

KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY 2025-2026 HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – April 2026



100% reporting and participation attained !! Thank you Auxiliaries.



In mid-March, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it would be making the external provider scheduling (EPS) program available to all VA medical facilities across the nation. EPS allows VA to view the schedules of health care providers in the community, making it easier and faster to schedule community care appointments for eligible veterans, reducing wait times and helping veterans access the care they need. In EPS' testing stages, pilot sites found 65% improvement in timeliness of community care scheduling and increased productivity among VA schedulers who went from scheduling seven appointments a day to more than twenty. One of those test sites was the **Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita**. The success there and elsewhere is why legislation was introduced to permanently authorize and expand EPS so that veterans in Kansas and across the country continue to benefit from it. No veteran should have to wait weeks or months to obtain the care and services they have earned through their service. S.B.654

Find more inspirational occasions to spread **SUNSHINE** to our hospitalized veterans at: holidayscalendar.com

April: National Humor Month

- 05 – Easter ****New card on website**
- Hospital Admitting Clerks Day
- 13 – National Scrabble Day
- 14 – International Moment of Laughter Day
- 16 – National High Five Day
- 18 – National Animal Crackers Day
- 22 – National Jelly Bean Day
- 24 – Arbor Day
- 28 – National Superhero Day



May: Nat'l Military Appreciation Month

- 01- Loyalty Day; Law Day; May Day
- 02 – Free Comic Book Day
- 04 – National Star Wars Day
- 06 – National Nurses Day
- 07 – National Day of Prayer
- 08 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 09 – Miniature Golf Day
- 13 – National Apple Pie Day
- 15 – National Pizza Party Day

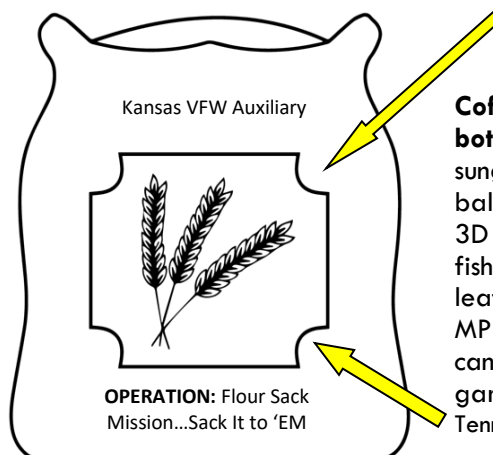
REMEMBER THE C'S <CARDS <CONTESTS <CHALLENGES

Dept Happiness from Home form can be found at vfwauxks.org under the program tab/Hospital tab/forms and pamphlets.

- <CARDS – Each month send card(s) to hospitalized veterans in the medical facility(ies) of your choice.....Report it!
- <CONTESTS – All Contest Deadlines have passed.....Report it !!
- <CHALLENGES – Currently 1 CHALLENGE has been issued.Report it!!!
- Auxiliary/Member Challenge** -Recipe for any variation of a Grilled Cheese Sandwich served to veterans in a medical facility setting.
Deadline May 01, 2026 (Submit recipe on back of/attached to Dept Happiness from Home form)

Dept President
David Huddleston

THEME:
"Soaring Above For
Our Veterans"



Fill sacks with gifts, goodies and gratitude for our hospitalized veterans.

- Coffee**
bottled water
sunglasses
ballcaps/hats
3D models
fishing gear
leather crafts
MP3 earbuds
canteen books
gardening supplies
Tennis Shoes/Sandals

- snacks, indiv. pkgs.**
cheese crackers
cookies
microwave popcorn
granola bars
applesauce
pudding cups
T-shirts, all sizes
Underwear, all sizes
Backpacks/Tote bags
\$\$ for outing activities

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT , RECOGNITION, SUPPORT

Making sure your volunteers feel valued falls in the bucket of both recruitment and retention. When you recognize and appreciate the value of your volunteers, you can increase their support and loyalty by encouraging them to bring new volunteers on board. There's no one right way to recognize your volunteers....here are some IDEAS:

- Giving verbal and written heart-felt thank you's or thoughtful gifts such as photos, gift cards, or experiences, etc.
- Spotlighting them on your organization's website & social media platforms, or in your newsletter
- Soliciting their feedback (and finding ways to incorporate their suggestions)
- Presenting them with a special award (i.e. "Volunteer of the Month", etc.)
- Hosting a volunteer appreciation event

When recruiting volunteers:

- Make sure your existing volunteers feel appreciated and valued
- Ask people to volunteer, within your circles, and the larger community
- Tailor your communication to the audience you're trying to recruit from
- Be specific about what you're looking for – indicate if there are special skills needed
- Focus on the benefits to volunteers, rather than to your organization

**National Volunteer
Week
April 19-25, 2026**

At its core, volunteerism is about offering the best of ourselves — our skills, our compassion, our time. When we give wholeheartedly, we not only uplift others but also enrich our own lives with purpose and joy. In the end, volunteerism is a song we write together — a harmony of effort, empathy, and hope. Like music, it resonates across generations, reminding us that the greatest hits in life are the moments we choose to give.

**Borrow one of these taglines, or create one of your own,
to use for Hospital Volunteer Recruitment:**

Take It to the Limit — Give Your Time, Change a Life.

(Encourages people to push themselves to make a difference.)

Already Gone... from Apathy. Join the Volunteer Movement.

(Plays on leaving behind indifference and stepping into action.)

Life in the Fast Lane? Slow Down and Lift Someone Up.

(Reminds busy people to pause and contribute to their community.)

New Kid in Town ? Welcome to the Volunteer Neighborhood !

(Encourages stepping into a new role with uncertainty but also with hope.)

Busy Being Fabulous? Try Busy Being Generous.

(Nudges people toward giving back.)

Heartache Tonight? Not on Our Watch — Volunteer!

(A call to action to fight hardship.)

The Best of My Love Belongs to My Community.

(Centers on giving your best to others.)

Long Road Out of Eden? We'll Walk It Together.

(Encourages teamwork and perseverance in volunteer work.)

**What is the one word connection between these taglines
and Department President David ?**

Let the MUSIC MOVE YOU

Become a Hospital Volunteer

and/or

**Recognize and Support Hospital
Volunteers**

"Volunteer" by The Weepies

"One Call Away" By Charlie Puth

"I Won't Let Go" By Rascal Flatts

"With My Own Two Hands" by Ben Harper

"Voices That Care" By Voices That Care

"I Volunteer" by Collin Raye

"Stand By You" by Rachael Platten

"Try a Little Kindness" by Glen Campbell

"I'll Be There For You" by The Rembrandts.

"Let's Hear It for the Volunteers"

by Mustard's Retreat

These songs celebrate the efforts of volunteers; Expresses appreciation for those who dedicate their time and energy to helping others; Highlights the **unwavering support** and the dedication seen in volunteering; Celebrates the act of making meaningful contributions to help others; Shows that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life.



The "VA Benefits and Services Guide" provides comprehensive information on various VA programs, including eligibility, application processes, and resources for veterans and their families.

Download a copy today: www.benefits.va.gov/Tap/docs/VA-benefits-Participant-Guide.pdf