State Commander Laurie Emmer’s theme “100 Years of Veterans Service” should remind each of us to take a good hard look at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hospital & VAVS Program. Veterans in VA Hospitals, Veterans Homes, and Nursing facilities need our help because in many cases, they cannot help themselves. Hospitals may provide the medical treatment for veterans, but it’s the volunteers that can help them cope with the daily routine.

Volunteers can provide that extra ray of sunshine or smile to those less fortunate. All veterans are not in Federal or State facilities; they can be confined to private facilities in the community or even at home. As volunteers, we provide that service to show the community that we care and have not forgotten the people that are less fortunate. Volunteers also provide valuable service to ensure that facilities are providing adequate care for our men and women.

Post/District Hospital Chairmen should coordinate with Directors of State Veterans and Community Health Care facilities to identify the activity the volunteers can provide for the Veterans. Hospital Chairmen ensure the volunteers are registered at our VA facilities and others to receive proper recognition. As Chairmen, he/she needs to include the responsibility for recruiting volunteers, maintaining records of hours served by the Post volunteer, and requesting appropriate certificates and/or pins from the State Hospital director.

If you are planning activities or visits at facilities and you would like a State Representative there, you can call, e-mail, or write me describing your activity or visit, with dates and times, and I will try to coordinate with you. Remember as much advance time as possible is always helpful. If, during your visit, you encounter something that needs to be corrected, please bring this to our attention. Sometimes, we can help to change things...NOT ALWAYS, but SOMETIMES.

The Hospital & VAVS Program starts May 1, 2020 and continues through April 30, 2021. Please use the Community Activity Report Form “on line” to report the hospital work that you and members of your Post are involved in. Please report HOURS, DOLLARS AND MEMBERS keeping in mind that you can include the actual cost of items you purchased to donate to our various Hospitals and Nursing Facilities. Each year, Post and Districts lose valuable credit for their efforts because nobody takes the time to report.
POST AWARDS
The “Top Post” in each membership category will receive a plaque.

Membership Category 1 - Up to 150 members
Membership Category 2 - 151 to 300 members
Membership Category 3 - 301 members and up

DISTRICT AWARDS
All Districts who achieve 100% in Post participation in the Hospital/VAVS Program by April 30th, 2021 will be awarded $50.00 CASH to be used in the continuation of their Hospital/VAVS Program.

V.A. HOSPITALS
1. VA Illiana Health Care System
   1900 E Main St.
   Danville, IL 61832
   Phone: (217) 554-3000
2. Hines VA. Medical Center
   5000 S. 5th Ave.
   Hines, IL 60141
   Phone: (708) 202-8387
   Fax: (708) 202-2246
3. Marion VA Medical Center
   2401 W. Main St.
   Marion, IL 62959
   Phone: (618) 993-5311
   Fax: (618) 993-4155
4. Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center
   3001 Green Bay Road
   North Chicago, IL 60064
   Phone: (847) 688-1900
5. Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
   820 S. Damen Ave.
   Chicago, IL 60612
   Phone: (312) 569-8387, Ext. 56109
6. St. Louis VA Medical Center
   #1 Jefferson Barracks Drive
   St. Louis, MO 63125
   Phone: (314) 652-4100

VETERANS HOMES
1. Illinois Veterans Home at Manteno
   1 Veterans Dr.
   Manteno, IL 60950
   Phone: (815) 468-6581, Ext. 259
2. Illinois Veterans Home at Quincy
   1707 N. 12th St
   Quincy, IL 62301
   Phone (217) 222-8641, Ext. 386
3. Illinois Veterans Home at LaSalle
   1015 O’Conor Ave.
   LaSalle, IL 61301
   Phone: (815) 223-0303, Ext. 259
4. Illinois Veterans Home at Anna
   792 N. Main St.
   Anna, IL 62906
   Phone: (618) 833-6302, Ext. 125