



Ohio Unit Plan of Action



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

CHAIRMAN

Robyn Cooper
901 West High
Piqua, OH 45336
(937) 773-0165-Home
(937) 214-6307- Cell
Email-
ronaldcooper901@gmail.com

VICE CHAIRMAN

Marsha Giehls
118 S. West St.
Mason, OH 45040-3688
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Department Hospital Director

Linda Close
1041 Donnawood Dr
Mansfield, OH 44903
(419) 989-1180 Cell
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CITATION OF MERIT



REQUIREMENT

**REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN BY:**

**April 15, 2024, to
DISTRICT CHAIRMAN**

**DISTRICT CHAIRMAN SEND TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN
BY MAY 1, 2024**

**Your District VA & R Chairman
(address shown below)**

District VA&R Chairmen

01	320	PAMELA	BRENNEMAN	1467 GAGE	TOLEDO	OH 43612	(419) 283-5655	pam7352@buckeye-express.com
02	444	SARA	MAURER	9428 ST RT 219	NEW KNOXVILLE	OH 45871	(419) 753-2730 (419) 305-7828	dmaurer@nktelco.net
03	184	ROBYN	COOPER	901 W HIGH ST	PIQUA	OH 45356-1921	(937) 773-0165 (937) 214-6307	ronaldcooper901@gmail.com
04	288	CAROL	JORDAN	305 S FOURTH ST	WILLIAMSBURG	OH 45176	(513) 767-3777	medic657@fioptics.com
05	257	LYNNE	BABB	219 MT VERNON AVE	LOUDONVILLE	OH 44842	(419) 994-4236	babblynn@gmail.com
06	085	LOLA	NIXON	44 CURTIS AVE	NEWARK	OH 43055	(740) 345-1567 (740) 877-2164	nix7lo@roadrunner.com
07	757	PATRICIA	OLAKER	207 CEDARWOOD TER	CHILLICOTHE	OH 45601-1778	(740) 775-3389	NONE
08	021	NANCY	GRAVES	8235 WINDFALL RIDGE	ATHENS	OH 45701	(740) 707-3765	ndgr.us812@gmail.com
09	601	TRACY	KING	1856 GREEN RD	MADISON	OH 44057	(440) 339-1672	ludtk2002@yahoo.com
10	436	JULIE	MARTIN	12574 ISLANDVIEW AVE NW	UNIONTOWN	OH 44685	(330) 699-6268 (330) 730-3795	msjulieamartin@gmail.com
11	071	REBECCA	COLE	74 S MAIN ST LOT #8	ROSEVILLE	OH 43777	(740) 704-1221	rcole@columbus.rr.com
12	888	BETH	MCKEE	548 ROBINWOOD AVE	WHITEHALL	OH 43213	(614) 668-3635	stx930@aol.com
13	421	ALLISON	NYE	28207 WISTERIA DR	NORTH OLMSTED	OH 44070	(330) 573-2228	allison.nye@gmail.com
14	685	CINDY	MASOWICK	9320 ROOT DR	STREETSBORO	OH 44241	(330) 714-3873	cjidgy@gmail.com

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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. A Unit must submit this report form with boxes completed and answer the questions below in order to earn the Citation of Merit. Narrative - word count must follow directions given in award guidelines. Simple or elaborate stories will be accepted as a report.

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

District	Unit #	Unit Membership Goal	Unit Membership Total As of Report		
Name of Person Completing Report:			Unit Chair.		Unit Pres.
Phone #	Email	Membership ID (if available)			
Specific Award Name(if applicable)					

Answer the following Questions in your narrative.

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.

