

KANSAS VFW AUXILIARY

2025-2026 HOSPITAL PROGRAM



Kelle Brewer-Brown, Chairman - Department School of Instruction, August 23, 2025

Have all of you have received the handout I have for SOI attendees ? Now no excuse not to take notes. 😊

To find all available materials for the VFW Auxiliary Hospital program, and there is A LOT.....

you MUST go to **both** the Dept of KS website AND the National VFW Auxiliary websites.

Hospital materials created by me, that are Kansas specific, can be found on the KS VFWA website at: vfwauxks.org

Hospital materials created by National, can be found on the National VFWA website at: vfwauxiliary.org

****Everyone should read the [Hospital Program Reporting Purpose and Procedures](#) guidelines on the Dept website.**
This two page, approx. 5 minute read, and will GREATLY assist you in reporting your hospital project.

A brief sample of info:

Total Auxiliary Dollars Spent: Amount of actual Auxiliary monies spent on each project reported.

Total Value of Goods/Services Donated: Value of items, services or monies, for each project, donated by Auxiliary members only.

Do NOT calculate, or include, the value of mileage.

Do NOT calculate, or include, the value of hours volunteered.

Do NOT include the value of items/services donated by businesses.

Do NOT include hours/monies for Post or *non-Auxiliary members.

*except for numbered question on report form in regard to: Auxiliary Sponsored / Student Hospital Volunteers.

****This year the Hospital program [key focus areas](#) are:** Hospital General Fund; Honors Escort; Valentines for Veterans; Women Veterans Health Care; Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition & Support; **OPERATION: Flour Sack- Mission.....Sack It To Em;** and Cards, Contests, Challenges.

****District Presidents and District Hospital Chairman – From each District I am expecting:**

- read the chairman guidelines found on the Dept of Kansas website to learn the duties of your chairmanship
- read the Sunflower Express, learn the deadlines and goals for the Dept of Kansas
- utilize the PRINTABLES section on the KS website - pamphlets, posters, cards, etc
- hold some type of fundraiser for the Dept Hospital General Fund. Monies to Dept Treasurer by Feb 28, 2026.
- at least one entry for Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year & Outstanding Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year
- donation of a minimum \$25 to Dept Hospital General Fund from every Auxiliary in your District.
- one occasion card, sent to veterans in at least one medical facility
- 100% reporting and participation by January 31, 2026.
- Report your District Hospital projects as they are completed. (use zero (0) as the Auxiliary Number)

****Auxiliary President and Auxiliary Hospital Chairman – From each of you I am expecting:**

- read the chairman guidelines found on the Dept of Kansas website to learn the duties of your chairmanship
- read the Sunflower Express; learn the deadlines and goals for the Dept of Kansas
- utilize the PRINTABLES section on the KS website - pamphlets, posters, cards, etc
- hold some type of fundraiser for the Dept Hospital General Fund. Monies to Dept Treasurer by Feb 28, 2026.
- **encourage Hospital/Medical facility volunteerism and volunteer recruitment at your meetings and Post/Auxiliary events**
[Print and handout pamphlets to students along with scholarship & youth contest information, membership applications, etc.](#)

For a certificate of recognition be sure to include your hospital volunteers names in the comments section on your reports.

- at least one entry for Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year & Outstanding Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year
- donation of a minimum \$25 to Dept Hospital General Fund
- send one occasion card to veterans in at least one medical facility
- 100% reporting and participation by January 31, 2026.
- Report your Auxiliary Hospital projects as they are completed.

Note: reports indicating donations to Dept Gen Fund will not be approved until verified by Dept Treasurer.

***National President Lois Callahan's theme is from Sea to Shining Sea... and I am asking you to:

REMEMBER THE C'S <CARDS < CHALLENGES < CONTESTS

****CARDS** – Each month send card(s) to hospitalized veterans in the medical facility(ies) of your choice.....Report it!

Print, sign and send a Birthday or Thinking of you card available under Hospital tab/printables at vfwauxks.org

****CHALLENGES** – Currently 5 CHALLENGES have been issued. 3 for Flour Sack. 2 for recipes.

District Challenge - OPERATION: Flour Sack District raising most funds through an OPERATION: Flour Sack auction or sale. Send monies to Dept Treasurer. Deadline Feb. 28, 2026.

Auxiliary Challenge - OPERATION: Flour Sack – Instructions for a Valentines for Veterans project in a medical facility that utilizes some type of flour or flower. Limit 1 submission per Auxiliary. Multiple submissions will disqualify the Auxiliary. Deadline Feb. 28, 2026. (Submit instructions on back of/attached to Dept Happiness from Home form).

Member Challenge – OPERATION: Flour Sack – Recipe for a food item served to veterans in a medical facility. Limit 1 submission per member. Recipe must make use of flour in some form. i.e. flour, crackers, pretzels, flour tortilla, etc. Deadline Feb. 28, 2026 (Submit recipe on back of/attached to Dept Happiness from Home form)

Auxiliary/Member Challenge -Recipe for any variation of apple pie served to veterans in a medical facility setting.

Auxiliary/Member Challenge -Recipe for any variation of a root beer float served to veterans in a medical facility setting. Deadline Feb. 28, 2026 (Submit recipe(s) on back of/attached to Dept Happiness from Home form)

****CONTESTS** – Currently 2 CONTESTS are out (July & Aug Sunflower Express) and due Nov. 30, 2025. Enter& report.

Member Contests - Enter the Hospital Contests..... Report it !!!

****OPERATION: Flour Sack**... Mission.....Sack It To Em

And no you don't actually have to use a flour sack. It's symbolism.

I am expecting you to "fill your sacks" with gifts, goodies and gratitude for our hospitalized veterans. This is about being creative. Use your imagination and artistic talents to create something new, magical and unforgettable.

We want to make these veterans hospitals stays as comfortable, enjoyable and as memorable as possible.

While we always want our veterans to be happy and healthy, should they ever have to return to a medical facility we want them to know they can count on us. Whether it be an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean or cry on, a hand to hold or a hand to help; a sweet word or a sweet treat, it is our duty +*"To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors."*

****HAPPINESS FROM HOME**

If your Auxiliary has members who bake, cook, sew or craft items for our hospitalized veterans, be sure to have them fill out a HAPPINESS FROM HOME (on Dept website) form to let me know what they are doing. Each member sending in a form will receive a token of appreciation from me at Department Convention, June 2026.

****Our Department GOALS are:**

5,000 Valentines for Veterans presented

500 reported projects for the Hospital program

100% District Reporting & Participation by March 31, 2026

100% Auxiliary Reporting & Participation by January 31, 2026

General Fund Donations \$0.05(or more) above Hospital Program budget

****Our Department Awards & Recognition** can be found on the Kansas website.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE???

+ The official mission of the VA is rooted in a promise first articulated by President Abraham Lincoln at the end of the Civil War.

In 2023, the VA adopted a new mission statement: "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors."

This modernized wording reflects the VA's commitment to care for all who served – regardless of gender – as well as support the loved ones who stand beside those veterans.

For decades, the VA's motto had been Lincoln's quote, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan," but it was updated to be more inclusive of all veterans and their families.