

VA&R.

Yvonne Brunner

VA & R Chairman

#ALANY

#ALANYMW26



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION/SERVICE TO VETERANS

THE AMERICAN VETERAN

THE EVERYDAY HEROES THAT WALK AMONGST US.



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VAVS/Service To Veterans

Types of Volunteers within the VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service)

Regularly Scheduled

Serve on a consistent, recurring basis; such as weekly or monthly

Occasional

Serve on an as-needed or one-time basis, for special events fund drives or seasonal activities

*Student

Serve through school-based service programs; Internships or the VA work-study partnerships.

Virtual/Remote

These volunteers provide service for off-site, using phone, video or digital communication tools.

Where to find volunteer opportunities

**VA Medical Centers, Community Outreach Clinics, Community Living Centers, Vet Centers, State Veteran Homes and Veteran Cemeteries
VAVS Training**

Each facility is responsible for an orientation and placement of volunteers.

The VA will provide special training as necessary for the volunteer position.

Examples of Common Volunteer Opportunities

Recreation Therapy Assistant - Transport Volunteer - Administrative Support - Resident Companion - Memorial Event Volunteer

Compassionate Contact Corps - Volunteer from home - Veterans are referred by PCM or social worker - scheduling is flexible - must be able to provide a weekly commitment

** Student volunteers - term denotes volunteer under 21 years old with students under 18 require written parental/guardian approval to participate in the VAVS program.*



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VAVS/Service To Veterans

Volunteers Opportunities in Facilities

**Regularly Scheduled
Volunteers (RSV)**

Representatives/ Deputy

Work cooperatively with the Volunteer Services Chief support VA initiatives.

Service to Veterans

formally Field Service/Home Service volunteers at CLC, within the community or with other service organizations.

Gift Shop

self-supporting program, opportunity for veterans to give gifts to their families.

Reps./Depts. (up to three), Field Reps. are reviewed and appointed annually by the Department President.

- **The Department Secretary will prepare and submit "Certification," forms or as required by the National American Legion Auxiliary.**
- **VAVS Reps./Depts. will work closely with the CDCE (Center for Development and Community Engagement) Chief.**
- **The VAMC will keep electronic records for the VAVS Reps./Depts, regularly scheduled and occasional Auxiliary volunteer(s) who serve at a VAMC facility (track hours, attendance, hours).**
- **Personal Identification Verification (Badge) - badges now expire every six months (Homeland Security). VA will handle this unless you let the badge expire, in which case you must start the whole process over again.**

Annual Joint Review (AJR)/\$500.00 application must be completed/submitted to the Department by December 30th.

\$500.00 donation application - The Department annually awards each VAMC/Nursing Home or Day Facilities this donation for the 'Service to Veterans,' week in February. This check is mailed directly to the ALA Representative who will present it to the facility.

Minutes - quarterly Minutes with meeting attendance are emailed to the Dept./VA&R Chair.

Branding - remember to wear auxiliary apparel. Wear a name tag.

Remember - be respectful, adhere to all rules & guidelines of the facility and bring your warmest smile and good cheer.

Awards/Recognition - The VA/ALA annually awards certificates/hour pins for perfect attendance to meetings , recruitment service awards and volunteer of the year.

James H. Parks scholarship (Youth Award) - \$2,000 is donated by the National ALA for 100 hours of service. The Medical Center Director nominates a candidate for this award: submission due by December 31st



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VA&R (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) Volunteers Opportunities at National Cemeteries

National Cemeteries within New York State

- Bath National Cemetery – Bath, NY
- Calverton National Cemetery – Calverton, NY
- Cypress Hills National Cemetery – Brooklyn, NY
- Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery – Schuylerville, NY
- Long Island National Cemetery – Farmingdale, NY
- Woodlawn National Cemetery – Elmira, NY
- Albany Rural Cemetery Soldiers' Lot – Albany, NY

National Cemeteries offer a year-round opportunity to become involved in activities.

Become part of the monthly veteran-based organization who serve at the cemetery

to assist in organizing events.



