

Dear Oregon VFW Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

October 2023

It's officially Fall. While there are fall activities that we are used to doing for our Medical Facility Vets, please refer to the end of this article for some non-traditional events, including Facility Staff.

Two excellent and dearly needed hospital projects were presented to me by fellow Chairman Colleen Salsberry and Darlene Wisdom. I want to send special thanks to them for their ideas to help us better serve our Vets and their Families in all categories, not just their Chair Program.

Sister and Youth Activities Chairman Colleen Salsberry was contacted by the mother of a NICU Nurse at OHSU about the desperate need for Angel and Preemie Baby knitted/crocheted hats and blankets. Nurses dress and wrap the Angel Babies to present to their Parents to hold while they say their goodbyes. I would never have realized this, as I have no first or secondhand experience of this tragedy. It is estimated that there is an average of 4-5 still births weekly at OHSU. The nursing team also serves at other Portland Metro Area Hospitals/Birthing centers.

Soft Baby Yarn in pink, blue, green, yellow or combo are preferred. Hats should fit snug on a soda can. Any excess supply will also be gifted to surviving Preemie Babies. For the interim, please send all items to Colleen (contact info on Youth Activities). Info with patterns will be available on our Dept website on the homepage banner.

Veteran, Auxiliary Sister, Dept Guard and Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Darlene Wisdom had noted that an excellent way to serve our homeless/underserved Female Vets would be to provide Feminine Hygiene Kits/Bundles. Pads, tampons, wipes, incontinent pads/underwear are all rising in price and not readily provided at Veteran Resource Facilities/Projects. So many are without, leading to preventable health complications from poor sanitation.

For Non-Traditional Holidays in October also known as American Pharmacist and National Physical Therapy Month. Week 1: Nat Physician Assistant Wk, Week 2: Nat Baking Wk, Week 3: Grandparents Wk. 2- Mon- Guardian Angels Day, 5- Thu- Nat Do Something Nice Day, 11- Wed- Emergency Nurses Day, 17- Tue- Nat Pharmacy Tech Day, 18- Wed- Nat Medical Assistants Day.

Share the info and put it to practice. Keep up the great work and thank you for all you are doing.

Yours in God and Country,