**VA&R – VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

**AND SERVICE TO VETERANS**

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**Overview**: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation means the complete restoration of the veteran and his or her family to normal function and adjustment, physically, mentally, socially, and vocationally for the fullest possible life, compatible with his or her abilities and disabilities.

One of the programs of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is that of Service to Veterans. Service to Veterans is the combination of both the Field Service and Home Service Programs. It is in part a volunteer program similar to that of the Hospital Volunteer program, but conducted in community nursing homes and non-VA facilities. It also includes hours, cost of materials and supplies of work done for veterans, such as sewing, knitting, cooking, teaching the Internet, shopping for materials and supplies and other services performed by the volunteer in their own home. Service to Veterans completes a true record of service given by all American Legion Auxiliary volunteers for reporting to the Congress of the United States, and also recognizes all volunteer hours of service by our National organization. There are both National and State Directors for the Service to Veterans program.

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 is not a VA hospital close to your community? Find opportunities for Auxiliary members to serve veterans.

**Award Due Dates: Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program (per division). Send to Department Chairman by **May 15, 2023**.

**Department Award:** Best Department VA&R Program (per division).Send to Department Chairman by **May 15, 2023**.

**NVCAF Award:** NVCAF Support Award. Send donations to the ALA Foundation to Department Headquarters. Department will forward to National Headquarters for 2022-2023 by December 31, 2022.

**Report Due Dates**: End of Year Report due by **MAY 26, 2023**