

# VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program

## *Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Volunteers*

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### **WHAT DOES A VOLUNTEER DO?**

Volunteer assignments will vary greatly depending on the needs of the facility and the program that the Supervisor of Voluntary Services has developed. Supervisors of Voluntary Services try to place volunteers in situations which permit them to make the best use of their vocational, hobby skills, interests and physical capabilities.

An accepted volunteer will be required to complete orientation, which will vary by facility. Each volunteer will be entered into the Voluntary Service System (VSS), this is the volunteers' permanent record of information, which is used to maintain hours recorded. Information will be given concerning liability coverage, assignments, policies and procedures regarding infection control, fire and safety.

A volunteer is never to discuss veterans' benefits eligibility information with a patient. Veterans' benefits counseling is not a VAVS assignment.

### **TYPES OF VAVS VOLUNTEERS**

- Occasional/Episodic Volunteers: Occasional or episodic volunteers are those individuals serving under the VAVS Program who do not meet the requirements of RS volunteers. Individuals frequently volunteer with a group or organization on an occasional basis.
- Regularly Scheduled (RS) Volunteers: RS volunteers are individuals who participate in the VAVS Program on a regularly scheduled assignment under VA supervision. Frequency of participation is determined by the local VA facility. RS volunteers are officially authorized to serve when the RS volunteer has:
  1. Signed the "Waiver of Claims to Remuneration and Appointment Agreement," as contained in VA Form 10-7055.
  2. Been approved for assignment by the Voluntary Service Program Manager designee.
  3. Participated in required screenings, background checks, finger-printing, interviews, orientations and training prescribed by the VA facility.
  4. Completed a trial period as established by the VA facility.
- Sponsored Volunteers: Non-members of the VFW Auxiliary who wish to serve under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship and supervision as volunteers at VA and non-VA facilities or in VA community-based programs. They must be interviewed and screened in the same manner as VFW Auxiliary members. Upon acceptance, sponsored volunteers are governed by the same ethics and rules prescribed for members.
- Student Volunteers: Student volunteers are under the age of 18 and must have written parental or guardian approval to participate in the VAVS Program. They must also have written authorization for diagnostic and emergency treatment if injured while volunteering. The minimum age for volunteers is determined by the facility management.