

Dear Auxiliary Family

September 2022

Students are back to school, and we are busy with our projects of service for our Veterans and their families. I enjoyed meeting many of you at the Creswell and Oregon City Training Academies this past August. So much information! For those of you that I did not meet in Redmond and Pendleton, please contact me. I need to know who your Hospital Chairman are, along with how to contact them in the form they prefer. For all Auxiliaries that do not have Hospital Chairman and or have not been in contact with me by next month, I will be sending emails and letters to the Secretaries of those Auxiliaries to inquire.

The four areas of focus for the Hospital Program presented at the Training Academies were: (1) **Recruit**, (2) **Educate and Create**, (3) **Implement** and (4) **Acknowledge**. Volunteers **do not need to be VFW/Auxiliary Affiliated** but *sponsored by us* (vote at meeting with record in minutes). Learn and teach peers and facilities our existing programs, while introducing innovative/creative forms of service (Ambassador's Challenge). Innovative methods can also apply with implementing existing programs that are not in practice. For example: Women Veteran Support- holding a tea/lunch and learn with a topic of your choice for our Female Vets to benefit them and their family. There is more that we can do for our Veteran Women than donations alone. They really need acknowledgment and assistance with acquiring the evolving benefits from the VA, State and Local Community.

MALTA has been updated with documents for Hospital and other programs. The Recruit Flyers, Program Guides, Nominations, Citations and Awards are available and need to be printed if you or your Hospital Chairman do not have them. Please don't get confused when you see "*VFW Hospital Program Guide-Does not include VAVS.*" This means that the still referred to as VAVS Guide is in a separate file; not that VAVS is not included under the Hospital Program. There are revised dates on the cover pages, however the content appears to be the same as previous. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) continues to be cross-referenced with VA Veteran Service (VAVS) per the MALTA and National Auxiliary web resources. For now, know they are synonymous.

A CDCE/VAVS update: The **Portland VA, Roseburg VA and White City VA Medical Center** have **new donation forms**. Contact me or your VAVS Reps/Deputies for these forms. The **Roseburg VA Clothing Room**, previously referred as VFW Clothing Room, needs your assistance for these difficult to find items in the Roseburg area. These items are Men's: Comfort walking velcro/no tie shoes (black ideal) from sizes 7 to 11; White crew neck undershirts sizes M to 2XL, Crew Sweatshirts and Sweatpants sizes M to 2XL. We have a limited amount of chain stores in Douglas County, and supplies have continued to be limited since COVID. **White City VA and Medical Center** is also rural and needs Men's: White crew T-shirts and Long Underwear Shirts and Bottoms sizes L to 2XL. VAVS Rep Linda Rose is in the process of

purchasing a needed recliner or two for the **Lebanon Veteran Home**. Yet if you know of a gently used recliner, please contact her or myself to inquire donation.

Please send donation items for **Roseburg VA** to me with receipt and I will deliver them to VAVS Rep Sue Homan. If you are using Amazon or another online shopping platform for that free shipping, please notify me to expect it and send a copy of the invoice. Sue needs to keep track of the receipts for her VAVS reports. Send all **White City VA** items with receipts to VAVS Rep Sherry Prudhon at: 306 Foothills Creek Rd, Gold Hill, OR 97525.

A special acknowledgement to the following Auxiliaries for Hospital Report submissions in order of receipt: **3232 Florence, 2666 Martin J Ryan- Hillsboro, 4273 Sandy, 4116 Rogue River** and **9745 Winston. 12141 Madras** also submitted their reports second in line before the training academies, however during Training Academy, I was schooled on the *confusion* between Veteran Hospital Visitation and Hospital Program Volunteer Service. This is very common. Hospital Program service is practicing as a volunteer or supporting a Hospital Program defined project or event. Otherwise, veteran visitation and support will fall under Veterans and Family Support. I want to give **praise to 12141 Madras** for their consistency and dedication driving to The Dalles Veteran Home for hundreds of miles and many hours is above and beyond; more than I have done in such a short amount of time for this category.

During this month let us remember and support our fallen and surviving Civilian (Police, Fire, EMS, Medical) and Military Veterans and their families of the 911 era. The longest war fought in American History. Let us never forget or take for granted our freedom and safety- past, present and future.

Yours in God and Country,
Megan E Malpass