# 2023-2024 American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York VA&R Service to Veterans Supplement

#### **Department VA&R Service to Veterans Chairman**

Maureen Morgan 157 Parkway Tr. Ct. Pomona, NY 10970 C:845-729-5471

E-mail: nyalaVAandR@gmail.com

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives.

### Support the therapeutic rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies. Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.

- Volunteer at local VA facilities, including state VA facilities in your area.
- Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families, such as Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight Inc., and the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.
- Look in your community for opportunities to support veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors.

#### **Outside Partnerships**

#### **Wreaths Across America**

- Take part in local wreath placement at a national cemetery.
- Sponsor wreaths for placement through Wreaths Across America.

#### Honor Flight Inc.

- Volunteer with local hubs.
- Utilize your unit's poppy funds to support important aspects of Honor Flight activities. For more information, please see www.honorflight.org/donations.
- Participate in welcome-home events.
- Coordinate the creation and delivery of cards and letters to Honor Flight hubs for mail call.
- Consider volunteering as a guardian for an Honor Flight. Please note there is an associated cost.

#### **Military and Veteran Caregiver Network**

- Learn who is considered a caregiver. This will help you identify caregivers in your community
  and maybe even as a caregiver yourself. If you identify as a caregiver, consider joining their
  online peer support community.
- Familiarize vourself with local caregiver resources found in the Hero Care Resource Directory
- Refer to the MVCN's community calendar for educational and volunteer opportunities

#### **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival**

- Promote awareness of healing through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
- Donate to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.
- Donate to local Veterans Creative Arts Festivals (e.g., time, supplies, money).
- Identify arts, crafts, and hobby projects targeted to veterans (writing, oral history recording, visual and performing arts, quilting, and gardening).
- Donate art supplies to your local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities including state veterans homes, community living centers, and VA medical centers.
- Plan and organize a local Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

- Advocate for art therapy, music therapy, drama, and recreational therapy programs within the VA healthcare system.
- Apply to the ALA Foundation for Veterans Creative Arts Festival Grants to be used for local competitions and festivals in your community. For more information, please go to https://alafoundation.org/vcaf-grants/.

#### Center for Development and Community Engagement (CDCE, formerly known as VAVS)

- Recruit Auxiliary members as volunteers for the VA Center for Development and Community Engagement at VA healthcare facilities.
- If you see a need in your community that is not being addressed, contact your local VA.
- Familiarize yourself with the service of the VA caregiver support program
- Volunteer at your local VA facility for events such holiday gift shops, Bingo, baby showers, etc.
- Don't forget to include all American Legion Family members in your VA events.
- Coordinate a supply drive for the needs of hospitalized veterans by gathering items such as socks, underwear, toiletries, etc. Please contact your local VA facility or American Legion Auxiliary CDCE representative for needed items.
- Don't forget your state VA facilities, such as state veterans homes. The veterans who reside
  there have needs that we may fill as well. For more information and local points of contact,
  please refer to https://nasdva.us/resources/.

#### **Service to Veterans (Outside of VA Facilities)**

- Take part in a veteran job fair by organizing or working at an informational table.
- Promote local veteran-centric job fairs in your community. Support The American Legion by helping host a local job fair at your post home or community center.
- Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.
- Provide a spa day or caregiver day out for community veteran caregivers.
- Offer to sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands.
- Offer to run errands for a caregiver.
- Prepare information for units concerning the needs of caregiver support.
- Transportation of veterans to appointments or running errands.
- Contact an American Legion Service Officer at your post, and offer to be on the list of people to call when a veteran's family needs help.
- Buy school supplies, host a baby shower, or send care packages to veterans' children who are headed to college.
- Become the catalyst to find needs, and encourage members to help veterans in their community.
- Promote volunteer opportunities in community settings.
- Utilize websites, newsletters, and other media.
- Report your ALA Service to Veterans hours to your unit VA&R chair.

### <u>DEPARTMENT VETERANS' AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION</u> SERVICE TO VETERANS' AWARDS

#### **Department Award Rules**

- Entries must be typed, double spaced, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Word count in lower left corner of cover sheet unless otherwise noted under award instructions.
- Entries must be in narrative form and placed in a folder.
- Pictures, newspaper clippings and other materials and/or documents may be included.
- All entries must include a cover sheet with the name of the award entry, name of the Unit/County/District, name, and address of the Unit/County/Chairman.
- Entries must be received by the Department Chairman no later than MAY 1<sup>st</sup> unless a different date is specified.

