .10 per member by all units, just a donation by all units).

#### RESOURCES

**VA&R Guide:** (formally, Guide for Volunteers); is available through Department Headquarters, and it's FREE! A great resource for volunteers and every volunteer should have one.

**Unit Handbook;** of the American Legion Auxiliary, revised January 2009, contains the VA&R manual for Chairmen and Volunteers.

**The Dispatch:** address; Legion Dispatch, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Cost \$15.00 per year. Each Unit needs a copy. Phone 317-630-1298

**Legion –Auxiliary Web Page:** [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org)

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CITATION POINTS – 40 points assigned

5 pts... Unit completed VA&R reports and sent them to Department by May 1, 2010

5 pts... Unit contributed to Recreation, Gift Shop, Gifts for Yanks and Dollar Days by November 1, 2009

5 pts...Unit contributed to National Creative Arts Festival sending donation to Department by May 1, 2010

5 pts...Unit recruited or increased volunteers

5 pts... Unit assisted the Homeless Veterans by providing services or by monetary donation.

5 pts... Unit increased awareness and participation in the R2R program by participating or monetary donation.

5 pts... Unit certified or recertified members in Field Service.

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