Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
HOSPITAL BULLETIN
June/July/August 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans
Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

PROGRAM GOALS
Military Suicide Awareness
Volunteer Service in Medical Facilities
Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition
Veterans Voice Writing Project

Congratulations to all the District and Auxiliary Hospital chairmen! Thank you to our incoming Department President Bonnie Pray for giving me this opportunity.

First off, let me introduce myself. My name is DeeAnn Miller. I am best known as Past Department President Mariann Hamann’s daughter. This is my first Department chairmanship. I am nervous and excited. I joined the Auxiliary under the eligibility of my father, Marvin Hamann (past Department Membership Director). I have been a member for over 20 years but only active since 2007. I attended my first district meeting. My Auxiliary President Stella Robak, who was about 90 at the time, told me if I didn’t take over Presidency the Auxiliary would fold. I didn’t know what I was in for but told her I would think about it. I couldn’t let the Auxiliary fold so I agreed. I knew I would be President forever. A majority of the members were over 60. After my dad passed away in 2011, the Post and Auxiliary consolidated with another Post and Auxiliary. I was no longer President. I became a regular member for a few months so I could sit back and relax. Since then, I have held an officer position in both the Auxiliary and District levels. I was District 4 President in 2013-14 and earned Runner-Up District of the Year award. The thing I enjoyed most about being District President was visiting all the Auxiliaries. I have held several Auxiliary chairmanships. I am currently District 4, Auxiliary 7546 and District 4 Is Was Past President Club Secretary. My parents have been great mentors to me. I hope to one day follow in my mom’s footsteps and be Department President.

I have a Bachelor’s degree in Information Technology from the University of Phoenix. I have been employed with a large health insurance company for over 27 years. I have 3 children (ages 26, 24, 22) all members of the Auxiliary. I had one granddaughter but she passed away in March. I have another grandchild due September 7. I have 2 families: my biological family and my VFW family. I always believed blood was thicker than water. My VFW family has proved me wrong. They have been there for me as much as my biological family. I never understood that until the death of my father and granddaughter. The love and support they have shown me has been tremendous.

My goal this year is to visit all the hospitals and homes in Michigan. I have been to a few already but I would like to visit all of them. If you are having a hospital fundraiser,
please let me know. I will try to attend. I am really looking forward to meeting new people.

The new reporting period started May 1. Once the new website is up, remember to report everything you have done thus far. If it is easier, report immediately after the event takes place. This way you don’t forget the details about the event. Please make sure to report how many members helped with the project, how long the project took, how many miles driven to and from the project and total cost spent on the project. Be as detailed as possible.

Reminders for reporting:
1. If you car pool to an event, the person driving takes the mileage not everyone in the car. For example: 3 members meet at their post and ride together to the VA hospital to volunteer. The driver takes the total amount driven from their home to the post to the VA hospital. The riders count the miles from the home to their post only.
2. Do not include money for mileage in the value of a project. Only report the actual number of miles
3. Greeting cards sent after discharge from the hospital and any home visits to the Veteran and their family should be reported under Veterans and Family Support.

Did you know the Department has Facebook pages for each of their chairmanships? This year the Department Hospital Facebook page will be used quite a bit to post any information and suggestions. This is a way of communicating in between bulletins and to keep in touch. Please only post constructive comments. If a member has a good idea for a fundraiser, post on the Facebook page. I am always open to suggestions. Department President has the final say. I will be checking this page daily. If you have questions, you can always email me, use the Facebook page, call or text me. If you call, please leave a detailed message (name, auxiliary, phone number and reason for call).

In a future bulletin, a needs list will be provided for each hospital and home. Hospitals and homes are always looking for volunteers. If you have some extra time, become a hospital volunteer. You can volunteer once a month or once a week. I will be contacting the VAVS representative for their facilities volunteer opportunities and needs. You can volunteer at any hospital or nursing home. Contact your local hospital or homes to inquire on how you can volunteer. It is hard to volunteer when you work full time. I am researching different opportunities for volunteering when you work full time.

September is National Suicide Awareness month. Suicide is still on the rise. Look for the warning signs.
- Hopelessness, feeling like there’s no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends
The following signs require immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.

Veterans crisis line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net or text 838255 today. Let’s get them help before it is too late.

Fall Conference is September 21-23, 2017 at Boyne Highlands. President Bonnie gave her approval to have a District Basket Raffle. My auxiliary will be drawing the theme for the districts. The themes of the baskets will be the Months of the Year. Each District will have a different month. Anything to do with the month can be included in the basket. For example: if you draw October, Breast Cancer Awareness and/or Halloween can be included. I had members of my auxiliary draw for the basket raffle at Fall Conference. I know some months may be harder than others. Use your imagination. For example: if you have a winter month, you have items to keep you warm or winter sports.

- District 4 – October
- District 5 - January
- District 6 - November
- District 7 - May
- District 8 - September
- District 9 - December
- District 10 - April
- District 11 - March
- District 12 - February
- District 13 - June
- District 14 - August
- District 15 - July

At Fall Conference, I will be collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste. Dingell doesn’t accept Colgate toothpaste but I will distribute to the remaining hospitals and homes. They can be full size or travel size.

If you have any questions or need help, please don’t hesitate to ask. I don’t know everything. I will find out the answer.

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