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Volunteers Opportunities in the Community

Attracting Volunteers - success happens when we listen

Whether it's a seasoned volunteer who has recently become involved again or a potential new volunteer, it's best to:

- ask what they would enjoy doing, ~~start with a small commitment, allow them to proceed at their own~~

~~pace, assign a regular volunteer to be with them to assist or answer any questions.~~
Compassionate Contact Corps - serve from home, provides social connections by phone or video.

Student Volunteers - New York requires volunteer hours to graduate.

Caregivers Support - assist the caregiver by giving them time for themselves to get a mani/pedi or other personal errands.

Employment and Education Support - host a job fair or a, "Dress for Success." Host a resume building session.

Student Veteran of America - work with local colleges to build a local partnership to encourage younger veterans to join.

DPAA - (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) - promote awareness and education, support families of the missing.

Stand down

- Gift bags
- Haircuts
- Food items
- Clothing
- Hygiene products
- Non-perishable food
- Gift cards

Fundraising

- Events
- Baby Shower
- Ice Cream Social
- Night At The Races
- Bingo
- Bake Sale
- Pasta Night
- Fish Friday
- Vet Food Pantry

Community Awareness

- Take photos of the event for local social media
- Leave flyers at local stores, libraries or the Post

Veteran Home Help

- Grocery Shopping
- Ride to appointments
- Ramp building
- Lawn services
- Provide companionship
- Buddy Check

Veteran

- Food Pantry
- Fundraise for items
- Canned goods
- Meat
- Fresh produce
- Vegetables
- Cereals
- Hygiene products
- Gift cards



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VA&R (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) Collaborating with External Partnerships

Be The One: This training is for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding to veterans who may be in crisis.

Honor Flight Inc.: is a national organization that transports American veteran to Washington DC to honor and celebrate them for their service and sacrifices for our freedom.

Wreaths Across America: Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom. Volunteers work year-round to share this important mission and inspire others to join.

Quilts of Valor Foundation: A quilt of Valor is a quality, Handmade or machine quilt. It is awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war.

Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors (TAPS): This is a peer support network for providing compassionate care and comprehensive resources to all those grieving a death in the military or veteran community. Local chapters accept monetary donations as well as material donations.

Military and Veteran Caregiver Network: connects caregivers with each other for peer support and for peer mentorship.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival: June 9-14, 2026, Columbia South Carolina



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VA&R (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) **Collaborating with Other Partnerships**

The Foreverly House

<https://vchcny.org/foreverly-house/>



The Foreverly House is dedicated to providing a safe and sustainable home for homeless females, including mothers with children, has officially been opened as of June 1, 2025. It acknowledges that mothers often face the heartbreaking reality of being separated from their children in order to access programs aimed at supporting their service to our country. The programs offered at Foreverly House are specifically tailored to meet the unique needs of these veteran mothers and their children who are

Annual SAL & ALA Walk-A-Thon, April 2026
currently experiencing homelessness.

This year donations will go to our 13 VA Hospitals and 5 Nursing facilities as well as the Department Presidents "The Military Women's Memorial," in Washington DC.



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VA&R (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) REPORTING

Two types

- **Narrative (November/March/May) - goes to the Depart VA&R Chair.**
- **Impact Report - numerical representation of what we do and the effort it has on our mission. This report is compiled and submitted to national by the VA&R Chair by July 1st.**

What's the difference between National Security and VA&R?

National Security - supports currently serving servicemembers, their families and first responders during time of crisis.

When a servicemember transitions back to civilian life, this is when activities are reported under

VA&R Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation/Service to Veterans - supports veterans and their families.

Caregiving for a veteran at home, allowable reporting is up to 10 hours per week.

Caregiving outside your home in a non-professional manner, the allowable reporting is 5 hours per week.

Volunteer hours for the cemeteries is reported under VAVS.



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VA&R (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) AWARDS

DEPARTMENT VETERANS' AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION SERVICE TO VETERANS' AWARDS

Please see the Plan of Action for details

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, 2026. Email entries will not be accepted or considered.

THE LINDA TOME AWARD: To the Unit and County who submits the best report on their year-round VA&R/Service to Veterans Program.

THE BETTY JANE LIGHT AWARD: to the Unit Chairman who initiates and completes the most outstanding program for assisting & caring of women veterans. Department Award: To the Junior Group reporting the most outstanding service benefiting our hospitalized veterans.