**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** To the Unit that submits the best program supporting our Veterans and their caregivers and family members. Write-up cannot exceed 1,000 words, may include photos, PR clippings, printout of social media posts, etc. All entries are to be mailed to the Department President at her home no later than May 1, 2024. Email entries will not be accepted or considered.

<u>Unit Award</u>: To the Unit who submits the best report on their year-round VA&R/Service to Veterans Program.

<u>County Award</u>: To the County who submits the best report on their year-round VA&R/Service to Veterans Program.

<u>THE BETTY JANE LIGHT AWARD-</u> to the Unit chairman who initiates and completes the most outstanding program for assisting & caring of women veterans.

**THE JUANITA LOCHNER AWARD**: To the Junior Group reporting the most outstanding service benefiting our hospitalized veterans.

#### **NATIONAL AWARDS**

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION / SERVICE TO VETERANS

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the Department Plan of Action.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines.

#### **Service to Veterans**

- A. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program (per division)
  - Deadline: May 1, 2024
  - Send to Department chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.
- **B. Department Award:** Best Department VA&R Program (per division)
  - Deadline: May 1, 2024
  - Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.

#### National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) support recognition

- A. **NVCAF Award:** NVCAF Support Recognition
  - Deadline: June 30, 2024
  - Send donations to the ALA Foundation to National Headquarters

#### **Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)**

- A. National Award: VAVS Volunteer of the Year /ALA NAC Nominee
  - Deadline: November 1, 2023
  - Submitted by the chiefs of voluntary service and department chairman to the national VAVS deputy
- B. **Member Award:** 10,000 Hour Volunteer Service
  - Deadline: March 31, 2024
  - Verification of hours must be mailed or emailed to National Headquarters by the first Friday in June
- C. **Member Award:** 20,000 Hour Volunteer Service
  - Deadline: March 31, 2024
  - Verification of hours must be mailed or emailed to National Headquarters by the first Friday in June
- D. Individual Recognition Award: Volunteer Recruitment & Service Department
  - Deadline: March 31, 2024
- E. Individual Recognition Award: 100 Percent VAVS Meeting Attendance

- Awarded to each representative and deputy who has 100 percent attendance to VAVS committee meetings at her assigned facility.
- F. **Department Recognition from The American Legion Award:** Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach
  - Deadline: January 15, 2024
  - Entries must be approved by the department adjutant or department employment chairman and sent to The American Legion National Headquarters
- G. James H. Parke Scholarship
  - Deadline: November 1, 2023
  - See www.va.gov for information on VAVS, James H. Parke Scholarship

## VA Medical Center Appointments Representative and Deputies 2023-2024

### Albany Stratton VAMC, 113 Holland Ave., Albany, NY 12208 3rd District

Representative: Marie Mock
168 Dunsbach Ferry Rd.
Cohoes, NY 12047
518-783-5316
Deputy: Judy Benner
13 Broderick St.
Albany, NY 12205
518-869-8668

mcmock@hotmail.com judybenner13@gmail.com

### Western NY (Batavia) VAMC, 222 Richmond Ave, Batavia, NY 14020 8th District

vacant

### Bath VAMC, 76 Veterans Ave., Bath, NY 14810 6th and 7th Districts

Jacquelinekanerwilliams@gmail.com

agreaney@verizon.net

Representative: Jacqueline Williams

Deputy: Suzanne Moore
5 Lake Ave.

