

VA&R – VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

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Purpose: The purpose of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives.

ALA members are able to volunteer in many different ways in any of the various committees within the organization. VA&R governs two categories of ALA volunteers: VAVS volunteers and Service to Veterans volunteers. While the goal of both programs remains the same, there are many differences in how those goals are reached. The most significant difference between the two programs pertains to where the service takes place and how volunteers are recognized for their service. In the following sections, the specific differences between VAVS and Service to Veterans have been outlined. While reviewing the different programs, consider how other members of your community can become involved. ALA obtains members through attraction. By organizing volunteer events in the community, you are not only attracting attention to the ALA's mission but also educating the community on the needs of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) supports VA (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) and VHA (Veterans Health Administration) strategic goals by recruiting, supporting, and retaining a knowledgeable, diverse, and engaged supplemental workforce of volunteers to assist management in the delivery of VA healthcare by improving access to care, assisting with long-term care, improving patient satisfaction and much more. The Auxiliary is not the only group that provides VAVS volunteers, but we do have representatives who serve on the VA's National Advisory Committee.

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.

Deadlines/Important Dates:

- Year-end reports – May 15, 2024: Department chairmen reports due via email to division chairmen with a copy to national chairman.
- Department and Unit Award Nomination Form Completed and Submitted: June 1.
- NVCAF Award: NVCAF Support Award – Send donations to the ALA Foundation to National Headquarters for the current calendar year by Dec. 31.