NATIONAL VETERAN'S AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION VA&R AWARDS:

Deadlines and Submission Requirements: All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document). National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form> Unit Award: Most Outstanding VA&R Program (per division) All unit entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted. Department Award: Best Department VA&R Program (per division) All department entries must be submitted via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1. Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.



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VA&R (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation) **RESOURCES**

VA&R Chair: nyalavaandr@gmail.com (Yvonne Brunner)
Presidents Project: nyalapresidentsproject@gmail.com

Be The One: www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training

ALA Foundation <https://alafoundation.org/grants/>

Dept NY www.deptny.org

National myauxiliary mem <https://member.legion-aux.org/myauxiliary-member-portal>

Quilts of Valor <https://www.qovf.org/>

TAPS <https://www.taps.org/>

WAA <https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/>

Honor Flight <https://www.honorflight.org/>

Veteran's Crisis Line: available 24/7 Call 988 and press 1 Text 838255

DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency - <https://www.dpaa.mil/>

Visit the VA Crisis Line website: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>



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Glossary of commonly used terms

CBOC – (pronounced SEE-bok) Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

Chief, Voluntary Service – VAMC staff person who has full responsibility for the recruitment, training, scheduling, and retention of volunteers at a specific center.

CLC - Community Living Centers

Deputy Representative – A third person assigned to assist the rep/dep as the liaison between the ALA department and a specific VAMC. The deputy has voting privileges at VAVS meetings in the absence of the rep or associate rep. Sometimes called the “dep rep.”

Associate Representative – An associate representative from an adjacent state to the VAMC who participates in the facility's Volunteer Program. Duties (except for voting privileges, which may be delegated in the absence of the representative) are the same as a representative but are limited to the adjacent state. The associate representative must hold membership in an American Legion Auxiliary unit in the adjacent state.

Associate Deputy Representative – A deputy associate representative from an adjacent state to the VAMC who participates in the facility's Volunteer Program. The deputy associate representative must hold membership in the organization in the adjacent state.

CDCE - VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement.

PIV -Personal Identification Verification (badge)

Occasional Volunteer – Works an ad-hoc schedule reporting to the VAMC Voluntary Service Office for assignments when on site.

Regularly Scheduled Volunteer (RSV)– An individual who has registered in the VAVS program in a regularly scheduled assignment under VA supervision and who has been fingerprinted and completed a background check and volunteer orientation through a VA facility.

Service to Veterans – Formerly separated as “Home Service” and “Field Service,” Service to Veterans provides support to veterans outside of VA facilities.

Student Volunteer – VA term for volunteers under 21 years of age, with students under the age of 18 having written parental or guardian approval to participate in the VAVS program. (Facility management determines minimum age for a VA volunteer.) TAL – The American Legion.

VA - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Cabinet Secretary (Doug Collins)

VHA - Veterans Health Administration

VAMC – Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Currently there are more than 150 medical centers/hospitals and multiple independent mobile clinics in the VA system around the country serving inpatient and outpatient needs.

VAVS – VA Voluntary Service. This is the department within the VA that coordinates all volunteer services affecting the more than 1,200 medical facilities (including VAMCs, CBOCs and mobile clinics) and the more than 100 VA cemeteries.

VAVS Dep – Short for “deputy,” this is a VA term for the person appointed by the ALA department president to serve as an assistant to the ALA rep. The VAVS dep is certified by the national president through their department.

Thank you for your time and being there for the true
American heroes
Our military, our veterans and all their families.





President's Project



This year President Maureen has dedicated herself to two projects the;

Military Women's Memorial and ALA Empire Girls State.

Your donation can go to one or both projects; a 50/50 split or divide the donation as you see fit.

Please indicate on the correspondence how you wish to divide the donation.

nyalapresidentsproject@gmail.com

The Military Women's Memorial is committed to honoring the contributions of women throughout military history who have responded to our country's needs.



<https://womensmemorial.org/>



www.empiregirlsstate.org

The ALA Empire Girls State program is an opportunity for qualified high school juniors to participate in a week-long educational workshops focused on leadership, responsible citizenship and the political process.

Tuesday, June 30th – Monday, July 6th

Suny Brockport SUNY, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420