



2019-2020 Program Action Plan ***VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION***

<p>Chairman Deborah Heydman debo.heydman@gmail.com</p>

What is this program, and why do we have it?

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program promotes our mission to enhance the lives of veterans, military and their families.

VA&R Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) support recognition

A. NVCAF Award: NVCAF Support Recognition

- Deadline: May 15, 2020
- For Department recognition send donations for NVCAF to Department Headquarters.
- After May 15, 2020 you may still send donations directly to the ALA Foundation to National Headquarters until their deadline of July 31, 2020.

Service to Veterans

B. Member Award: Hour Bar Recognition for Service to Veterans Volunteers

(Our Department is working on a system where if a member submits hours we may be able to track and submit to National)

- **Award:** Hour Bar
- **Presented to:** Member by her department via ALA National Headquarters
- **Materials and guidelines:**
 - Volunteers are recognized when specific hour milestones are reached: 50, 100, 300, 500, and 1,000.
 - After the first 1,000-hour bar is awarded, the next bar will be earned in 1,000-hour increments up to 20,000 hours. Hour bars are also offered in increments of 25,000 and 30,000 hours. After achieving 35,000 hours ALA National Headquarters will issue a separate Lifetime Service to Veterans pin.



- Hour bars are provided at no cost to departments; however, the appropriate pin (from which the hour bar is affixed) can be obtained from Emblem Sales at the Department or member's expense.

C. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program

- Deadline: May 15, 2020
- Send to Department VA&R Chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. CST on the deadline listed above.
- Materials and guidelines:
 - The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.
 - Include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.

Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) (*Volunteers at VA Hospital System*)

A. Member Award: 10,000 Hour Voluntary Service

- Volunteers must submit hours to Department Chairman by deadline
- Deadline: March 15, 2020
- Verification of hours must be mailed or emailed to National Headquarters by the first Friday in June 2020

B. Member Award: 20,000 Hour Volunteer Service

- Deadline: March 31, 2020
- Verification of hours must be mailed or emailed to National Headquarters by the first Friday in June 2020.

C. Individual Recognition Award: Volunteer Recruitment & Service Department

- Deadline: March 31, 2020



VA&R Reporting:

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- How did the units participate in the caregiver support program?
- Describe any exceptional efforts members made in earning their Service to Veterans hours.
- What assistance did units give at a stand down in your department? What did units learn about hosting a stand down? What went well; what would they do differently?

Mid-Year Reports

Please submit a narrative report by **December 21, 2019** to the Department VA&R chairman.

Year-End Reports

Please submit a narrative report by **May 1, 2020** to the Department VA&R chairman.

Special 100th Anniversary Program Facts:

Kris West, PNP 2000-2001, was contacted by John Hampton, a former staff member of The American Legion from the Washington D. C. office and who was later employed by the VA. He was looking for an organization to support The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) that was going to be held in Washington D.C.

Since the very first sponsorship of the NVCAF was a success, she then knew there would need to be money raised each year, if this was going to continue. She decided to approach and enlist the help of the upcoming members of the leadership team (Katherine Morris, Sheri McLaughlin and Elsie Bailey), To ask them to support and commit to continue with the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Kris West wrote a resolution seeking donors and business to support the program. That first year, \$2,500 was donated by Pfizer, \$5,000 by Eli Lilly and \$5,000 from a bank all located in Indianapolis.

As a gift she decided to present a scenic book of Washington D.C. with a note on the inside cover thanking the veteran for his/her service to our country and that it was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

Some of the previous NC's for the program were: Ernest Borgnine, Jane Powell and Michal Petersen