

*American Legion Auxiliary
Veterans Affairs &
Rehabilitation*



*September
2022*

*National Bulletin
2022-2023*

Greetings American Legion Auxiliary Department VA&R Chairmen,

The 2022-2023 Administrative year is off and running and our committee is excited to work with you in support of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) program initiatives. Please meet the 2022-2023 National VA&R Committee who will be supporting you and your departments on making this a banner year for this flagship program.

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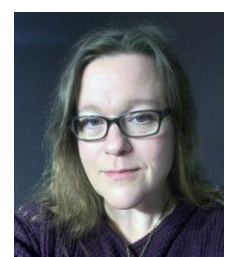
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR/>

WHERE?

Do I Go for Info?

Over the past few years, the information for the American Legion Auxiliary's programs was found in a document called the *Program Action Plan* which was formerly known as the *Plan of Work*. Recently, things have changed to make it easier for our members to access and locate program information. Information on our programs can be found in several locations:



ALERT

To access any of the downloads, you must be logged into your *MyAuxiliary* member portal

1. ALA National Website – VA&R Program page

Located here: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/var>

All information such as Key Program Statements, Awards, Resources, and collaboration opportunities are located for easy access.

Key Program Statements:

- Support rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies
- Support veteran caregivers, family members and survivors
- Enroll Auxiliary members as VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) volunteers at VA health care facilities
- Help The American Legion, State Department of Veterans Affairs and Chamber of Commerce promote job fairs for veterans and their families.
- There isn't a VA hospital close to your community? Find opportunities for Auxiliary members to serve veterans in your area such as serving the homeless.

2. ALA Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Facebook Groups

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR/>

These Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to the committee and program. Groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.

This is a place to share activities and events, ask questions, obtain information, and promote Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Activities. Be sure to join today!



Visit and Join the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Facebook Group

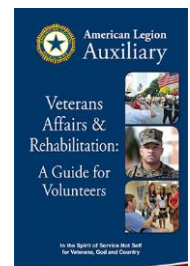
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR/>



3. American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Program Brochures

A variety of printed material is available at no charge via download from both the American Legion Auxiliary national website at www.alaforveterans.org and The American Legion's website at www.legion.org

Material should be used for reference where appropriate.



4. Resources to Connect and Collaborate

Key resources related to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program can be found on the American Legion Auxiliary national website at: www.alaforveterans.org/committees/var

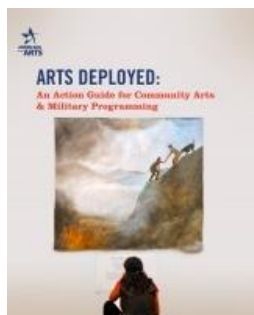


Welcome Home Celebrations

Providing assistance to your local VA health care system when supporting returning servicemembers and their families in the community is a great way to support the veteran community. The VA endorses this initiative by providing information about the opportunities available to them through the VA. Every VA health care system sponsors welcome home celebrations in their facilities and community. Get involved with welcoming home servicemembers and making sure they are aware of the medical and emotional support available.

National Salute to Veteran Patients: February 12-18, 2023

The National Salute to Veteran Patients takes place during the week of February 14 every year. This year, it takes place from February 12 to 18. The purpose of the holiday is to honor and pay tribute to the brave military veterans who receive medical care at Veterans Affairs (V.A.) medical facilities. The holiday also seeks to create more awareness about the importance of these centers and encourage more people to visit and volunteer. During the week, a host of activities to create awareness take place at various centers, such as recreational activities, Valentine's gifting, and school visits. This year, make it a point of duty to celebrate and appreciate the veterans whose selfless service has contributed to the safety and peace of our country.



