

THE VAVS PROGRAM NEEDS YOU!

VOLUNTEERS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN VA HEALTH CARE

The VAVS program provides a role for all who desire to volunteer. The gift of your time is the greatest gift one could possibly give. Won't you consider the hospitalized veterans?

No qualifications are needed except to CARE: and SHARE and want to help the hospitalized Veteran. The time given by the volunteers does aid the professional staff and does make the veterans stay in the hospital much more pleasant. The staff will give information on what can and cannot be done. Each Medical Center does have its own programs and this information will be given to the volunteers.

Volunteer assignments can be during days, evenings, nights and weekends in medical centers, clinics and community based programs. Some assignments involve direct patient contact, others do not. If you are interested in the VAVS program, read the following to find out how you can become one of those WHO CARES.

The Unit President or Secretary must write a letter to the current National VAVS Representative requesting that a member or members be certified as a representative or deputy representative to a particular Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. It is necessary to send names and addresses of the interested individuals. The VAMC can have only one representative and up to three deputy representatives from any one organization.

Certification is for a two (2) year period. When this time is up, the person or persons must be re-certified if they wish to continue in the VAVS program. The National VAVS Representative will contact the Chief of Voluntary Service to accomplish this as the expiration date draws near.

The Department of Veterans Affairs makes the rules and every veterans organization follows the same rules. An Auxiliary member cannot represent us at a Medical Center if she is representing another organization or is a VA employee.

The representative or deputies may be dropped from the VAVS Advisory Committee by the VA if they miss three (3) regularly scheduled meetings. It is only necessary that one of those certified attend a meeting. It is important to try to select persons that can attend the quarterly VAVS meetings. VA Central Office now has a person monitoring the attendance of all organizations. The reason for attending these meetings (as well as showing interest) is to keep the Units informed of the activities, needs, and welfare of the hospitalized veterans.

As soon as names and necessary information is sent to the National VAVS Representative, they will be sent on to the Chief of Voluntary Service of the Medical Center in which these ladies wish to be involved. The Chief will then contact the individuals with needed information.

The Marine Corps League Auxiliary can use more people in this program. If more information is needed, please contact the National VAVS Representative or Deputy.

(Rev 8/01)