

WHAT IS VAVS ?

The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program, the largest volunteer program in the Federal Government, has provided over 70 years of service to America's veterans seeking care in the VA health care facilities.

Since 1946, VAVS volunteers have donated 736 million hours of service. With more than 350 national and community organizations supporting the program, VAVS also is advised by a National Advisory Committee, composed of 61 major veteran, civic and service organizations

VAVS volunteers and their organizations annually contribute and estimated \$90 million in gifts and donations, which supplement VA appropriations to medical centers, clinics and nursing homes.

These significant contributions allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist direct patient care programs, as well as support services and activities that may not be fiscal priorities from year to year.

Types of Volunteers

1. Regularly Scheduled (RS) Volunteers

These volunteers are a supplement to the staff and have a scheduled volunteer station, duties and hours

2. Occasional Volunteers

Volunteers who assist in assigned areas on an infrequent basis.

Participate for “one time projects” such as blood drives, fund-raisers, Stand Down, Open Houses, etc.

Qualifications of a Volunteer

- *Sincere interest in rendering a service*
- *Business – like approach to work*
- *Willingness to accept standards of orientation, conduct and supervision*
- *Sense of responsibilities and dependability*
- *Ability to work with groups as well as with individuals*
- *Tack, congeniality, patience, warmth, kindness, and humility*
- *Abilities to perform the work assigned*
- *Each VA Facility across the nation may have their own requirements as well.*

Procedures to become a VAVS

1. **Speak with chapter president and let her know interest.**

Willing to serve as either Representative or Deputy

Representative must attend quarterly meeting

Participate in the Annual Joint Review (AJR)

Report back to Chapter

- * Deputy is working partner with Representative**
- * Must also meet all certification requirements**
- * Attend meetings**
- * Participate in the AJR**

2. Chapter President contacts National VAVS Anne Parker to submit your name

Selection is made by National VAVS Anne Parker and she will contact the local facility of placement

Once Selected:

- 1. Contact local VAVS office for appointment**
 - a. Fill out Application**
 - b. Have Fingerprint test**
 - c. TB Testing - This is more than one visit .**
- 4. Photo ID**
- 5. Orientation will be discussed**

While there – obtain map of VA Campus

VAVS Schedule of Committee Meetings – 4X a year

VAVS Schedule of Events

VAVS Committee

Every VA facility has a VAVS Committee, which is made up the Representatives of the organizations members.

Meetings held four times a year

Attendance by either Representative or Deputy is extremely important.

Attendance is important at meetings. Missing 3 consecutive meetings will result in termination.

Responsibilities to Chapter

Be an example of a Blue Star Mom while volunteering and representing our National Organization

Report to Chapter on the meetings attended

Let chapter members know when there are events, such as StandDown where volunteers are needed as well as other opportunities for Blue Star Moms to honor our veterans.

Annual Joint Review (AJR)

This report gives an accounting of volunteers participation in the VAVS program.

It is the volunteer's responsibility to arrange appointment during the appropriate month.

Both Representative and Deputy participate after completion of AJR copies are sent to both National Officials and the local VAVS

Theodore Roosevelt once said,

***“Far and away the best
Prize that life offers is the chance to
work hard at work worth doing”***

Need Answers?



Email Anne Parker, VAVS Representative –
vavs@bluestarmothers.us

Call Doreen Berggren, VAVS Deputy

928 – 308 5781

Call Carol Sanchez, VAVS Deputy

505 – 720 6773