



# Ohio Unit Plan of Action



## VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

### CHAIRMAN

Carole Ebersole  
3934 Maidstone Dr.  
Columbus, Ohio 43230-4512  
(614) 428-7088 (home)  
(614) 783-6790 (cell)  
Email – cdebersole@gmail.com

### VICE CHAIRMAN

Louise Aigner  
6115 Smith Rd.  
Brook Park, Ohio 44142  
(216) 337-4037 (cell)  
Email –  
laigner109@yahoo.com  
**April 15, 2017**

### Department Hospital Director

René Reese  
6543 Engle Rd  
Brook Park, Ohio 44142  
(216) 362-0609 (home)  
(216) 409-0122 (cell)  
Email – rqr21@sbcglobal.com

### REPORT DUE :

**SEND REPORT TO :** Your District VA & R Chairman  
(address shown below)

### CITATION OF MERIT



### REQUIREMENT

## District VA&R Chairmen

01	132	PATRICIA	DOWNING	2012 KELSEY AVE	TOLEDO	43605	(419) 322-9635	pattylou200@yahoo.com
02	178	RUTH	SCHUTZ	671 HIGH ST	VAN WERT	45891	(419) 605-8596	rschutz@gmail.com
03	184	ROBYN	COOPER	901 W. HIGH ST	PIQUA	45356	(937) 773-0165	thecoop1420@juno.com
04	288	DONNA	TARVIN	620 OHIO ST	GEORGETOWN	45121	(937) 515-5862	
05	257	DEB	SUTTERLIN	950 TWP RD 2506	PERRYSVILLE	44864	(330) 465-9230	debsutterlin270@gmail.com
06	085	LOIS	SINGLETON	936 WEST VILLAGE DR	NEWARK	43055-2853	(740) 344-1904	loispat@hotmail.com
07	757	PATRICIA	OLAKER	207 CEDARWOOD TERRACE	CHILLICOTHE	45601-1778	(740) 775-3389	
08	011	JODIE	KEELS	626 N. MAPLE ST	LANCASTER	43130	(740) 415-8844	flok2991@gmail.com
09	151	CHRISTINE	BETTS	463 MILL ST	CONNEAUT	44030	(440) 265-8161	tinkins49@hotmail.com
10	160	PATRICIA	DUNLEVY	13039 ELTON ST SW	NAVARRE	44662	(330) 767-3522	patd@sssnet.com
11	495	MARGARET	PERKINS	715 BARCLAY ST LOT 46	BELPRE	45714	(740) 860-3052	None
12	532	AMY	STACEY	322 CONSTANCE ST	LOCKBOURNE	43137	(614) 402-5146	amy.stacey@voago.org
13	315	JOYCE	ROBINSON	1491 E. 191ST ST #645	EUCLID	44117	(216) 563-2658	reada_book@yahoo.com
14	464	PAT	MILLER	400 MAY AVE	CUYAHOGA FALLS	44221	(330) 928-4448	plmiller54@att.net

**SEE BACK SIDE FOR REPORT FORM & NARRATIVE INFORMATION**

# Ohio Unit Plan of Action

## 2016 – 2017 Department Report Form

This form should be attached to each narrative that is submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. If a Unit only completes this form and does not do a narrative, they will still receive credit as having completed report. However, if the report shows all zero's or blank information this will not qualify as an actual report.

**Please complete the following.** Be sure to give the complete name of your Unit.

District # \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Goal \_\_\_\_\_

Full Official Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit President/Chairman (circle one) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Specific Award Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**PROGRAM:**  
**VA & R**



**Answer the following Questions or include answers in your narrative and fill in the boxes at the bottom**

- How did the units participate in the caregiver support program? \_\_\_\_\_
- Describe how members earned their Service to Veterans hours. \_\_\_\_\_
- Did your unit assist at a Stand Down? What went well; what would they do differently? \_\_\_\_\_

**Program Summation:**

Total Number of Volunteers	Total Number of Jr. Volunteers	Total Number of Volunteer Hours	Total \$\$ Spent to Promote Program *	Total Number of Veterans Served	Total \$\$ Given to Recipients	Total Value of In Kind Donations
			\$		\$	\$

\*Please include the assessment of \$0.75 per paid member.

