

## **AWARDS**

### **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Awards**

**Member Award:** Hour Bar Recognition for Service to Veterans Volunteers

**Type of Award:** Hour Bar

**Presented to:** Member by her department via the ALA National Headquarters

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- \* Volunteers are recognized when specific hour milestones are reached: 50, 100, 300, 500 and 1,000.
- \* After the first 1,000-hour bar is awarded, the next bar will be earned in 1,000 hour increments up to 20,000 hours.
- \* Hour bars are provided at no cost to departments; however, the appropriate pin (from which the hour bar is affixed) can be obtained from Emblem Sales at the department's expense. See 2014 *Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: A Guide for Volunteers*.
- \* Beginning 2014-2015 Field and Home service hours were combined into an all-encompassing category called Service to Veterans.

**Unit Award:** Million Member Award

**Type of Award:** Citation Plaque

**Presented to:** One unit per division (5 awards)

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- \* Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this Plan.
- \* Must demonstrate how working the mission of the VA&R committee engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership in the unit
- \* The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- \* Include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.

\* Due to National Chairman Diane Duscheck, 5064 N Elkhart Ave, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217, postmarked or emailed by 5pm EST June 1, 2016.

**Unit Award:** Unit VA&R Program Awards

**Type of award:** Citation Plaque

**Presented to:** One unit chairman per division (5 awards)

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- \* Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this Plan.
- \* Awarded to the unit chairman in each division who conducted the best overall promotion of the VA&R program.
- \* The entry must be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words.
- \* Include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc.
- \* Units will submit entries to the department chairman by the required date.
- \* Winning department entries must be sent to the national chairman Diane Duscheck, 5064 N Elkhart Ave, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217, postmarked or emailed by 5pm EST June 1, 2016.

**Unit Award:** Service to Veterans Volunteer Hours Award

**Type of Award:** Citation Plaque

**Presented to:** One Junior and one senior member per division (10 awards)

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- \* Entries must include the award cover sheet located in this Plan.
- \* Greatest number of hours from April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016, in each division for a Junior and a senior member.

- \* Units should send their nominees to the department VA&R chairman. The department is responsible for informing units of the due date.
- \* The unit is required to certify hours of any nominee – the department chairman may ask for this information.
- \* The department chairman will then send the top hour volunteer names, Junior and senior volunteer, to her respective national division chairman by June 1, 2016 (for division chairman contact information, see list at the beginning of this Plan).

**NVCAF Award:** National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) support recognition

**Type of Award:** Verbal announcement during VA&R chairman's remarks at the 2016 ALA National Convention

**Presented to:** Departments, units and/or members who qualify for stated contribution level to NVCAF. Donations are made through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

**Guidelines:**

- \* NVCAF will recognize departments/units/members that contribute in this way
- \* Bronze: \$1,000-\$2,400 to the NVCAF from Aug. 1, 2015-July 31, 2016
- \* Silver: \$2,500-\$4,999 to the NVCAF from Aug. 1, 2015-July 31, 2016
- \* Gold: \$5,000-\$14,999 to the NVCAF from Aug. 1, 2015-July 31, 2016
- \* To be considered, donations to the ALAF must be received in the national office from August 1, 2015, through July 31, 2016.
- \* ALA National Headquarters will submit qualifying donations to NVCAF staff in July.

**Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Awards**

**National Award:** VAVS Volunteer of the Year Award/ALA NAC Nominee

**Type of Award:** Citation + \$500 donation to VAVS facility or VCAF of her choice presented by the American Legion Auxiliary

**Presented to:** Member

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- \* Candidates for VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) Volunteer of the Year will be submitted by the chiefs of voluntary service and department chairman by November 1, 2015, and to the national VAVS deputy (Lynne Wild, 1510 N. 7th St., Lincoln, NE 68505 or klwild@inebraska.com).
- \* Awarded to the nominee who has given extraordinary service to our nation's veterans through the ALA VA&R program and the VAVS program.
- \* Nominee must serve in an established VA assignment and be defined as a regularly scheduled volunteer.
- \* Should be actively involved in working with veterans in any one of the following areas: outpatient clinics, nursing homes, homeless veteran programs, hosted veteran related functions outside the VA, or visited veterans confined to their homes (as assigned by VAVS).
- \* The American Legion Auxiliary selects the ALA Volunteer of the Year. The name of the ALA Volunteer of the Year is forwarded for consideration as the NAC Volunteer of the Year.

**Member Award:** 10,000 Hour Volunteer Service Award

**Type of Award:** Citation + \$100 donation to VAVS facility or VCAF of her choice presented by The American Legion Auxiliary

**Presented to:** Member

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- \* Given to volunteers who have reached 10,000 hours of service in a VA facility during

this year (April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016).

- \* Verification of hours must be received at National Headquarters by the first Friday in June.

**Member Award:** 20,000 Hour Volunteer Service Award

**Type of Award:** Citation + \$200 donation to VAVS facility or VCAF of her choice presented by the American Legion Auxiliary

**Presented to:** Member

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- \* Given to volunteers who have reached more than 20,000 hours of service in a VA facility during this year (April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016).
- \* Verification of hours must be received at National Headquarters by the first Friday in June.

**Individual Award:** Volunteer Recruitment & Service Department Award

**Type of Award:** Citation presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs

**Presented to:** Hospital Representative

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- \* Awarded to the hospital rep at every facility that shows an increase in both volunteers and volunteer hours at a VA Medical Center from April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016.
- \* The award winner will be determined by the national VAVS representative through verification of hours and number of volunteers as recorded by VAVS.

**Individual Award:** 100 Percent VAVS Meeting Attendance Award

**Type of Award:** Attendance Card presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs

**Presented to:** Hospital Representative and Deputy

**Materials and Guidelines:**

- \* An "Attendance Card" will be awarded to each representative and deputy who has 100 percent attendance to VAVS committee meetings at her assigned facility.
- \* The national VAVS representative will verify the winners from VA records.