Corning, NY 14830 Binghamton, NY 13905 © 607-368-2140 (H) 607-760-5658

### James J. Peters (Bronx) VAMC, 130 West Kingsbridge Rd., Bronx, NY 10468 1st District

 Representative: Ann Greaney
 Deputy: Kathleen Devine

 530 Ellsworth Ave. #E1
 1 Beech Place

 Bronx, NY 10465
 Bronx, NY 10465

 H- 718-931-1050
 C: 646-732-3781

 C-917-797-6231

### New York Harbor (Brooklyn) VAMC, 800 Poly Place, Brooklyn, NY 11209 2nd District

Representative: Marie Santa Croce

25 East 4th St.

Brooklyn, NY 11218

C-718- 436-6303

re507@aol.com

Deputy: Dorothy Scheuring
19 Bills Place
Brooklyn, NY 11218

C- 347-403-4756
d scheuring@yahoo.com

### Western NY (Buffalo) VAMC, 3495 Bailey Ave., Buffalo, NY 14215 8th District

Representative: Carol Puckett

57 Harwood Rd. West Seneca, NY 14224

H-716-675-0756 C-716-998-2022

Capuck47@gmail.com

Deputy: Amelia Parrish 82 Plymouth Ave. Buffalo, NY 14201

716-883-0434

Deputy: Elizabeth Bruce

114 Mang Ave.

Kenmore, NY 14217 C 716-876-8022

Highpocket6@aol.com

### Canandaigua VAMC, 400 Fort Hill Ave., Canandaigua, NY 14424 7th District

Representative: Sandy Coyer

4497 Cty. Rt 33 Honeoye, NY 14471

585-410-3106

scoryer1@yahoo.com

Deputy: Charlotte Ridley

110 Chapel St.

Penn Yan, NY 14527

315-246-8001

gege62037@aol.com

Honorary Representative: Virginia Robbins

245 East St., #709

Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

585-624-1441

Deputy: Bernice Sank

24 Narry Lane

Mount Morris, NY 14510

585-658-4115

beesank@gmail.com

### Hudson Valley (Castlepoint) VAMC, 41 Castle Point Rd., Wappinger Falls, NY 12590 9th District

Representative: Helen Reynolds

17 Overlook Ave

Beacon, NY 12508

845-831-6748/c.845-401-4725 hellbelle52347@gmail.com Deputy: Bella Bourke 6 Christina Drive

Dover Plains, NY 12522

845-877-6353/c.845-2222-8546 grandmabella@optonline.net

### Hudson Valley (Montrose) VAMC, 2094 Albany Post Rd., Montrose, NY 10548 9th District

Representative: Mary Ann Calbo

61 Hemlock Circle Peekskill, NY 10566 (H) 914-736-0885 © 917-689-8305

Maryann3354@aol.com

Deputy: Roseanna Santangelo

125 Fields Lane Peekskill, NY 10566 (H) 914-293-7617 © 914-589-3517 rxy1996@gmail.com

Deputy: Patrice Cortelli 17 Crescent Court Peekskill, NY 10566 C 914-806-8531

#### New York Harbor (Manhattan), 423 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010 1st District

Representative: Rose Anne Bartolino 1950 Hutchinson River, Apt. 10E Bronx, NY 10461 (H) 718-892-1898 © 646-725-2008 RABC67@hotmail.com

Deputy: Kwanyee Francis Wong 204 Federal City Rd. Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 (H) 609-895-7179

#### Northport VAMC, 79 Middleville Rd., Northport, NY 11768

Representative:

Deputy:

#### St. Albans Community Living Center, 179-00 Linden Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11425 10th District

Representative: Jean Ross 394 S 1st St. Lindenhurst, NY 11757 631-412-5814 rjeanr26@aol.com

Deputy: Nicole Ross 394 S. 1st St. Lindenhurst, NY 11757 631-412-5814

#### Syracuse VAMC, 800 Irving Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210 - 5th District

Representative: Patricia Murphy 104 Dolores Terrace N. N. Syracuse, NY 13212 315-427-7578

Pmurphy6851@yahoo.com

Deputy: Roberta Marks 512 First St. Liverpool, NY13088 315-420-4901

Deputy: Madeline Skapars 104 Sunnyfield Rd. Camillus, NY 13031 315-289-8702

#### **NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HOMES**

#### New York State Veterans' Homes Oxford NYS Veterans Home - 6th District

Tami Darrow-Zebrowski 6 Lillian Dr Binghamton, NY 13905 607-772-5994 tzebrowski@stny.rr.com

#### Montrose NYS Veterans' Home - 9th District

Mary Ann Calbo
61 Hemlock Circle
Peekskill, NY 10566
914-736-0885
Maryann3354@aol.com

#### Batavia NYS Veterans' Home - 8th District

#### Stony Brook NYS Veterans' Home - 10th District

Patricia Bergin 126 LaBonne Vie Dr., Apt D E. Patchogue, NY 11772 (H) 631-207-5899 © 631-875-4708 Ptberg63@aol.com