**If you would like to be considered for a Department or National Award attach your narrative to this report form. Follow all criteria when composing your Unit Program Narratives. Criteria for ALL narratives are as follows:**

- Narrative must be typed written in narrative form.
- Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words. (Can be fewer words if program dictates)
- Narrative may include photographs and news articles.
- A copy of your Unit ALA Impact Form (Only necessary if it is required based the Plan of Action Directions)

**Report Deadline: April 15, 2017                      Narrative Deadline: April 15, 2017**

**MAIL TO DISTRICT VA & R CHAIRMAN**

# Ohio Unit Plan of Action

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

## VA & R

### **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.

### **What can you do?**

#### **1. Provide opportunities for Auxiliary members to serve veterans and their families as volunteers at VA health care facilities through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS).**

##### **Ideas:**

##### **Members**

- Become a regular VAVS volunteer.
- Invite others to become VAVS volunteers with you.
- Enter all of your VAVS hours into the VAVS tracking system. Note: VA Healthcare facilities volunteer hour tracking system is different from the tracking utilized for ALA hour bars. Please consult the Auxiliary hospital representative at your facility.

#### **2. There isn't a VA hospital close to your community? Find opportunities for Auxiliary members to serve veterans in your area. These hours will count toward your Service to Veterans pin and hour bars.**

##### **Service to Veterans**

Service to Veterans recognizes volunteers who provide service to veterans, servicemembers and their families outside a VAMC. Volunteers conduct projects and work for military/veterans and/or families from their homes and in their communities. Service to Veterans volunteers maintain their own recordkeeping and dollars spent. A new pin has been designed to reflect the work of those who volunteer in their communities and at home for veterans. Hour bars, which attach to the pin, are also available to earn. More information may be in the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: A Guide for Volunteers available online for download at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). To purchase a printed copy, please visit [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org).

##### **Ideas:**

##### **Member**

- Support veterans from the comfort of your community or home. Service to Veterans combines community volunteer opportunities and volunteering opportunities created in your home.
- Sew quilts for the Quilts of Valor Foundation. For more information, please visit [www.govf.org/](http://www.govf.org/).
- Help a veteran use the Internet.
- Supply postage for local veterans in rest homes or assisted living facilities.
- Organize a clothing drive.
- Organize transportation for veterans to assist them with essential errands.
- Find out what is needed and volunteer.
- Report your Service to Veterans hours to your unit VA&R chairman.
- See Awards section of this Plan for information on Hour Bar Recognition.

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## Unit

- Become the catalyst to find needs and encourage members to help veterans in their community.
- Provide hospitality for a job fair for veterans.
- Coordinate with local quilt shops to help your unit sponsor a quilting event in support of Quilts of Valor.
- Contact members, including those who only occasionally attend meetings and events and invite them to participate for specific limited duration projects that would help area veterans.
- Compile and record hours provided by your members.
- Coordinate with your PR chairman to tell the community what work your unit members are doing for veterans.

### **3. Assist veterans in accessing VA benefits including, but not limited to, health care. This should include coordinating with the local American Legion Post Service Officer.**

#### **Ideas:**

#### **Members**

- Coordinate with local American Legion posts to identify the local Service Officer or see list at [www.legion.org/serviceofficers](http://www.legion.org/serviceofficers).
- Help eligible veterans attain benefits through referrals.
- Encourage eligible veterans to use the VA health care system and its services, including hospitals, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, Vet Centers, etc.
- Participate in and encourage veterans and their family members to participate in town-hall meetings organized by The American Legion in advance of the Legion's *System Worth Saving* site visits to VA health care systems: [www.legion.org/systemworthsaving](http://www.legion.org/systemworthsaving).
- **Resource:**  
VA Health Care Hotline for women veterans  
1-855-VA-Women (1-855-829-6636); [explore.va.gov/health-care](http://explore.va.gov/health-care)

## Unit

- Invite the local, county or state Service Officer to be the guest speaker at a unit/department event.

### **4. Assist in activities that help homeless veterans.**

#### **Ideas:**

#### **Members and Units**

- Give a helping hand to the Legion's homeless veteran coordinator in your department and offer to assist that coordinator in responding to requests for assistance from homeless veterans or homeless veteran service providers.
- Crochet hats, scarves or mittens to be distributed to homeless veterans. Use information provided by your department chairman to contact the homeless veteran coordinator at the VA health care system nearest you to explore what the unit or you can do to help homeless veterans in your community.
- Participate in the VA Project CHALENG organized by the VA health care system nearest to you. (Project CHALENG for Veterans enhances the care for homeless veterans provided by your local VA and its surrounding community service agencies.)
- Contact your local post chairman and offer your assistance if requests for help come through the Legion's Family Support Network (FSN).

