



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
Hospital Bulletin
December, 2019/January, 2020
www.wivfwaux.org

The hospital tours are complete as of October 23rd. We toured Zablocki VA October 16 of which the VA found an organization that will lease and renovate the building “Old Main” plus add 100 units for homeless veterans. The Hoptel has been upgraded with the help of the VFW and with room equipment etc. and foods in a well-supplied kitchen for all. Union Grove Boland Hall is a skilled nursing facility which offers a variety of music and rehab therapies and care services to help veterans gain independence. The last tour was at Madison October 23rd. Madison VA are looking for primary clinic settings that will cover the East and West side of the city to accommodate Veterans, and increase the flow of Veterans from all angles within 30 minutes for primary care and 60 minutes for specialty. There is a large service for telehealth programs available and they are building a new cancer center which will open next summer. There will be radiation and oncology in house. There is an increase in community support with all the VA’s and communication to keep our Veterans within the walls of the VA system. The VA’s want the Veterans to stay exposed to the many programs and events the VA has to offer that is directed specifically for Veterans and Veterans rehab.

VFW Auxiliary members are continually asked to **Recruit and recognize your volunteers and offer support. Again,** if unable to volunteer Auxiliary members, please check out the wish list on the Auxiliary Hospital site and **offer a check to help pay for events or programs, rehab projects or other donations** to help support our veterans with hospital projects. **The wish lists are on the hospital site.** Zablocki and Madison VA’s will be added soon to the wish list. Please frequently check the site. **Remember with the upcoming holidays (Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s etc.)** to check out the local hospitals, nursing homes etc., programs and events and/or see how many veterans are there and:

- Prepare a fruit basket (check with facility)
- Send cards (**let them know you are thinking of them for the Holidays**),
- Take a glove and decorate for any one of the Holidays and fill with items (check with facility)
- Talk to the veterans, listen to their stories
- Visit on the Holidays (Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s etc. (Please check with facility)
- See if the veterans are allowed candy, Holiday decorations, Thanksgiving décor, gifts, ornaments or bring/or take out a veteran for turkey dinner, maybe at Christmas supply a tree for the room with battery lights (if ok with the facility).
- Auxiliaries can sing Christmas carols for the Veterans in one of the facility halls (check with facility). If you sponsor a children’s group, Scout group, or church group etc. check if able to visit.
- Decorate a paper bag for any one of the Holiday’s and distribute for veterans, place pencil, note pad, cards, calendar, or sew a catheter bag, w/c bag, lap covers (big request for the cold months) and half bed covers (veterans are cold from the knees down at bedtime) etc.
- Fill a Holiday basket with needed items (check with your facility of items Veterans may need)
- Make shadow boxes for Veterans wall down their hall (Check with facility), purchase or make shawls or obtain poinsettias for women veterans or place on a table at a Veterans facility, rehab item for male or female veteran, games, puzzles, magazines, purchase cards and/or stamps for cards, personalize a toy, game, or veterans like the model cars etc.
- Volunteer for an event or program at your nearest facility



- For information on Hospital per National go to <https://vfwauxiliary.org/> click on what we do at the top header (4th from the left) and scroll to hospital and scroll down to Access Hospital program Resources here and you will find a plethora of items involved with hospital.

- The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

❖ From Cyleria Gerrets (National Hospital Ambassador)

- **Center for Women Veterans**

- Do you know about the Center for Women Veterans? The Center for Women Veterans (CWV) was established by Congress in November 1994 by P.L. 103-446.

- **Their Mission:**

- Monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care and benefits services, and programs for women veterans.
- Serve as an advocate both in the VA and the general public.
- Raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women veterans with dignity and respect.
- Women Veterans Call Center: 1-855-829-6636, for assistance.
- And, of course, the Crisis Hotline: 1-800-273-8255, press option 1 to be connected to a skilled, trained coordinator.
- For more information visit <https://www.va.gov/womenvet>.



Everyone, please have safe and Happy Holidays! Thank you for all of your reports, donations, checks, sewing items, etc., that you have completed or donated thus far. **Keep it up and REMEMBER there is still more of the year left after January!** You are all doing a GREAT service to our veterans in our VA Medical Centers, veterans' homes and all facilities who serve our veterans. As you know, keeping our veterans' spirit up will only help in their recovery and well-being. Even a smile will brighten their day!

"Giving Hope to Veterans and Families" as we are "Serving our Veterans with Aloha"



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