



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
State Veterans Service Building
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Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Nov/Dec 2018

The American Legion Auxiliary in Minnesota is very lucky to have some amazing women who are dedicated to our mission of enhancing the lives of veterans by volunteering as our VA Hospital and Home Representatives and Deputies. These women are regularly scheduled Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service volunteers (VAVS) and make a huge difference in the lives of the veterans they serve within the facility where they “work”. Many hours are given from their hearts, to provide for veteran’s needs, on behalf of the ALA. Some spend a few hours a month at their facility and others spend a few hours each week.

The tasks the VAVS volunteers perform vary by the facility. They distribute clothing, comfort boxes, visit with veterans, host birthday parties and picnics, assist with special events and outings for the veterans, distribute sewing items made by our members, mend veterans clothing when needed and host the yearly ALA Gift Shop. All the facilities NEED more ALA volunteers. If you have the time, please consider becoming a regularly scheduled ALA VAVS volunteer. You are paid tenfold with the gratitude shown by the veterans. We are still actively looking for a new ALA VA Rep for the St. Cloud VA Health Care System. Jan is wanting to retire after her many years of service and is willing to stay on until we find another ‘special someone’ to fill her shoes. If you’ve ever thought about it and aren’t too far from St. Cloud, take a chance! I don’t believe you will have any regrets. If you are interested, please contact the Department Office, President Jean Walker or myself.

The list of sewing needs for the VA facilities and the patterns have been reviewed and updated with the input from the Reps. Please look in this Unit mailing for those items. Remember to contact the hospital or home rep before delivering anything to their facility to be sure they need it. If it is something they cannot currently use, they will let you know which facility has a need for the items you have. They all work together for the common good, but any postage costs to forward your items would come out of their yearly budget set aside for the veterans and we don’t want that to happen.

Fargo VAHCS

Lynette Andel, Moorhead, Unit #21
Lande148@gmail.com

Fergus Falls Veterans Home

Doris Lafayette, Barnesville, Unit #153
dorisl@rrt.net

Hastings Veterans Home

Darlene Wondra, Montgomery Unit #79
news4darlene@earthlink.net

Luverne Veterans Home

Jeannette Mertens, Redwood Falls Unit 38
jmertens3868@gmail.com

Minneapolis Veterans Home

Sandy Gibson, Rosetown Unit #542
kensan2k@q.com

Minneapolis VAHCS

Mary Ann Davis, No St. Paul Unit #39
651-690-3272

Silver Bay Veterans Home

Sioux Fall VAHCS

St. Cloud VAHCS

Phyllis Mealey, Two Harbors Unit #109
phyllis.mealey20@gmail.com

Naomi Hill, Brewster Unit #464
ryhill@swwnet.com

Jan Benson/Carol Kottom, Waite Park
Unit #428/Buffalo Unit #270
jibenson@yahoo.com
ckakottom@gmail.com

Please offer a great big THANK YOU to these amazing members for all that they do to impact the lives of our veterans while they are staying in our Minnesota VA facilities and for representing the American Legion Auxiliary so well.

These members are examples of who we are, what we do and why we matter!

Patti Coleman, VA & R Chairman
2018-2019
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