

Service to Veterans
Program Action Plan – 2016-2017
Yvonne Lent, Chairman

Service to Veterans under the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program, allows American Legion Auxiliary volunteers focus on enhancing the lives of veterans, military and their families outside the VA Medical Centers. As our veteran population ages so does the need for more volunteers to provide much needed assistance.

While there is no National formal orientation for Service to Veterans, the Department of Indiana has developed a format for such training that allows for volunteer hours to be credited to this program. Recognition pins and bars are available for those volunteers who record and report their hours to respective chairmen who then certify this information with the Department Secretary for the purchase of these pins/bars. The Department does not bear the expense of these pins/bars.

Our Department and National Presidents' themes bear witness to this focus of Service to Veterans, "ALA Member Pride. . .Pride in Giving Service, to those who Served". It is up to us! The opportunities are unlimited!

Units

- Attend/Schedule a Service to Veterans training
- Recruit Senior, Junior and non-member volunteers
- Review report forms
- Identify someone who needs our assistance
 - Check your own Post Home
 - Contact community organizations and leaders
- Familiarize yourself with the National Program Action Plan
- Familiarize yourself with the *VA & R Guide for Volunteers* (2004).
- Record and report your hours separately for Service to Veterans
 - Hours spent directly or indirectly assisting the veteran
 - Monetary expenses
 - Value of in-kind donations
 - Monetary donations
 - You cannot count hours in transit but you can estimate 14 cents per mile as an expense per IRS guidelines 2016
 - Complete reports on time including narratives

Mid-Year Narrative Reports

- Each Unit Service to Veterans Chairman is required to submit a Mid-Year Report by December 1, 2016 to her District Service to Veterans Chairman.
- Each District Service to Veterans Chairman is required to submit a Mid-Year Report by December 15, 2016 to the Service to Veterans Service to Veterans Chairman

Annual Narrative Reports

- Each Unit Service to Veterans Chairman is required to submit an Annual Report by April 15, 2017 to her District Service to Veterans Chairman.
- Each District Service to Veterans Chairman is required to submit an Annual Report by May 1, 2017 to the Department Service to Veterans Chairman.

National Awards

National Service to Veterans Volunteer Hours Award – A citation plaque to one Junior Unit and one Senior Unit per division for greatest number of hours reported from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017.

Department Awards

Department Florence Briggs Monetary Award: Best year round narrative report submitted by a Unit to Department Chairman.

Department Chairman Personal Awards

- An award to the Unit Chairman recruiting the most new volunteers who complete the orientation.
- To the Member with most volunteer hours from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017.
- To the District Chairman with the most new volunteers throughout her District who have completed the orientation.

Much more to come!!!

Service to Veterans is a very rewarding program because it assists veterans who need us at various points of their lives. Please find a veteran who needs you to assist him/her – taking to doctor appointments, completing every tasks – grocery shopping, laundry, cleaning, providing meals, etc. Then be sure to record and report what you do. If you have questions, please contact me at 574-253-2549.

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