- List your assessment amount in the narrative and include it on this form. Please include your dollar spent. _____
Please include this amount on Line 2-Total dollars spent, of the box below.
- How did your Unit support local veterans? How many senior members participated and how many Juniors? Please include the total number of hours. _____

- Describe how members earned their Service to Veterans hours. _____



- How did your Unit help support the VA Hospitals and the hospital representatives in order for them to help our veterans? How many hours did they spend helping the veterans? Please include the dollar amount. _____

- What can we do as a group to help our VA hospitals? _____

- Tell about all the things that your Unit has done for the VA & R program this year. _____

- Tell about how your Unit supported the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Describe how you were able to participate in the National President's Project to raise funds to help in providing funds for companions to attend with their veterans. _____

1. Our ALA Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military

	Service for Veterans/Military	Obtain Total From	Member 	Unit 	Total
Line 1	Total hours members volunteered	Member Form Line 1		N/A	
Line 2	Total dollars spent (include VA&R Assessment here)	Member Form Line 2	\$	\$	\$
Line 3	Total number of veterans/military assisted	Member Form Line 3			
Line 4	Total number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations facilitated	Member Form Line 4			

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VA & R

Get Involved

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. *Standing Rules #6, Core National Standing Committees*

- Support the therapeutic rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
- Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.
- Volunteer at local VA facilities, including state VA facilities in your area.
- Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families, such as Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight Inc., and the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.
- Look in your community for opportunities to support veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors.

Outside Partnerships

- **Wreaths Across America**
 - Take part in local wreath placement at a national cemetery.
 - Sponsor wreaths for placement through Wreaths Across America.
- **Honor Flight Inc.**
 - Volunteer with local hubs.
 - Utilize your unit's poppy funds to support important aspects of Honor Flight activities. For more information, please see www.honorflight.org/donations.
 - Participate in welcome-home events.
 - Coordinate the creation and delivery of cards and letters to Honor Flight hubs for mail call.
 - Consider volunteering as a guardian for an Honor Flight. Please note – there is an associated cost.
- **Military and Veteran Caregiver Network**
 - Learn who is considered a caregiver. This will help you identify caregivers in your community and maybe even as a caregiver yourself. If you identify as a caregiver, consider joining their online peer support community.
 - Familiarize yourself with local caregiver resources found in the [Hero Care Resource Directory](#)
 - Refer to the [MVCN's community calendar](#) for educational and volunteer opportunities
- **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival**
 - Promote awareness of healing through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
 - Donate to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.
 - Donate to local Veterans Creative Arts Festivals (e.g., time, supplies, money).
 - Identify arts, crafts, and hobby projects targeted to veterans (writing, oral history recording, visual and performing arts, quilting, and gardening).
 - Donate art supplies to your local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities including state veterans' homes, community living centers, and VA medical centers.
 - Plan and organize a local Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
 - Advocate for art therapy, music therapy, drama, and recreational therapy programs within the VA healthcare system.

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- Apply to the ALA Foundation for Veterans Creative Arts Festival Grants to be used for local competitions and festivals in your community. For more information, please go to <https://alafoundation.org/vcaf-grants/>.
- **Center for Development and Community Engagement (CDCE, formerly known as VAVS)**
 - Recruit Auxiliary members as volunteers for the VA Center for Development and Community Engagement at VA healthcare facilities.
 - If you see a need in your community that is not being addressed, contact your local VA.
 - Familiarize yourself with the service of the [VA caregiver support program](#)
 - Volunteer at your local VA facility for events such holiday gift shops, Bingo, baby showers, etc.
 - Don't forget to include all American Legion Family members in your VA events.
 - Coordinate a supply drive for the needs of hospitalized veterans by gathering items such as socks, underwear, toiletries, etc. Please contact your local VA facility or American Legion Auxiliary CDCE representative for needed items.
 - Don't forget your state VA facilities, such as state veterans' homes. The veterans who reside there have needs that we may fill as well. For more information and local points of contact, please refer to <https://nasdva.us/resources/>.
 - **OHIO** - Find out through the hospital Representatives and Deputy Representatives what the VA hospital needs and either have a fundraiser or purchase items that are needed.
 - **OHIO** - Try to find out if there are homeless veterans in your area and give them a meal or two. Make up ditty bags with items that they need and give to them.
- **Service to Veterans (Outside of VA Facilities)**
 - Take part in a veteran job fair by organizing or working at an informational table.
 - Promote local veteran-centric job fairs in your community. Support The American Legion by helping host a local job fair at your post home or community center.
 - Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.
 - Provide a spa day or caregiver day out for community veteran caregivers.
 - Offer to sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands.
 - Offer to run errands for a caregiver.
 - Prepare information for units concerning the needs of caregiver support.
 - Transportation of veterans to appointments or running errands.
 - Contact an American Legion Service Officer at your post and offer to be on the list of people to call when a veteran's family needs help.
 - Buy school supplies, host a baby shower, or send care packages to veterans' children who are headed to college.
 - Become the catalyst to find needs and encourage members to help veterans in their community.
 - Promote volunteer opportunities in community settings.
 - Utilize websites, newsletters, and other media.
 - Report your ALA Service to Veterans hours to your unit VA&R chair.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION RESOURCES

