

# KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY

## 2024-2025 HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman – Department School of Instruction, August 17, 2024 – Russell, KS

Highlights of the KS VFW Auxiliary Hospital program. On the KS and National websites there is an immense amount of information for your Auxiliary to utilize. **Please note:** only a small amount of the National Hospital website information is on the KS Hospital page. For the full scope of the hospital program you must view the National **AND** Kansas websites.

### Six Key Topics of Focus:

- 1) Hospital Donation/Pledge; - all Auxiliaries and Districts are strongly encouraged to make donations to the [Hospital General Fund](#)
- 2) Valentines for Veterans;
- 3) Volunteer Recognition, Recruitment & Support;
- 4) Women Veterans Health Care
- 5) Honors Escort – Program
- 6) **OPERATION: We Got Your Back(side) 2.0** (Showering Our Veterans with Care and Compassion) - Complements National President Brenda Bryant's special project, 'Operation Bottom Cover', our OPERATION: 2.0 version involves providing care and compassion for the veteran....(backside frontside, inside, outside) .... their babies.

### Four Department GOALS:

- 1) 100% Reporting & Participation by January 01, 2025;
- 2) 5,000 Valentines for Veterans presented;
- 3) General Fund Donations Goal= \$0.01+ above Hospital Program budget;
- 4) 756 reported projects for the Hospital program.

**Reporting:** Read the **Hospital Reporting Purpose and Procedures** document for important tips and information on what and how to fill out the hospital program report. Report online through KS VFWA website or hardcopy report via snail mail. PLEASE do not report your project until it has been fully completed. **NOTE:** If you can email a report to me, you can easily enter your report online. Contact myself or Karol Goodin and we can walk you through the "how". The best way to contact me is via email. I do not have a cell phone(text) and do not have access to Facebook. Calls received without a name and number are not answered....blame the scammers.

### VAVS Representatives and Deputies and patient counts:

Review the patient needs list and work with the VAVS Representatives for the most up-to-date needs and wants of each facility. Participate in the KS [HAPPINESS from HOME](#) project for sewing/crafting/baking for our hospitalized veterans. There are certificates, charms and other forms of recognition that can be received through your volunteer activities. (forms required) Consider becoming a Hospital volunteer or if you already are a volunteer, help recruit others to volunteer in the medical facilities.

**Ft. Dodge** – Rep. Sheila Railsback; Dep. Mary Sanko

**Leavenworth** – Rep. Christine Anderson; Dep Sheryl Gulley

**Topeka** – Rep. Janice Schweigen; Deps: Jan Safarik, May Gehring, Kelle Brewer-Brown

**Wichita** – Rep. Sandra Whittemore; Deps: Lloyd Rader, Cassandra Harnden

**Winfield** – Rep. Shirley Booe; Dep: Valmarie Wood

Approximate patient count: Leavenworth-50; Topeka-70; Wichita-80; Ft Dodge-90; Winfield-110; Irwin Army Hospital-47

### Shower Thoughts:

Sometimes, when we are doing trivial things, like taking a shower, our minds begin to wander and suddenly we are having our own personal brainstorming session. We come up with the most brilliant ideas or the weirdest thoughts. These ideas, or shower thoughts, allow us to look at things from a different perspective, to get our creative juices flowing, which leads to ..... "Branching (thinking) outside the box"

### **Branching Outside the Box:**

Being creative and finding new ways to meet the wants and needs of our hospitalized veterans. While, the tried and true will get the job done; over time the tried and true becomes the tired and blue. Thinking outside the box, putting a new and different spin on our hospital projects will amaze and delight those veterans who usually get the 'same old thing'. We want them to be pleased to see us; offer positive quality of life moments; help make their hospital stay as pleasant as possible.

National Ambassador Polly McCord is encouraging us to be '**rays of sunshine for our hospitalized veterans**' and is offering an award to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 divisions (KS is in division 8) with the most creative ways to interact and provide happiness to veterans patients. How are we kicking this off in Kansas?

At the Hospital workshop in June, we kicked off with the CARD SHOWER. Auxiliaries sending cards each month to a medical facility for a birthday or other occasion. A simple, cost effective project EVERY Auxiliary can do.

Today, in your handout, you have a card that says **SUNFLOWER SUNSHINE**. A simple card to offer to a hospitalized veteran to make them smile, uplift them in a small way. Now it's your turn. Bring on the Challenges.....

### **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, *e.g. sunshine crackers and ?; snack box of sunshine/everything yellow*

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.

One entry per Auxiliary/District for each challenge accepted, completed and reported.

Winners to be announced at Department Mid-Winter, January 10-12, 2025 in Salina, KS.

### **Awards:**

At the entrance to the Veterans Affairs Headquarters in Washington D.C. is a plaque that reads:

**“ To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan.”**

A mission statement, written by our 16<sup>th</sup> President, Abraham Lincoln, years before the VA was officially a federal agency.

In the Department Convention book (June 2024) I stated:

I am so truly proud of the Kansas Auxiliaries for promoting the Hospital program. Not for an award.

Not for public recognition. Not to be popular. I am proud because you do it because it is the right

thing. The right thing to do for our veterans who have given so much on our behalf.

Yes we have awards. Quite actually, lots of them. You can view the awards by visiting the KS & National websites.

My hope is you are promoting the Hospital program and conducting projects not just for an award but because it is who we are, what we do and why we are here. Maybe that's a thought to ponder....in the shower.

### **In your handout Bag:**

If your Sunflower Sunshine card reads: Winner1 (sunflower solar light) or Winner (umbrella).

You are the winners of the Hospital SOI attendance prize. Please stay standing until I can present you with your prize.