
Fwd: Your VAVS Bulletin is attached.

1 message

Barbara Shuler <scauxbshuler@yahoo.com>

Sat, Aug 15, 2026 at 12:33 PM

To: Kate Brock Chief Of Staff VFW Aux PDP <patriot.vfwsca@gmail.com>, Lisa Levangie-Colon VFW Secretary <llevangiecolon@gmail.com>

Lisa please send to VAVS Officers
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, VAVS" <coffice@vfwauxiliarynationalheadquarte
rs.ccsend.com>**Date:** August 14, 2026 at 2:59:09 PM EDT**To:** scauxbshuler@yahoo.com**Subject:** Your VAVS Bulletin is attached.**Reply-To:** coffice@vfwauxiliary.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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VFW Auxiliary VAVS Bulletin August 2026



Share Your Story

Having the opportunity to work with the National Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) Representatives has been a rewarding experience as I get to hear how all their hard work is benefiting veterans. I love hearing the personal stories of volunteers and

what their experiences have meant to them. A sincere thanks to every volunteer and the work you do.

August 7 was Purple Heart Day so take a moment to reflect on all our service members who have been injured in the line of duty.

I enjoyed meeting so many of our members at National Convention last month and I hope everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Have a great rest of your summer as we embrace our new theme of ***Serving America's Heroes***.

Kris Baker
Staff Writer & Programs Specialist

New Leadership for the New Year

Welcome to all the new **VAVS Representatives and Deputies**. You are the VFW Auxiliary's voice in the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) Voluntary Services office. Make the CDCE Chief and their staff your friends if they aren't already. Find out what their needs are and how you and your Department can help meet those needs. **Thank you** for accepting this very important position in your Department.



VAVS Representatives and Deputies, it is not too early to start making plans for the holidays in the months ahead. Planning now will make memorable events for veterans to enjoy. Do you have fall festivals or Halloween parties planned? Veterans Day is a big one and then we have all the winter holidays; Christmas, New Years and Kwanzaa. Finding out what your facility is wanting now allows you to schedule with additional volunteers. Remember to invite your Auxiliary members, family and even neighbors to help. You should be working to increase the number of volunteers, and this is the perfect time and way to make it happen. November is the time to have your Annual Joint Review (AJR) completed. Be proactive and schedule that appointment as soon as you can.

Department Presidents you have just assumed the responsibilities for your Department. Congratulations! We know that much will fall to you this year. Please reach out to your appointed VAVS Representatives and Deputies. Find out what plans they have for this year and how you and your Officers can provide support. Your "Reps and Deps" are representing you at the VA so please participate with their events and

programs when you can. **Thank you** for letting these important appointed members know how vital they are to the continued good work of the Auxiliary.

VAVS and NAC

The National VAVS Representative and the National Hospital Ambassador & VAVS National Deputy Representative Debbie Sturgis are your representation on the VAVS National Advisory Committee by virtue of their appointments by the National President. That committee is known as the National Advisory Committee (NAC). The VFW and VFW Auxiliary are founding members of this committee. Current statistics show that the VFW Auxiliary is leading in volunteering by having representation in 146 VA Medical Centers. We truly are the number one veterans' service organization.

Each year the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program requests nominations for Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year. The application form is found in MALTA Member Resources.

There is a second opportunity to recognize Outstanding Hospital Volunteer for VFW Auxiliary members. That is the NAC Volunteer of the Year. This award comes from the Veterans Administration, not the VFW Auxiliary. Please work with the CDCE voluntary department at your medical center this year so that we have nominations to be considered. Our National Conductor Cynthia Davis was honored with this award a few years ago. We can do it again.

Each person that is nominated for the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer of the Year is a candidate for the NAC award. Let's flood the VA with nomination at every facility we volunteer with!

Contact your CDCE office about the application process they will use. Many VA Chiefs of Voluntary Services are new in their position and not aware of this award or the process. If this is something you run into, let me know and I will find a way to make them more aware of the process are another way to say thank you to your volunteers.

Remember that each of the nominations submitted to NAC should be submitted to the National Hospital Ambassador also for judging as our own Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year. It is two awards with different submission processes.

Thank you for being a part of this especially important program. Be proud of the work you do; you provided comfort, fun and recognition to our nation's veterans!

Karlene Beams
VAVS National Representative

Message from VAVS National Deputy Representative Debbie Sturgis

It is a great honor to represent the VFW Auxiliary as the VAVS National Deputy Representative. As I work with the Department VFW Auxiliary representatives, I am discovering where our Auxiliary members can best assist.



Centenarian Recognition – If you have an enrolled veteran in your family who is turning or has turned 100 years old, you can nominate them for the Centenarian Award, which includes the Challenge Coin from United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins. You can reach out to your nearest VA medical center or directly to your VA CDCE contact.

Just a reminder about hospital pins and awards such as Volunteer of the Year. The local VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chairman orders both the VA and non-VA volunteer hour service pins. Non-members serving under VFW Auxiliary sponsorship are not eligible.

Debbie Sturgis
VAVS National Deputy Representative

Letter from a VAVS Representative

National HQ received the following letter from a VAVS Representative. To follow up, HQ asked Ippolito what VAVS service means to her. If you have an anecdote involving you and your Auxiliary's work at a VA hospital or assisting veterans at a medical facility you would like to share, please email kbaker@vfwauxiliary.org. We may be able to include it in an upcoming Bulletin or even in the National Magazine.



The hospital and the VFW Auxiliary have a wonderful relationship, and we have exceeded our goals for donations, both monetary and non-monetary, this year. Our District participates in the VA hospital's baby shower and District 6 also holds two baby showers for the women's

clinic with donations generally exceeding \$6,500 and \$10,000 in clothing and gift cards.

We are currently holding at three registered volunteers, with many more volunteers scheduled for events individually and occasionally.

We will continue to publish the VA's monthly recreation therapy calendar to all our 24 Auxiliaries in District 6 and continue sharing the VAVS quarterly minutes with all our Auxiliaries also. Our recruitment of volunteers continues.

All the best always! Thank you for your service to our veterans and their families!

I do definitely feel that the VAVS program is important as it gives all the members who are part of the VAVS the opportunity to network with each other and communicate directly with the VA. VAVS has meant that I have information from the VA which will benefit all veterans and their families and I am pleased to share all information gained with my Auxiliary and the other 23 Auxiliaries in our Department of New York's District 6.

Dee Ippolito
VAVS Representative
Auxiliary 416, Department of New York

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