

**2019-2020 PLAQUES AND AWARDS
VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

Linda Kropuenske – Chairman

All Entries (must include award cover sheet) and are to be sent to the Department Chairman Linda Kropuenske – 7948 Prairie Creek Lane NE; Otsego, MN 55330

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

BINGER PLAQUE

Award Criteria: To the Unit for the best overall VA & R program.

Award Guidelines: Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 500 words and must include a copy of the annual report form. Entry must also include the name and address of the Unit Chairman. No pictures, clippings or scrapbooks are to be included.

Award: Plaque presented at Department Convention.

NATIONAL AWARDS:

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program

Award: Citation Plaque

- Presented to: One unit in each division (5) announced by the national VA&R committee at the pre-convention meeting.

Materials and guidelines:

- The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.

Department Award: Best Department VA&R Program

Award: Citation Plaque

- Presented to: One department in each division (5) announced by the national VA&R committee at the pre-convention meeting.

Materials and guidelines:

- The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) support recognition

Award: Recognition during VA&R chairman's remarks at the ALA National Convention

- Presented to: Departments, units, and/or members who qualify for stated contribution level to NVCAF. Donations are made through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

Materials and guidelines:

- To be considered, donations to the ALAF must be received by the ALA Foundation from Aug. 1-July 31 of the following year.
- ALA National Headquarters will submit qualifying donations to NVCAF staff in August.

NVCAF will recognize departments/units/members that contribute:

- Bronze: \$1,000-\$2,499 to the NVCAF from Aug. 1-July 31 of the following year.
- Silver: \$2,500-\$4,999 to the NVCAF from Aug. 1-July 31 of the following year.
- Gold: \$5,000-\$14,999 to the NVCAF from Aug. 1-July 31 of the following year.
- To be considered, donations to the ALAF must be received by the ALA Foundation from Aug. 1-July 31 of the following year.
- ALA National Headquarters will submit qualifying donations to NVCAF staff in August.

Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

A. National Award: VAVS Volunteer of the Year Award/ALA NAC Nominee

Award: Citation + \$500 donation to VAVS facility or VCAF of her choice presented by the American Legion Auxiliary

- Presented to: Member

Materials and guidelines:

- Candidates for VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) Volunteer of the Year will be submitted by the chiefs of voluntary service to the national VAVS deputy (please see supplement for deadline and contact information).
- Awarded to the nominee who has given extraordinary service to our nation's veterans through the ALA VA&R program and the VAVS program.
- Nominee must serve in an established VA assignment and be defined as a regularly scheduled volunteer.
- Should be actively involved in working with veterans in any one of the following areas: outpatient clinics, nursing homes, homeless veteran programs, hosted veteran-related functions outside the VA, or visited veterans confined to their homes (as assigned by VAVS).
- The American Legion Auxiliary selects the ALA Volunteer of the Year. The name of the ALA Volunteer of the Year is forwarded for consideration as the NAC Volunteer of the Year.

B. Member Award: 10,000 Hour Volunteer Service Award

Award: Citation plus \$100 donation to VAVS facility or VCAF of her choice presented by the American Legion Auxiliary

- Presented to: Member

Materials and Guidelines:

- Given to volunteers who have reached 10,000 hours of service in a VA facility from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.
- Verification of hours must be received at National Headquarters by the first Friday in June.

C. Member Award: 20,000 Hour Volunteer Service

Award: Citation plus \$200 donation to local VAVS facility or VCAF of her choice presented by the American Legion Auxiliary

- Presented to: Member

Materials and guidelines:

- Given to volunteers who have reached more than 20,000 hours of service in a VA facility from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.
- Verification of hours must be received at National Headquarters by the first Friday in June.

D. Individual Recognition Award: Volunteer Recruitment & Service Department

Award: Citation presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs

- Presented to: Hospital Representative

Materials and guidelines:

- No entry form required
- Awarded to the hospital rep at every facility that shows an increase in both volunteers and volunteer hours at a VA Medical Center from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.
- The award winners will be determined by the national VAVS representative through verification of hours and number of volunteers as recorded by VAVS.

E. Individual Recognition Award: 100 Percent VAVS Meeting Attendance

Award: Attendance Card presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs

- Presented to: Hospital Representative and Deputy

Materials and guidelines:

- No entry form required.
- An “Attendance Card” will be awarded to each representative and deputy who has 100 percent attendance to VAVS committee meetings at her assigned facility.
- The national VAVS representative will verify the winners from VA records.

F. Department Recognition from The American Legion Award: Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach

Please note this is not an ALA award, it must be submitted to The American Legion.

Award: Plaque presented by The American Legion National Commander at The American Legion’s National Convention

- This award will be given to The American Legion department that demonstrates American Legion Family involvement in homeless veteran initiatives that show outstanding support for activity in any or all of these areas: volunteerism, prevention, supportive housing, advocacy, and fundraising.
- The required nomination form is available at www.legion.org or by writing or calling the Veterans Employment and Education Commission, The American Legion, 1608 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20006; phone 202-861-2700; by email at VE&E@legion.org; or on the VA&R program page at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

G. James H. Parke Scholarship

- This substantial scholarship is awarded annually by Veterans Affairs to a student volunteer.
- The American Legion Auxiliary contributes \$2,000 annually to this scholarship fund.
- To be eligible, candidates must:
 - Have completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled VAVS volunteer service during the calendar year prior to September 1
 - Be a student in the 10th grade or above
 - Not have reached their 19th birthday.
- The Medical Center director nominates a candidate for the award by submission of the nomination form to the president of the fund by November 1 of each calendar year, late nominations will not be considered.
- The nomination form should be completed to reflect the volunteer service and background of the candidate and include: age, years of volunteering, number of volunteer hours, areas of service and affiliated/supporting organizations, if any. See www.va.gov for information on VAVS, James H. Parke Scholarship.
- The national winner receives a plaque and a letter of commitment. This presentation is usually made at the Annual Meeting of the VAVS National Advisory Committee.