Ohio Unit Plan of Action

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

CITATION OF MERIT
Department of OHIO
REQUIREMENT

CHAIRMAN	VICE CHAIRMAN	Department Hospital Director
Robyn Cooper 901 W High St Piqua, Ohio 45356 (937) 214-6307 Email – ronaldcooper901@gmail.com	Linda Close 1041 Donnawood Dr Mansfield, OH 44903 (419) 989-1180 Cell Email-lindaaclose@gmail.com	

REPORT DUE TO DISTRICT CHAIRMAN BY:	**APRIL 15, 2027**
REPORT DUE TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY:	**May 1, 2027**

DNO	UNO	First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	Postal Code	Cell Phone	Email Address
01									
02	241	SHIRLEY	MAURER	06247 ST RT 219	NEW KNOXVILLE	OH	45871	(419) 305-7828	pmaurer@nktelco.net
03	707	LAURA	RAVERT	330 Sagebrush Dr.	CLAYTON	OH	45315	(937) 671-9436	auntyberu@aol.com
04	450	JUDY	MAUPIN	3194 BEECH RD	BETHEL	OH	45106	(513) 560-0534	hudi@aol.com
05	257	DEB	SUTTERLIN	950 TWP RD 2506	PERRYSVILLE	OH	44864	(330) 465-0230	darleiter@yahoo.com
06									
07	062	KATHARIN	BARNHART	38 PAGE RD	CHILLOCOTHE	OH	45696	(740) 250-3249	alaunit47@yahoo.com
08		LYNN	LAFFERTY	P.O. BOX 164	CHAUNCEY	OH	45719	(254) 245-4399	lynnlafferty@aol.com
09	214	SUE	FRANTINO	9565 LAMBTON	MENTOR	OH	44060	(440) 759-4961	
10	436	JULIE	MARTIN	12574 ISLANDVIEW AVE NW	UNIONTOWN	OH	44685	(330) 730-3795	msjulieamartin@gmail.com
11	071	JANE	KLUG	923 PEARL ST		OH			janeklug@sbcglobal.net
12	144	KAY	HAYMAN	2649 McCOMB Rd.	GROVE CITY	OH	43123	(614)537-4359	kaybh@juno.com
13	196	RHONDA	JANOWSKI	6107 STONERIDGE CIRCLE	BEREA	OH	44017	(216) 407-8867	janowski@aol.com
14	685	CINDY	MASOWICK	9320 ROOT DR	STREETSBORO	OH	44241	(330) 714-3873	cjidgy@gmail.com

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

Department Report Form

This Form should be attached to each narrative submitted for information, Citation of Merit requirements and possible Department award. Please fill out the information completely and accurately. A Unit must submit this report form with boxes completed and answer the questions below to earn the Citation of Merit. Narrative word count must follow directions given in award guidelines. Simple or elaborate stories will be accepted as a report.

Please complete the following with the complete name of your Unit:

_____

District: _____	Unit #: _____	Unit Membership Goal: _____	Unit Membership Total as of Report: _____
Name of Person Completing Report:		Unit Chair	Unit President
Phone #		Email:	Membership ID (if available)
Specific Award Name (if applicable)			

Answer the following Questions in your narrative.
Narrative must be typed written in narrative form.
Narrative must not exceed 1,000 words. (Can be fewer words if program dictates) Narrative may include photographs and news articles.

How many senior members participated in VA&R projects/events? _____
How many junior members participated in VA&R projects/events? _____

How did you support rehabilitations and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies? Please include hours and money spent.

_____
_____

How did you support veterans/ caregivers? Family members? Veterans' survivors within a year of a veteran's passing? (Include hours and money spent).

_____
_____

How did you support a VA facility? _

_____

What did the members and auxiliary do to support veterans in your community? Include hours and money spent for each project/event.

