



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
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VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

November – December 2019

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program promotes our mission to enhance the lives of Veterans, military and their families.

The next two months are very busy for Minnesota's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program. November 11th is Veterans Day. Are you planning something to honor and thank the veterans in your community for their service to God and Country?

Our Gift Shop elves, Mary French (651-455-1841) and Lynn Olson, have been very busy shopping. Distribution will be at North St. Paul on November 18th. Please give Mary a call if you wish to help with the distribution, extra hands are always welcome.

The dates for the Gift Shops at the Homes and Hospitals are: Fargo VAHCS – Dec 2; Minneapolis VAHCS – Dec 3 & 4 – they have set up on Dec 2; St. Cloud VAHCS – Dec 2, 3, 4; Minneapolis Veterans Home – Dec 4, 5; Hastings Veterans Home – Dec 10; Luverne Veterans Home – Dec 12; Silver Bay Veterans Home – Dec 12; Fergus Falls Veterans Home – Dec 9; Sioux Falls VAHCS – Sioux Falls – Dec 2 & 3. Extra elves are always appreciated at the facilities. Hope you can join one or all of the Gift Shops.

December is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation month. National is encouraging us to plan an event to do something to make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families.

I have enclosed a Mid-Year report that is due to me by December 9th.

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation recently held their annual meeting. I am very privileged to work with the following ladies this year:

Sandra Locker – Service to Veterans – 763-786-5415
Mary French – Gift Shop Chairman – 651-455-1841
Lynn Olson – Gift Shop Committee – 651-415-1240
Lynette Andel – Fargo VAHCS – 701-412-7010
Doris Lafayette – Fergus Falls Home – 218-493-4514
Darlene Wondra – Hastings Home – 507-744-2503
Sandy Gibson – Minneapolis Home – 651-636-3899
Mary Ann Davis – Minneapolis – 651-690-3272
Jeanette Mertens – Luverne Home - 507-828-7656
Phyllis Mealey – Silver Bay Home – 218-834-4379
Diane Strassburg – Sioux Falls VAHCS – 507-290-0011
Jan Benson – St. Cloud VAHCS - 320-252-5949

The sewing patterns are also in this Unit Mailing, something new is being added. The patterns are labeled as to which facility uses them. Storage space is limited at all of the facilities, please contact the Rep to be sure they are in need of items before using your precious time to make the items.

During the discussion portion of the meeting, the Reps of the various made several requests. Please see the attached list of these requests.

As members of the American Legion Auxiliary there are many areas we can volunteer to accomplish our mission.

If you live near a VA Facility, either a healthcare center or MN Veterans Home, become a regularly scheduled VAVS Volunteer (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service). Your hours of service are entered into the VAVS tracking system each day you volunteer. Invite others to join you in regular voluntary service to our veterans. All nine of our facilities are looking for volunteers. For more information, you may contact the Voluntary Services Coordinator at the facility of our choice.

Please familiarize yourself with the *ALA Guide for Volunteers* this can be downloaded directly from our National website: www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Veterans-Affairs--Rehabilitation, to purchase a printed copy, visit www.emblem.legion.org

Veteran's homelessness is at our forefront right now. The numbers are growing at a dramatic pace. Regardless of the reason for their situation, we need to help our veterans. Connect with Minnesota's Homeless Veterans Coordinators at the Minneapolis and St. Cloud VAHCS (find them at www.va.gov) to find out where your assistance is needed.

Participate in the VA Project CHALENG for Veterans (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) which was organized to enhance the care for homeless veterans provided by your local VA and its surrounding community service organizations. The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) is a resource not only for homelessness, but they also provide assistance for those who are in jeopardy of losing their homes and can assist with temporary financial assistance for rent, utilities and such. MACV also sponsors many Standdowns throughout Minnesota offering services for legal issues, personal hygiene, employment opportunities, food, clothing and medical exams. Volunteer at one of these events. Many hands make light work. (www.mac-v.org)

Be sure your Unit is in contact with your local Post homeless veteran's coordinator, this may be your Veterans Service Officer.

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