

# VFW Auxiliary

## Youth Activities

**Janet Kays  
Chairman**

The Youth Activities program in the VFW Auxiliary has many of the same goals as the VFW's youth program: to work with youth organizations and individual youth in a way that introduces them to veterans; and to instill respect and pride for our country, our veterans, and our flag in the young citizens of our communities.

Unlike the VFW program, there are no scholarships awarded to individuals, only certificates and gifts of appreciation for patriotic actions and good deeds. (We have a separate program for scholarships and the VOD and Patriot's Pen is included in part of that scholarship program.)

Our Auxiliaries are encouraged to work with the youth in the area by donating time and money and by teaching flag education and patriotism.

We are given the tools to achieve these goals with free downloads for patriotic awards, information on flag etiquette and patriotic traditions, as well as a tool kit to help complete an interview for the **Veteran's History Project**.

One way that you, a veteran,

can contribute to this program, would be to agree to give an interview for the Veteran's History Project when approached by a student who would like to participate in this endeavor. You can do this with your children, grandchildren, neighbors, or anyone else that is interested. You might even consider volunteering to do this.

Each of you has a story to tell and every story is important. Your story is a unique piece of this nation's history.

I recently had the honor of listening to a young veteran's story at a Veteran's Day program at the local High School. His career in the Marine Corps began in 2001. Myself, like most everyone else in the gymnasium, listened to every word as he highlighted the story of his service.

Your history, the good days and the bad, should also be left behind for future generations to hear. Work with the children and teenagers in your area and let them see firsthand why they should be proud of our veterans and our country.

And again, thank you for serving.

## Hospital Program

**Mercie Woolfolk &  
Debra Gard**

This is our oldest program created in 1914 and serve our hospitalized and community assisted living Veterans.

The program also meet needs not otherwise provided by their facility, such as daily and special holiday cultural events, personal items and their very favorite "Bingo Parties." With Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays approaching, let's help to make it a very special time for our Veterans.

The 2017-2018 goals of the program are (1) Volunteer Service in Medical facilities, (2) Volunteer Recruitment & Recognition, (3) Veterans Voices Writing Project, and (4) Military & Veterans Suicide Awareness.

Our Volunteer Service in Medical Facilities consist of VFW Auxiliary members in part who volunteer on a regular, occasional of special basis with care and passion. Under the direction of the Hospital program and the guidance of each facility policy, our members volunteer in local hospitals, Veterans homes, nursing homes and both VA and non-VA medical centers and clinics.

Members and non-members

are applicable. Additionally, we have appointed Volunteer Representative who help to facilitate volunteer opportunities.

This year National has placed emphasis on Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition.

Medical facilities welcome volunteers to help with their daily operations in many different ways-from giving directions and information to patients and visitors to filling a void in an administrative office and serving on VAVS committees. The value of a volunteer is immeasurable.

Volunteers can be from within churches, classrooms, local VFW and Auxiliaries, friends and family members. Please just ask. Members can earn Hospital Volunteer Pins after 150 hours of service. National has resources and they are free. On National website [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) Auxiliaries can find the order form for hourly achievement pins and fillable certificates to download. These pins are ordered directly from National. Sewing Pins are available from the Hospital Chairman for home-made items for the Veterans. Early the better

to start thinking of your candidate for "Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year" Award. The nominating form is locate on the Department VFW Auxiliary website [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) and is due to National Hospital Ambassador, Janice Holm before March 15, 2018 and to the Department President by March 1, 2018.

In 1946, the Veterans Voices Writing Project was founded. This project offers therapy through writing. Subscribing to the Veterans Voice Magazine is a good way for us to understand the project and explain its purpose to the Veterans who may have a story to tell, a poem to say or a memory to share.

Members can become involved with a local VFWP Representative and assist veterans in writing, recording or typing their story. Go to [veteransvoices.org](http://veteransvoices.org) or call 816-701-6844 for more information.

Under Military and Veterans Suicide Awareness, there are often warning signs of suicidal potential among our Veterans and Military Service members. Let's continue to promote the "Know the 5 Signs" campaign as the special project of Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman and National President Dee Guillory.

Go to [theChangdirection.org](http://theChangdirection.org) website to (1) make a pledge, (2) view pledges, (3) read the news, (4) find Public Service Announcements, (5) learn more about the program and (6) participate.

You can login on the National website at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) and Department website [www.vfwauxiliaryil.org](http://www.vfwauxiliaryil.org) for more information about the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program Guide, the resources and publication in the program.

Leaving our Legacy and Catch the Dream for our Veterans year is approaching its half-way mark. Let's continue to keep the Hospital Program on top of our list and be 100% reported and participated by December 31, 2017.

Thank you for being a volunteer at the medical facilities and meeting the needs of our Veterans. I am at your serve by phone or email.

## Governor Rauner, IDVA announces 'Honor 200' Bicentennial campaign will Honor 200 Illinois Veterans

Gov. Bruce Rauner and Department of Veterans Affairs Director Erica Jeffries are announcing the launch of HONOR 200, a signature program of the Illinois Bicentennial Celebration, honoring the work of 200 veterans whose contributions are above and beyond the call of duty.

"Illinois veterans have played a critical role in defining our heritage," Governor Rauner said. "They've served our country, protected our freedoms, and many of them

continue to be a positive force in their communities. It's only fitting that we honor them and recognize their contributions to society."

"It is a very special privilege to honor our veterans," IDVA Director Jeffries said. "Honor 200 provides us with an opportunity to showcase our veterans and the values they have when it comes to serving our communities."

The IDVA will work with veteran's organizations throughout the state to promote HONOR

200 and solicit nominations for those who will be recognized as part of the program. Nominees will be evaluated on their achievements and on the extent to which their contributions have aided, benefited and provided inspiration to their community. Anyone can nominate an Illinois Veteran. Written nominations can be sent to the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, 69 W. Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60601 or on-line at [www.illinois.gov/veterans](http://www.illinois.gov/veterans). The Official

Illinois Bicentennial Celebration kicks off Dec. 3, 2017 with events in Springfield and Chicago. The celebration will continue with programs and events throughout 2018, ending with the Bicentennial Birthday Party on Dec. 3, 2018 at the United Center.

The HONOR 200 veterans will be recognized during the Birthday Gala. For information on the Bicentennial and to find out how your community can participate go to [www.illinois200.gov](http://www.illinois200.gov).

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