

KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY

2024-2025 HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – December 2024

*Send Birthday, Christmas, New Years, or other occasion cards for the December Card Shower....

SPECIAL THANKS to the Auxiliaries who have made and reported donations to the Department Hospital General Fund.... Start making Valentines for Veterans for Feb 14, 2025.... Did your Auxiliary accept any of the Department Hospital's three ****Challenges?....**

* Sending a single card to the facility? No problem. Cards are posted on a community board for all patients/residents to enjoy.

****Challenges: #3** – Auxiliary/District **Sunflower Sunshine project** to spread rays of sunshine to hospitalized veterans.

Create a: Post-it note wall or board; Card (business or index size); Compliments Poster; Other creative form, etc.

Send picture of completed SUNFLOWER SUNSHINE project by December 01, 2024 to Dept Hospital Chairman.

#2 - Auxiliary donation of \$10 or more, sent to Dept Treasurer, by November 01, 2024 earmarked **Veterans Voices**.

#1 - Auxiliary donation of \$100+ is received and reported prior to Nov. 30, 2024 will be entered into a special drawing.

Winners announced at Dept Mid-Winter, January 10-12, 2025 in Salina, KS

Pick a day, any day, to spread some **SUNFLOWER SUNSHINE** and share Small Joys and Blessings with our Hospitalized Veterans !!!
A few ideas to get you started...

December:

Bingo Birthday Month

05- National Volunteer Day
07- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
13- National Guard Birthday
20- US Space Force formed (2019)
25- Christmas Day
28- Card Playing Day
31-New Years Eve



January :

01- New Years Day
04- Public Health Service Commissioned Corps formed (PHSCC) 1889
20- Martin Luther King Day (1929)
24- National Compliments Day
25- National Seed Swap Day
29- Kansas Day (1861)
31- Grammy Awards



Create a POP-UP "Store; Food Truck, or Farmers Market" kiosk in your local facilities' rec hall or other common area.

1. Make up fliers to announce the date and time of your Grand Opening event.
2. Hand out coupons books or (fake) event monies at the door so everyone has 'cash' to make their purchases.
3. Invite other vendors (organizations) to join you with a table of their own.
4. Setup a tent, umbrella and/or tables for your wares and put out your open for business sign.

Farmers' market - organic snacks, baked goods, fresh fruit...and free samples! (??.. incorporate Natl Seed Swap Day, Jan 25)

Store – stock an array of small gifts suitable for gift giving to family and friends. e.g. Socks, candy bars, keychains, flashlights, hats, jewelry; travel mugs; toys; games....

Food Truck – Donuts; Cookies; Hot Dogs; Hot Chocolate; Pop; Walking Tacos; Sliders; Smoked Chicken Legs; Ice Cream...

SMALL JOYS..

Making someone smile. One of the simplest pleasures in life is also one of the easiest things to do – making someone smile. The feeling you get when you realize you've cheered someone up is brilliant, so make someone's day today.

Finishing a brilliant book. Getting to the end of a book you've loved reading is such a good feeling. Everyone deserves that feeling. Stock a supply of classic novels for the veterans to enjoy. Maybe start a book club!?!?

Completing a jigsaw puzzle. Slotting that last piece into the jigsaw is really satisfying. It comes with the knowledge that hard work and sticking to it will yield a beautiful / fun picture. Puzzles are a wonderful teamwork and camaraderie building activity.

Being told you look good. Compliments are great and make most people feel pretty good about themselves. No matter where they come from compliments are a good confidence boost. (see above January 24th)

The Center for Women Veterans (CWA) was established within the Department of Veterans Affairs by Public Law 103-446 in November 1994. The Center's mission is to:

- Monitor and coordinate the VA's delivery of health care, benefits, and programs for women veterans.
- Advocate for cultural transformation (within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women veterans and women in the military.
- Raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women veterans with dignity and respect.



Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center, Wichita, KS

The Wichita VA hospital opened Nov. 16, 1933. In 2002, it was renamed in honor of former U.S. Senator Robert Joseph Dole of Kansas. As an Army lieutenant, Dole was severely injured by gunfire in World War II. As a senator, he was a staunch advocate for Veterans and those with disabilities. The VA Wichita Healthcare System is one of the leading health care systems serving Veterans in the VA Heartland Network.

The VA Wichita Healthcare System provides health care services at 7 locations in Kansas. Facilities include Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center in Wichita and 5 community-based outpatient clinics located in Dodge City, Hays, Hutchinson, Parsons, and Salina, along with a low-vision rehabilitation clinic in Wichita, and a mobile care unit for Veterans who can't easily visit the main facilities.

Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center is a general medicine and surgery teaching hospital that provides a full range of health services for Veterans, with state-of-the-art technology as well as education and research. Veterans are offered many opportunities to participate in and benefit from this research.

- VA Wichita health care serves Veterans in 59 counties in Kansas. More than 30,000 Veterans were treated in 2023 and more than 350,000 outpatient visit were completed.
- The emergency department at Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center was expanded in 2019. There are 11 treatment beds and can serve 20,000 Veterans who need emergency care each year.
- The substance abuse residential rehabilitation facility opened in 2021. The unit has 12 beds, group counseling areas, and clinical treatment rooms.
- Nearly 23% of patients used the telehealth services to speak to doctors from the comfort of their homes.

Northeast Kansas Veterans' Home - Topeka, KS

There's a clear demand for a Veterans Home in the northeast part of our state. The application for funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs State Construction Grant program has been submitted, the Northeast Kansas State Veterans Home has been placed on the priority list and plans are still progressing for the next phase of the project upon receipt the funds from the Federal VA.

Over the past 24 months, visits to other State Veterans Homes have been made, as well as meetings with experts in health care and long term facilities to aid with the design development. Collaborating closely with architects and subject matter experts, to ensure that the Veterans home in Topeka, adjacent to the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center, will offer top-notch services and a supportive environment for both residents and staff. It is anticipated that by February 2025 the design development will be complete.

The current design features 72 individual rooms, a physical therapy area, multipurpose room, theater, dining area, barber/beauty shop, and more. The utmost priority is to create a facility that our Veterans and their Families will proudly call "Home," one that caters to their specific needs.

Stay tuned for further updates on our new Northeast Kansas Veterans Home! Construction start date TBD...



KS VFWA Valentine Goal= 5,000

Buy or make a Valentine. Let veterans know that their service is valued and appreciated. Offer words of encouragement and support to let them know that you care. Sign the Valentine, and, if desired, add a message of thanks for serving our nation.

Often veterans are staying in a hospital that may be many miles or several states away from their nearest family members. Receiving a card from someone they may not know, but who supports them nonetheless, is a fantastic way to boost the morale.