

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

### DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

#### VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Plan of Action 2009-2010

Fern Madden, Chairman

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee is to initiate, sponsor and participate in programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families; ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives; physically, mentally, socially and vocationally.

Because the overall Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program is divided into several programs, we will try to create a general plan that includes each area of our program as it applies at the Unit level.

Objective 1: Volunteer services within each VA Medical Facility, veterans home and outpatient clinic by 3. Increase participation in Field Service and Home service by at least 2 in each unit.

#### Action Steps

- a. Contact each nearby facility and determine the need for volunteers within the facility, and at what capacity volunteers would be needed.
- b. After determining what needs there are, spread the word, non-affiliates are also welcome.
- c. Attend the Department Informational Forum and gather information , both verbally and from the handouts available at the "Paper Fair".
- d. Determine the needs of each facility and share this list with your "crafters or sewers". Patterns Books are available, also "Needs or Wish" lists for Home Service Volunteers.
- e. Request a Field Service orientation course and invite nearby Units to attend. Contact your Field Service Chairman and set up a date and time for her to be present.

Objective 2 : Increase donations to the National Creative Arts Festival. Encourage even the smallest donation. It all counts.

#### Action Steps

- a. Our Department can be a Gold sponsor by donating a minimum of \$5,000. To the National Creative Arts Festival. Our National Organization co-sponsors this program and pledges \$150,000. annually to support this program.
- b. Information will be available at Informational Forum and in the Unit mailing to fully explain this program. Poppy funds can be used for your donation.

- c. Attend a VAMC sponsored preview concert if there is one in your area. I attended one at Tomah this past summer and it was great.
- d. If you are interested, a copy of past programs would be available to show at a gathering to show how talented these people are and how worthwhile this program really is.

OBJECTIVE 3. In Wisconsin, we have a wonderful facility for R&R for veterans. Camp American Legion is a beautiful facility located in the North Woods of Wisconsin. Camp American Legion is the only facility of its kind in the United States and possibly the world that offers free rest and rehabilitation to all qualifying veterans in the state of Wisconsin.

Action Steps:

- a. Spread the word. Camp American Legion is one of the best kept secrets in Wisconsin. If you need more information, contact the Camp directly or contact this Chairman.
- b. Camp American Legion can use all kinds of donations, paper products, canned goods, coffee and bedding. Read the needs list and for any large item, contact the director to see if it has already been donated.
- c. Volunteers are welcome to help open the camp in the spring, and help close it in the fall. Go as a group to volunteer, but contact the Director to find out his needs.
- d. Tours are given if arrangements are made ahead of time, go as a group and see what a great place it is.

Objective 4: Collaborate with your American Legion and SAL to assist the homeless and indigent veterans.

Action Steps:

- a. Assist in a planned stand-down or host one of your own. Help provide for the needs of local homeless veterans.
- b. Share information about the needs at the homeless shelters in your area such as clothing needs, toiletry items, books, etc.
- c. Get your community involved in securing needed items and delivering them to the homeless shelters.

I know you all cannot participate in all of these initiatives, but I am sure your Unit can find one or two to support. Also, don't forget the Christmas Gift Shops, they are also in need of donations and volunteers. Contact your closest facility and volunteer. Remember our goal is to make life a little easier for our veterans, whether they are American Legion members or not. There is always a need for assistance or donations. Always remember any help is greatly appreciated and accepted. Please show our veterans we really care and will do all we can to help.