

# VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program

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

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### WHAT DOES A VAVS VOLUNTEER DO?

Volunteer assignments vary depending on the needs of the facility and at the direction of the facility's Voluntary Service Program Manager. Voluntary Service Program Managers place volunteers in assignments which permit them to utilize knowledge & skills, offer opportunities for learning, compliment their physical capabilities and contribute to the needs of the facility.

Once accepted, volunteers will be required to complete orientation and receive information concerning assignments, policies and procedures, infection control, fire and safety and liability. Each volunteer will be entered into the Voluntary Service System (VSS) which is used to record volunteer hours.

Volunteers should never discuss Veteran benefits eligibility information with a patient. Veteran benefits counseling is not a VAVS assignment.

### TYPES OF VAVS VOLUNTEERS

- **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 "Wavier 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 or 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.
- **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.
- **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.