#### St Albans NYS Veterans' Home - 10th District

Jean Ross and Nicole Ross 394 S 1st St. Lindenhurst, NY 11757 (H) 631-412-5814 © 631-805-3677 rjeanr26@aol.com

#### Christmas Gift Shop Chairman 2023-2024

#### Albany Stratton VAMC 3rd & 4th District

Judith Benner
13 Broderick St.
Albany, NY 12205
(H) 518-869-8668/
c. 518-817-1240
Judybenner13@gmail.com

#### Western NY (Batavia) VAMC 8th District

#### Bath VAMC 6th-7th District

Adelaide Butler 289 Flint Rd. B Binghamton, NY 13905 (H) 607-798-9711

#### James J. Peters (Bronx) VAMC 1st District

Susan O'Keefe Vaughan 152 Tier St., Apt. 202A Bronx, NY 10464 347-515-0626 Sue183v@aol.com

#### New York Harbor (Brooklyn) VAMC 2nd District

Dorothy Scheuring 19 Bills Place Brooklyn, NY 11218 (H)718- 438-6579 ©347-403-4756 D scheuring@yahoo.com

#### Western NY (Buffalo) VAMC 8th District

Suzanne Williams 3 Monroe Street Salamanca, NY 14779 H 716-945-0039 C 716-378-5216 Wms0339@localnet.com

#### Canandaigua VAMC 7th District

Sandy Coyer 4497 Cty. Rt 33 Honeoye, NY 14471 C 585-410-3106 scoyer1@yahoo.com Suzanne Moore 5 Lake Avenue Binghamton, NY 13905 (H) 607-724-9706

#### Hudson Valley (Castle Point) VAMC 9th District

Helen Reynolds 17 Overlook Ave Beacon, NY 12508 (H) 845-831-6748 © 845-401-4725 hellbelle52347@gmail.com

#### Hudson Valley (Montrose) VAMC 9th District

 Mary Ann Calbo
 Patrice Cortelli

 61 Hemlock Circle
 17 Crescent Court

 Peekskill, NY 10566
 Peekskill, NY 10566

 (H) 914-736-0885
 C 914-806-8531

 © 917-689-8305

Maryann3354@aol.com

#### New York Harbor (Manhattan) VAMC 1st District

Fanny Hom 420 W. 19th St. Apt 9C New York, NY 10011 212-675-1841

#### Syracuse VAMC 5th District

Karen St. Hilaire 122 Campbell Road Mattydale, NY 13211 (H) 315-454-4183 © 315-748-4481 Sthkaren6@gmail.com

#### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK GIFT SHOP RULES

The Gift Shop Chairman is appointed by the Department President yearly. Each Chairman is responsible for all the funds, purchases, coordinating/instructions for the volunteers and reports for the program. Many Chairman appoint a co-chairman which is generally approved by the District President. The program is a District event whereas the Units, Counties, Post and Squadrons contribute to the fund to purchase the gifts, which are selected by the patients to send to their next of kin and others as deemed appropriate. All costs including postage, refreshments, etc., are at the expense of the gift shop funds.

- 1. Regardless of any changes to a District's particular program, the Gift Shop Chairman must read the rules and report any program changes and justification for the change at the Fall Conference. Any program changes should be presented in the form of a motion and voted on by the voting members assembled. There will be no deviation from the rules as contained without the consent of the Department Executive Committee.
- 2. The Gift Shop Chairman will provide receipts of all contributions and expenses with the gift shop report as attachments. This report is to be completed no later than December 31st and distributed to all contributing Counties within the American Legion Family, noting Unit, Post and Squadron contributions. Send a copy of report to the District President including copies of receipts, original report, and receipts to the Department VA&R Chairman.
- 3. The Gift Shop Chairman will work with their Voluntary Service Programs Director and/or designee to arrange a date and time for the Gift Shop. The VAVS Representative and Deputies as assigned will be privy to the plans and assist as needed.

### 4. All gift shop funds are accountable through the Gift Shop Chairman's Unit bank account to comply with our bonding requirements.