_____
_____

Did you recruit new members to volunteer at a VA facility? _____ How many?_____
What did you do?_____

10. Our ALA Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military

	Service for Veterans/Military	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 1	Total hours members volunteered	*Member Form Line 1*		N/A	
Line 2	Total dollars spent (include VA&R Assessment here)	*Member Form Line 2*	$	$	$
Line 3	Total number of veterans/military assisted	*Member Form Line 3*			
Line 4	Total number of "*Veterans in Community Schools" presentations* facilitated	*Member Form Line 4*			

VA & R

Get Involved

Purpose: The purpose of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives. *Standing Rules #6, Core National Standing Committees*

- Support the therapeutic rehabilitation and healing of veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
- Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors.
- Volunteer at local VA facilities, including state VA facilities in your area.
- Collaborate with organizations that support veterans and their families, such as Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight Inc., and the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.
- Look in your community for opportunities to support veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors.

Outside Partnerships

- **Wreaths Across America**
  - Take part in local wreath placement at a national cemetery.
  - Sponsor wreaths for placement through Wreaths Across America.
- **Honor Flight Inc.**
  - Volunteer with local hubs.
  - Utilize your unit's poppy funds to support important aspects of Honor Flight activities. For more information, please see www.honorflight.org/donations.
  - Participate in welcome-home events.
  - Coordinate the creation and delivery of cards and letters to Honor Flight hubs for mail call.
  - Consider volunteering as a guardian for an Honor Flight. Please note — there is an associated cost.
- **Military and Veteran Caregiver Network**
  - Learn who is considered a caregiver. This will help you identify caregivers in your community and maybe even as a caregiver yourself. If you identify as a caregiver, consider joining their online peer support community.
  - Familiarize yourself with local caregiver resources found in the Hero Care Resource Directory
  - Refer to the MVCN's community calendar for educational and volunteer opportunities
- **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival**
  - Promote awareness of healing through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
  - Donate to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

- Donate to local Veterans Creative Arts Festivals (e.g., time, supplies, money).
- Identify arts, crafts, and hobby projects targeted to veterans (writing, oral history recording, visual and performing arts, quilting, and gardening).
- Donate art supplies to your local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities including state veterans' homes, community living centers, and VA medical centers.
- Plan and organize a local Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
- Advocate for art therapy, music therapy, drama, and recreational therapy programs within the VA healthcare system.
- Apply to the ALA Foundation for Veterans Creative Arts Festival Grants to be used for local competitions and festivals in your community. For more information, please go to https://alafoundation.org/vcaf-grants/.

- **Center for Development and Community Engagement (CDCE, formerly known as VAVS)**
  - Recruit Auxiliary members as volunteers for the VA Center for Development and Community Engagement at VA healthcare facilities.
  - If you see a need in your community that is not being addressed, contact your local VA.
  - Familiarize yourself with the service of the VA caregiver support program
  - Volunteer at your local VA facility for events such holiday gift shops, Bingo, baby showers, etc.
  - Don't forget to include all American Legion Family members in your VA events.
  - Coordinate a supply drive for the needs of hospitalized veterans by gathering items such as socks, underwear, toiletries, etc. Please contact your local VA facility or American Legion Auxiliary CDCE representative for needed items.
  - Don't forget your state VA facilities, such as state veterans' homes. The veterans who reside there have needs that we may fill as well. For more information and local points of contact, please refer to https://nasdva.us/resources/.
  - **OHIO** - Find out through the hospital Representatives and Deputy Representatives what the VA hospital needs and either have a fundraiser or purchase items that are needed.
  - **OHIO** - Try to find out if there are homeless veterans in your area and give them a meal or two. Make up ditty bags with items that they need and give to them.
- **Service to Veterans (Outside of VA Facilities)**
  - Take part in a veteran job fair by organizing or working at an informational table.
  - Promote local veteran-centric job fairs in your community. Support The American Legion by helping host a local job fair at your post home or community center.
  - Support veteran caregivers and survivors.
  - Provide a spa day or caregiver day out for community veteran caregivers.
  - Offer to sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands.
  - Offer to run errands for a caregiver.
  - Prepare information for units concerning the needs of caregiver support.
  - Transportation of veterans to appointments or running errands.
  - Become the catalyst to find needs and encourage members to help veterans in their community.
  - Report your ALA Service to Veterans hours to your unit VA&R chair.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION RESOURCES

- VA & R National Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAVAR/
- ALA National website: https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/var
- VA Homeless Programs: www.va.gov/homeless
- National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF): https://www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/ or https://www.legion-aux.org/nvcaf/
- Volunteers of America: www.voa.org/homeless-people

Year-End Report

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and may result in a national award for participants, if award requirements are met. **Each Unit VA&R chairman is required to submit a narrative report by April 15, 2026, to the District VA&R Chairman** (addresses on first page of POA).