- VA & R National Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR/>
- ALA National website: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/var>
- VA Homeless Programs: www.va.gov/homeless
- National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF): <https://www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/> or <https://www.legion-aux.org/nvcaf/>
- Volunteers of America: www.voa.org/homeless-people

Year-End Report

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and may result in a national award for participants, if award requirements are met. **Each Unit VA&R chairman is required to submit a narrative report by April 15, 2024, to the District VA&R Chairman** (addresses on first page of POA).

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Most Outstanding VA&R Program - one per division. The Blanche Klein Plaque winner will be sent on to National to compete for this National Award.

A. James H. Parke Scholarship

- Deadline: November 1, 2023
- This scholarship is named for the first Director of Voluntary Service and the founding father of the VAVS National Advisory Committee
- Scholarship may be used for tuition and fees, books, and supplies and/or room and board or other education needs purchased through the school of the students' choice. Scholarship winners must use their awards by their 24th birthday.
- Each medical center may nominate one VA student volunteer for receipt of the awards.
- To be eligible – candidates must have completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled VAVS volunteer service during the calendar year prior to September 1; be a student in the 10th grade or above; and have not reached their 19th birthday.
- Criteria on which candidates are evaluated for consideration of awards include:
 - Scholastic Activity
 - Dependability
 - Fulfillment and acceptance of responsibility
 - Personality and pleasantness to patients and staff
 - Leadership capability
 - Inspiration to patients through services performed
 - Appearance
- See www.va.gov for information on VAVS, James H. Parke Scholarship for additional information.

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Blanche Klein Plaque: best all-around *VA & R Program* by a Unit based on the Annual Report/Narrative. Entries must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words and must include a completed copy of the annual report form. You may include pictures, PR clippings and flyers. Include the name and address of the Unit Chairman and forward to your **District VA & R Chairman by April 15, 2024**. *District Chairman will select one winner in each Membership Category based on goal and forward all narratives to the Department Chairman.* The winner of this award will be forwarded onto National for further competition.

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Sue Friedrich Plaque: best overall *VA& R Program* by a Unit based on their narrative. Entries must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words. Include the name and address of the Unit Chairman and forward to Department Chairman, Robyn Cooper, 901 W. High St., Piqua, OH 45356-1921, by **April 15, 2024.**

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 1, 2024.**

Olive Ruffner Plaque: Awarded to the most outstanding VA Volunteer by the Hospital Director. Nominations may be submitted by Unit or VA Voluntary Services in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words on the accomplishments/activities of the volunteer. Submit entry to the Department Hospital Director, Linda Close, 1041 Donnawood Dr., Mansfield, Ohio 44903 by **April 15, 2024.**

Volunteer Award: Awarded to the volunteer with the most hours served in a VA Medical Center. Volunteer must meet all requirements as set forth in the voluntary service program for a VA Medical Center Volunteer. This award is to be presented at the Department Convention. Submit entry to the Department Hospital Director, Linda Close, 1041 Donnawood Dr., Mansfield, Ohio 44903 by **April 15, 2024.**

AWARD FINE PRINT:

Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. Through submission of reports and award entries, the submitter grants nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the materials submitted and agrees to have their names and submission published for ALA use or commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please be sure to complete the electronic form

Please refer to the webpage for specific criteria such as photographs, narrative length, submission deadline, and point of contact. All awards will be mailed to the department office after ALA National Convention.

Department presidents may wish to recognize award recipients by presenting them with the award at a department function.

Each volunteer needs a separate form, therefore, copy additional sheets as needed. This information is to be turned into the Vice Chairman of VA&R by April 15, 2024, to receive your pins and hours bars at the Department Convention.