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- Raise funds for local American Legion posts to help veterans and their families through the Family Support Network for veterans at risk of losing their housing or homeless veterans transitioning to permanent housing.
  - Make payments of overdue rent, utility payments or deposits and security deposits.
- Host or volunteer at homeless veterans' stand downs, events where homeless veterans receive free goods and services such as haircuts and medical exams.
- Contact homeless veteran emergency shelters, transitional housing projects and permanent housing projects in your community and identify the organization's volunteer and in-kind contribution needs, including:
  - Meal preparation and serving
  - Clothes collection and distribution
  - Assembly and delivery of hygiene kits, buddy baskets
  - Purchasing or securing household items or furniture
- Reach out to specific homeless veterans, such as residents of projects mentioned above to provide her/him practical, social and moral support.
- Compile "blessing bags" to be given to the local police department or other organizations that deal with the homeless veteran population.
- Create a "Tree of Warmth" by collecting scarves, mittens, hats and attaching them to a tree in a location the homeless frequent. Include a sign that says "Please Take if Needed," "Free if Needed," or something similar.

### **5. Support rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts and hobbies.**

*National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF)*

*NVCAF is the national, annual competition and festival that recognizes the progress and recovery made through recreation therapy and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's veterans after disease, disability or life crisis. As the national presenting sponsor, the American Legion Auxiliary should strive to increase monetary support by encouraging departments to sponsor fundraisers that will contribute to the increased awareness and support of this program.*

#### **Ideas:**

#### **Members/Units**

- Obtain and become familiar with the 2014 edition of *ALA Guide for Volunteers*.
- Help your unit and department earn recognition at National Convention through donations to support VA Creative Arts Festivals. Volunteer individually, with a fellow member, or as a unit at a local Creative Arts Festival.
- Identify arts, crafts and hobby projects targeted to veterans (such as writing, oral history recording, visual and performing arts, quilting and gardening). A unit may organize a project of its own or introduce a unit to veteran arts, crafts and hobby projects already operational in the community. See *Arts Deployed: Action Guide and Webinars* to help you bring the arts to your community. [www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Veterans-Affairs---Rehabilitation/](http://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Veterans-Affairs---Rehabilitation/)
- Contribute donated supplies to help supplement visual veteran artists' needs for their projects. Contact your department chairman or your local VA hospital coordinator for a list of items.
- Donate, through departments, funds that help local veterans attend state and national Wheel Chair Games, Veterans Creative Arts Festivals, ParaOlympics, etc.
- Encourage individuals to support state VA Creative Arts Festivals through donations. Contributing departments will be recognized at National Convention. One method may include challenging units to earn a bronze, silver or gold award given by NVCAF in recognition for financial donations to the

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program. Departments, units or individuals can earn the Bronze award for donations to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival of \$1,000 to \$1,999; the Silver award for donating \$2,000 to \$4,999; or the Gold award for \$5,000 and above. ALA National Headquarters submits qualifying donations to NVCAF staff each July. Donations considered are those received in the national office from August 1, 2016, to July 31, 2017.

- Recruit members to volunteer at local Veterans Creative Arts Festivals conducted by many VA health care systems across the country.
- Apply to the ALA Foundation for an ALA Local Veterans Creative Arts Festival/Creative Arts Workshop Grant to assist your local VA health care system in preparing for and/or conducting a local Creative Arts Festival.
- Advocate for art therapy, music therapy, drama and recreational therapy programs in VA health care systems.

### **6. Help The American Legion, State Department of Veterans Affairs and Chamber of Commerce promote job fairs for veterans and their families.**

#### **Ideas:**

#### **Members**

- Take part in a veteran job fair by organizing or working at an informational table. Other opportunities include helping implement a Legion-sponsored job fair and/or co-hosting a Legion Family information table at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation-sponsored job fair. Additionally, Auxiliary members may initiate and host a job fair for veterans in their community.
- Serve as a career e-mentor for women veterans.
- Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, specifically if a house build is supported by The American Legion.

#### **Unit**

- Host an informational table at a local job fair.
- Support the Legion by helping host a local job fair at your post home.