Americans for the Arts

There is an excellent handbook called "Arts Deployed" available for free download at the Americans for the Arts website located here: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/legislation-policy/naappd/arts-deployed-an-action-guide-for-community-arts-military-programming> As a collaboration between AFTS's National Initiative on Arts & Health and the Military and the Local Arts Advancement departments, Arts Deployed is a guide for arts organizations and artists interested in bringing creative arts programming to military and Veteran communities, their caregivers, and families. The guide helps local arts organizations and artists understand their unique roles in serving the military and Veteran communities;

details the expansive benefits the arts have on the health and well-being of these communities; and lays the groundwork – step-by-step, from establishing fruitful partnerships with the military and Veteran sector, through funding and promotion-for arts organizations and artists to build their own creative arts initiative for their local military and/or Veteran Communities. Download your FREE copy today!



BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

We join together as an American Legion Family to support the "Be the One" initiative which tackles the tough challenge of veteran suicide. What does it mean to Be the One? For a veteran, it means reaching out for help to assist a loved one or calling a help line in times of crisis. The new 988 emergency suicide hotline is a valuable resource. For a spouse, family member or caretaker, it means recognizing when the veteran is struggling and getting them the help, they need. As a caretaker, spouse, or friend, you are in a position to not only see the risk but have the trust of the veteran in his or her time of crisis. For veterans, friends, and other civilians, it also means being proactive to get the veteran the help they need. Don't assume someone else will act. Take the initiative to "Be the One" to make a difference in the lives of veterans.

Q1 Holiday Calendar

September 2022

2	VJ Day
5	International Day of Charity
5	Labor Day
11	Patriot Day
13	Uncle Sam Day
16	National POW / MIA Recognition Day
17	Constitution Day
18	Air Force (USAF) Birthday
25	Gold Star Mothers & Families Day

October 2022

10	Columbus Day
13	U.S. Navy Birthday
22	Make a Difference Day
26	Day of the Deployed
27	Navy Day
30	Ms. Veteran America Pageant
31	Halloween

November 2022

National Military Family Appreciation Month

6	Daylight Savings Time Ends
10	ALA's 103 rd Birthday
10	Marine Corps Day – Birthday
11	Veterans Day
17	National Philanthropy Day
19	National Family Volunteer Day
24	Thanksgiving Day
25	Day after Thanksgiving
26	Giving Tuesday

National President Vickie Koutz Special Project for 2022-2023



American Legion Auxiliary National President Vickie Koutz is excited to support the companions who accompany our veterans to the Veterans Creative Arts Festival as her special project for the 2022-2023 year. Donations collected will assist with financial support to help offset the expenses of those who

travel with and provide vital medical and emotional support and companionship to our veterans while attending and performing at the festival. Although our veterans' expenses are underwritten, those who accompany our veterans do not receive financial assistance at a time when they are needed most. Helping those unsung heroes is Vickie's way of giving back to help those who have given so much. Please consider doing a fundraiser with proceeds earmarked to Vickie's project. We value and appreciate the many caregivers who support our veterans in so many ways. Consider making a generation donation today!

Send Donations To:

ALA National Headquarters
3450 Founders Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Be sure to earmark: **National President's Project 2022-2023** on the memo line of your check

History of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee



Mrs. Rae Shaw
National President
Department of Illinois
1970-1971

The American Legion Auxiliary's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee has enjoyed a long and compelling history serving veterans through the program's initiatives. The committee began in 1921 as the Welfare and Hospital Relief Committee which was later merged with the Rehabilitation Committee in 1924 enabling the committee's scope to broaden and expand.

Under National President Rae Shaw from Illinois during the 1970-1971 administration, the committee was formally changed to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation to better articulate its purpose. The new National Committee had a bit of getting use to the new name but understood the importance of aligning with the Legion's initiatives for consistency and content alignment. An innovative new slogan "Brighter Horizons for Our Veterans" was the call to action for the team. Nationally, this marked a special year in the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) program, marking twenty-five years of volunteer service. This concept of citizens volunteering to share their time and presence with Veterans in VA Hospitals was saluted at special ceremonies in Washington, D.C.