

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By the time you get this mailing, Christmas will have come and gone and the New Year will be upon us. We have so much to be thankful for and yet there is so much more to do for our veterans, our military and their families. Please support them by giving of yourself.

I recently read an article on Military.com about our homeless population. According to the article some 20 to 25 percent of our veterans will continue to remain on the streets in 2015; regardless of what we are now doing. Many of you are making the sleep mats for our homeless, which is a gift of love and very much appreciated by our veterans and their families in that situation. Others are helping in a different ways. Keep up the good work!

President Janice and I have made three of the four official visits to the VA Hospitals in North Carolina and hope to get that fourth one soon. We have also had the opportunity to interact and meet some of the patients at those VA Hospitals. What an honor it was to be with them. I am here to tell you that your VA Reps., deputies and volunteers make us proud. They do so much for our veterans and the patients look forward to them being there. Each of you helps them by being a member of this great organization.

I cannot express my gratitude enough on how caring and supportive you are towards our veterans! As of December 05th our VA&R "Fair Share" obligations that have been turned in is \$12,806. Thank each of you that have paid that obligation. We still have \$2,194 to go to meet our goal of \$15,000. Please keep those monies coming in and pay more when you can (extra poppy monies can be used for this). Remember these monies are divided between the four VA Hospitals across our state. If you have not paid your Fair Share, please do it now! It is \$2 per unit membership as of June 30, 2014.

Remember, in addition to our VA&R Fair Share; our goals consist of:

1. Serving our veterans and their families as volunteers at the VA health facilities through the **VA Voluntary Services (VAVS)**. The four (4) VA Hospitals in North Carolina are:

Asheville VA Voluntary Service Office: Darlene Laughter 828-298-2514
ALA Rep: Anne Morris 828-298-7911 Ext. 1347, home 828-885-2993
annem@citcom.net

Durham VA Voluntary Service Office: Ronni Miller 919-286-0411 ext. 7810
ALA Rep: Wanda Moore 919-286-0411 Ext.5347, cell 919-634-5500
wexumm@yahoo.com

Fayetteville VA Voluntary Service Office: Norma Fraser 910-822-7027
ALA Rep: Ann Moore 919-488-2120 Ext 7198, home 919-639-4454
amoore7567@embarqmail.com

Salisbury VA Voluntary Service Office: Donald Morrison 704-638-9000
Ext.3409 ALA Rep: Gloria Wilhelm 704-638-9000 Ext. 3903,
home 704-279-7843; wilhelmga@yahoo.com

If you can volunteer, there is a place for you!

2. Provide volunteer hours in service to veterans and their families in your local communities and from their homes. Quilt of Valor is a project we will be supporting this year. You can find them on the web.

Reminder

The Home Service and Field Service have been combined and are now called **Service to Veterans**.

3. Assist veterans in accessing VA benefits including, but not limited to health care. This can be done by coordinating with your local American Legion Post Service Officer.
4. Assist in activities that help our homeless veterans. We will continue to do the sleep mats.
5. Support rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts and hobbies. The National Creative Arts will be in Durham in 2015.
6. Help promote job fairs for veterans and their families.
7. Engage student veteran organizations on college campuses
8. Assist and support caregivers of veterans. Good resources for this are the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and Caregiver.va.gov.

Thank each of you that sent in Mid-Year Reports. You are working hard for our veterans in many different ways. You and your units are a valuable part of this organization! It takes each of us to get the job done. I will have a lot to tell you at Mid-Winter Conference about some of the things our units / members have been doing. Please make an effort to be part of that meeting. (Friday, February 6th and Saturday February 7th at the North Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh). I look forward to seeing you there! If we can be of any service please give us a call.

For God & Country,

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