



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
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VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION Jan/Feb 2019

We are in the heart of our cold weather months in Minnesota. Each day & night there are Veterans and their families living on the streets. It is a harsh reality. Coats, blankets, thermal socks, boots, sweatshirts, fleece pants, mats, hats and mittens/gloves can be collected and distributed to homeless veterans in your community. Partnering with other agencies such as our veterans homes and hospitals, MAC-V, the Eagles Healing Nest and Haven for Heroes to meet their needs is a wonderful way to help.

Assisting veterans and their families in your own community with utility bills, mortgage payments, transportation and food is vital during the cold weather months. We need to take care of them because of their sacrifices to take care of us. I ask that you do what you can.

S.O.S. The American Legion Auxiliary is in desperate need of new VAVS Volunteers at both the Minneapolis and St. Cloud VA Healthcare Systems (formally known as the VA Medical Centers). VAVS volunteers are regularly scheduled volunteers who commit to volunteering at the hospital weekly, monthly or whatever works into your lifestyle, as long as it is on a regular schedule. These positions are not paid, and you are required to pass a background check and a TB test to ensure the safety of our veterans. There is no clearer way to phrase this - Our veterans need YOU! Please, if your weekdays are free, consider becoming a new VAVS volunteer to help meet the needs of our veterans who are hospitalized.

We have some wonderful, dedicated volunteers representing the American Legion Auxiliary in those facilities right now, but they need our help. Our VAVS volunteers exclaim how rewarding it is to share this time with veterans and want other ALA members to join them. Our presence in those facilities is important and valued very much by the veterans and the volunteer coordinators. This is the epitome of why the American Legion Auxiliary was founded. Contact me personally or our ALA Representatives, Jan Benson (St. Cloud) or MaryAnn Davis (Minneapolis) to get started.

Huge shout out to our Gift Shop Committee, Linda & Mary, all our VA Hospital and Home Representatives and the wonderful ALA volunteers who helped brighten the lives of our veterans during the holiday season at our 2018 Gift Shops. Words cannot express how grateful I am to each & every one of you. Thank you!

Patti Coleman, VA&R Chairman
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