#### ***ALA Resources***

How to Organize a Job Fair for Veterans and/or Military and Veteran Spouses

#### ***Additional Resources***

- [www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes](http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes)
  - Serve as a career e-Mentor for women – Encourage Auxiliary members to serve as career mentors for female veterans via electronic communications. The e-mentoring network, operated by the Business and Professional Women’s Foundation, Joining Forces and Mentoring Plus, virtually pairs female veterans with career mentors and subject matter experts for guidance and support
- [www.ementorprogram.org/p/milspouse/](http://www.ementorprogram.org/p/milspouse/)
  - Home Building – Support home building and renovation projects for veterans and their families by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. Locate veteran-specific projects through The American Legion. For additional information, view [www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/habitat.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/habitat.pdf)

### **7. Assist and support caregivers of veterans.**

#### **Ideas:**

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## Members

- Familiarize yourself with the service of the VA caregiver support program.
- Familiarize yourself with the Military and Veteran Caregiver Peer Support Network.
- Become a veteran caregiver peer support trainer or volunteer
- Become a Legacy Corps AmeriCorps member if the Legacy Corps project is offered in a state or locality near you.
- Volunteer as a VA Voluntary Service volunteer support caregiver if the VA health care system closest to you offers such volunteer opportunity.

## Units

- Familiarize your unit and community with the services of the VA caregiver support program.
- Invite the VA caregiver support coordinator in the VA healthcare system closest to you to make a presentation to your unit, district or community-wide meeting.

## *ALA Resources*

Legacy Corps Frequently Asked Questions

## *Additional Resources*

VA Caregiver Support – [www.caregiver.va.gov/](http://www.caregiver.va.gov/)

Elizabeth Dole Foundation- [www.elizabethdolefoundation.org](http://www.elizabethdolefoundation.org)

Military and Veteran Caregiver Peer Support Network - [www.taps.org/MVCN/](http://www.taps.org/MVCN/)

## **NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINES**

### **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Awards**

#### **1. Service to Veterans**

**Member Award:** Hour Bar Recognition for Service to Veterans Volunteers

**Type of Award:** Hour Bar

**Presented to:** Member by her department via the 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.
- 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's expense. See 2014 *Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: A Guide for Volunteers*.

**Unit Award:** Outstanding Unit VA&R Program Award

**Type of award:** Citation

**Presented to:** One unit chairman per division (5 awards)

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- Entries must include your Department Report form.
- Awarded to the unit chairman in each division who conducted the best overall promotion of the VA&R program.
- The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.

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- Include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.
- Units will submit entries to the department chairman by April 15, 2017.
- Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, as well as the name and contact information for the department and unit VA&R chairman

### Additional Resources You Can Use

1. Homeless Veterans Coalition: [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)
2. How To Sheet: How to raise awareness in your communities about the ever-increasing number of homeless veterans. [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
3. How To Sheet: How to increase donations to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
4. Other “How to Sheets” can be found at [ALAforVeterans.org](http://ALAforVeterans.org).
5. Quilts of Valor - [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org)
6. VA Homeless Programs –[www.va.gov/homeless/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/index.asp)
7. HUD Homeless Assistance Programs – [www.onecpd.info/homelessness-assistance/](http://www.onecpd.info/homelessness-assistance/)
8. On-Call: Handbook for Homeless Veterans and Service Providers [www.legion.org/homelessveterans/handbook](http://www.legion.org/homelessveterans/handbook)
9. The American Legion Family Support Network: [www.legion.org/familysupport](http://www.legion.org/familysupport)
10. National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Facebook Page
11. American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Creative Activities Action Guide, [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
12. National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, [www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov](http://www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov)

### DEPARTMENT of OHIO AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

**Sue Friedrich Plaque:** best overall *VA& R Program* by a Unit based upon their narrative. Entries must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words and must include a completed copy of the annual report form. Include the name and address of the Unit Chairman and forward to Department Chairman, Carole Ebersole, 3934 Maidstone Dr, Columbus, Oh, 43230-4512 by **April 15, 2017**.

**Marie Moore Fund Plaque:** awarded to the Unit donating the most money per capita (based upon membership goal) to the Marie Moore fund (gifts presented to the *VAMC* to be used in support of Veterans). Donations must be received in ALA Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 2760, Zanesville, OH 43702-2760 by **June 01, 2017**.

**Olive Ruffner Plaque:** Awarded to the most outstanding VA Volunteer. Nominations are to be submitted to the Department Hospital Director, Rene Reese, 6543 Engle Road, Brook Park, OH 44142 by **April 15, 2017**.