5. The Gift Shop Chairman is to disperse with any gifts left over from the Gift Shop. Any proceeds from the sale of these gifts are to be returned to the Gift Shop fund, with a receipt of sale. All such receipts must be submitted with the gift shop report. Any clothing appropriate for the Veterans is donated to the facility for their use. Items appropriate for prizes should be donated to the facility for recreational events. Donation forms should be completed, and a copy attached to the report.

6.Funds exceeding \$4,000.00 are to be disbursed in accordance with the wishes of the district. A motion as to the donation of funds should be made at the Spring Conference or next meeting following the close of the gift shop books. \$4,000.00 may be placed in a six-month interest-bearing account in the name of the Unit, American Legion Auxiliary in which the Chairman is a member.

Adopted: April 25, 2020, Department Executive Committee

#### **UNIT VA&R/SERVICE TO VETERANS REPORT FORM** 2023-2024

Repo	rt Dates: □ November 1, 2023	☐ April 1, 2024			
Unit Na	ame:	Unit #	County:		
Name	of Person Reporting:				
Addres	SS:				
Phone	number:	mber:Email address:			
	Unit does not have a VA&R Chairman				
Identif	y the activities/projects carried out by	your Unit			
	Total hours members volunteered Total number of veterans served Total number of miles driven in pro		_Total dollars spent _Value of in-kind donations		
Total h	ours members volunteered	_ (multiply X \$31.80 hou	ır) \$		
NOT	E: VA Facilities Make sure your VA rep activ	resentative is sending in ity in facilities.	the attendance sheets, etc. for		
		ans Outside of VA F			
	Total hours members volunteered Total number of veterans served		_Total dollars spent Value of in-kind donations		
	Total number of veterans served Total number of miles driven in pro		_value of in-kind donations		
	ours members volunteered		ır) \$		
How di rehabil	t of your narrative report, please include a d the units support veteran caregivers, faitation and healing of veterans via the art  YOU MUST FILL IN THIS INF	amily members and survits, crafts, or hobbies?  ORMATION FOR	vivors? How did the units suppor		
Impact Report	Service for Veterans/Military	Obtain Total From	Total		
Line 1	Total hours members volunteered		1000		
Line 2	Total dollars spent		\$		
Line 3	Total number of veterans/military assisted				
Line 4	Total number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations facilitated				
Line 5	Value of in-kind donations received*	Unit Records	\$		
*Estimated firm)	cash value of non-cash donations from <b>NON-MEMBERS</b> of go	ods (like paper goods, clothing) or se	vices (like pro-bono CPA services from a local		

Send report to: YOUR COUNTY VA&R CHAIRMAN

Keep a copy for your records

### COUNTY VA&R/SERVICE TO VETERANS REPORT FORM 2023-2024

Report Dates: ☐ November 10, 20	023 □ April 10, 2024
County:	District
Name of Person Reporting:	
Address:	
Phone number:	Email address:
County does not have a VA&R C	hairman
Identify the activities/projects carried of	out in your County
Total hours members volunte	
Total number of veterans ser	
Total number of miles driven	
Number of new VAVS Volun	
l otal nours members volunteered	(multiply X \$31.80 hour) \$
NOTE: VA Facilities Make Sure your V	'A representative is sending in the attendance sheets, etc. for activity in facilities.
	activity in racinites.
Service to Our	Veterans Outside of VA Facilities
Total hours members volunte	
Total number of veterans ser	ved
Value of in-kind donations	
Total number of miles driven	
Total hours members volunteered	(multiply X \$31.80 hour) \$
How did the units support veteran caregiv	lude answers to the following questions: (on back of report) ers, family members and survivors? How did the units support the arts, crafts, or hobbies?
*** YOU MUST FILL IN THIS	INFORMATION FOR IMPACT REPORTS ***

#### 1. Our ALA Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military

Impact Report form	Service for Veterans/Military	Obtain Total From	Total
Line 1	Total hours members volunteered	Unit Reports	
Line 2	Total dollars spent	Unit Reports	\$
Line 3	Total number of veterans/military assisted	Unit Reports	
Line 4	Total number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations facilitated	Unit Reports	
Line 5	Value of in-kind donations received*	Unit Reports	\$

Keep a copy for your records

Send report to: YOUR DEPARTMENT VA&R CHAIRMAN

Maureen Morgan 157 Parkway Tr. Ct. Pomona, NY 10970 C:845-729-5471

nyalavaandr@gmail.com