

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION (VA & R)

Beverly A Neel, Chair

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Greetings from one of the great pillars of The American Legion Family – VA & R. We are working with a full force of Veterans Home Chairs and VA Medical Center Representatives and Associate Representative. Awaiting to see if we will have Vice Chairs and Deputies. Your VA & R members have been busy reporting the activity at their respective facility of assignment. Thank you, Unit Members for being there in support of our beloved Veterans.

This past administrative year on the National level, the ALA signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) for two well known programs; namely, Honor Flight and Wreaths Across America. Both programs are in need of volunteers for planning, implementing, supporting financially, and promoting their intended purposes to our communities. We can do that. Your respective District President has received more information from this Chair. Please ensure you share with your Unit Members.

This is a new avenue of journey for this Chair and I must say the ladies I am working with have given me a lot of their patience as I circle the learning curve. There is always something new to learn. Thank you, facility chairs and representatives. You have given me great support and in time I hope my efforts in turn benefit your work.

We are upon the Veterans Dollar Day and Gifts for Yanks events at our facilities. Unit members if you have time and can make at least one event this year, you will see “What we do,” “Who we are” and “Why we matter” in action. The appreciation you receive from our beloved Veterans through a smile, a tear, a handshake or simply a nod of the head, they love when we can share with them and put our attention to them alone. I believe if we could, we would do it every day. That is a big challenge, but any effort from each of us is greatly welcomed. Gift Shops at the VAMCs may or may not need volunteers; check with Representative Paula Pillen at Omaha and Vicki Cyboron at Grand Island and Karol Lockmon at Hot Springs SD. You can find their contact information in the Department Directory and each Unit should have received its own copy.

As our traditional holidays roll around, please take time to send cards to “Any Veteran” at your closest facility. Your Junior members could do this project in the next couple months. Provide them the support and encouragement.

Blessings to all!

Veterans – Our Soul & Hearts Inspiration

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