



American Legion Auxiliary Department of California

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

October 2022

Bulletin #3

Hello VA&R Chairmen,

As you rumble along the California tracks, remember to blow your whistles, invite members and potential members to come “All Aboard the Friendship Train”. Make sure those within earshot can hear you tell them how we are “Serving Veterans”. Start out by “announcing” that the **Veterans Crisis Line** for Suicide Prevention has a new number: dial 988, then press 1 when prompted. It’s that simple!

The National President, Vicki Koutz, was installed on September 1 at the National Convention. Her focus for 2022-2023 is “To Honor Our Veterans Every Day”. Her project is National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) companions. This is a great time to support her project; to plan and work with a local VA hospital or VA home to get a Creative Arts Festival started. The National website has a how-to sheet titled *How to Facilitate a Local Veterans Creative Arts Festival* found in the Members Only Area on the VA&R program page. A grant fund is also available to help your local VA hospital or home with its creative Arts Festival and/or workshop. The grant can be found at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Help your unit and department earn recognition at National Convention through donations to support the VACAF. You can volunteer individually, as a team, or as a group/unit. Arts, crafts, and hobby projects targeted to veterans can include writing, oral history recording, visual and performing arts, quilting, and gardening). Your unit can organize a project on its own or introduce the unit to veteran arts, crafts, and hobby projects already operational in the community. Your unit can also donate supplies needs for these projects.

Units and individuals that donate money to NVCAF can win awards. Awards are presented for Bronze (\$1,000 to \$2,499), Silver (\$2,500 to \$4,999), and Gold (\$5,000 to \$14,999) by close of books of the administrative year. To donate to the fund, be sure to use the donation form can be found on the Department website at:

https://member.legion-aux.org/CMSDesk/ALA/media/PDF/Donate/ALA_Foundation_Donation_Form.pdf

Reminder: Keep track of the work you do for veterans by filling out the *tracking worksheets* you have (hopefully) downloaded. Unit members also need to do this to help you, the unit chairman, fill out the End-of-Year **Impact Report** and submit it to your District VA&R Chairman.

“God Bless This Endeavor. God Speed the Train. God Speed the Peace.”

--Rev. Clarence H. Parlous of St.Mark’s Episcopop Church regarding the Friendship Train of 1947

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