NATIONAL AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Most Outstanding VA&R Program - one per division. The Blanche Klein Plaque winner will be sent on to National to compete for this National Award.

A. James H. Parke Scholarship

- Deadline: No later than December 31, 2025, and application is to be completed online at https://www.volunteer.va.gov/docs/RegularParkeScholarshipForm2023.pdf
- This scholarship is named for the first Director of Voluntary Service and the founding father of the VAVS National Advisory Committee
- Scholarship may be used for tuition and fees, books, and supplies and/or room and board or other education needs purchased through the school of the students' choice. Scholarship winners must use their awards by their 24th birthday.
- Each medical center may nominate one VA student volunteer for receipt of the awards.
- To be eligible – candidates must have completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled VAVS volunteer service during the calendar year prior to September 1; be a student in the 10th grade or above; and have not reached their 19th birthday.
- Criteria on which candidates are evaluated for consideration of awards include:
  - Scholastic Activity
  - Dependability
  - Fulfillment and acceptance of responsibility
  - Personality and pleasantness to patients and staff
  - Leadership capability
  - Inspiration to patients through services performed
  - Appearance
- See www.va.gov for information on VAVS, James H. Parke Scholarship for additional information.

DEPARTMENT AWARD INFORMATION & DEADLINE

Blanche Klein Plaque: best all-around ***VA & R Program*** by a Unit based on the Annual Report/Narrative. Entries must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words and must include a completed copy of the annual report form. You may include pictures, PR clippings and flyers. Include the name and address of the Unit Chairman and forward to your **District VA & R Chairman by April 15, 2027**. *District Chairman will select one winner in each Membership Category based on goal and forward **all** narratives to the Department Chairman.* The winner of this award will be forwarded onto National for further competition.

Ohio Unit Plan of Action

Sue Friedrich Plaque: best overall ***VA& R Program*** by a Unit based on their narrative. Entries must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words. Include the name and address of the Unit Chairman and forward to Department Chairman, Deb Sutterlin, 950 Township Rd 2506, Perrysville, OH 44864, by **April 15, 2027.**

Marie Moore Fund Plaque: awarded to the Unit donating the most money per capita (based upon membership goal) to the Marie Moore fund (gifts presented to the *VAMC* to be used in support of Veterans). Donations must be received in ALA Department Headquarters, 1100 BRANDYWINE BLVD, STE D, Zanesville, OH 43701 by **June 1, 2027.**

Olive Ruffner Plaque: Awarded to the most outstanding VA Volunteer by the Hospital Director. Nominations may be submitted by Unit or VA Voluntary Services in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words on the accomplishments/activities of the volunteer. Submit entry to the Department Hospital Director, Linda Close, 1041 Donnawood Dr., Mansfield, Ohio 44903 by **April 15, 2027.**

Volunteen Award: Awarded to the volunteen with the most hours served in a VA Medical Center. Volunteen must meet all requirements as set forth in the voluntary service program for a VA Medical Center Volunteer. This award is to be presented at the Department Convention. Submit entry to the Department Hospital Director, Linda Close, 1041 Donnawood Dr, Mansfield, Ohio 44903 by **April 15, 2027.**

AWARD FINE PRINT:

Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. Through submission of reports and award entries, the submitter grants nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the materials submitted and agrees to have their names and submission published for ALA use or commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

Please fill out the information as completely and accurately as possible. Award certificates will be completed using the information given on this sheet, so please be sure to complete the electronic form
Please refer to the webpage for specific criteria such as photographs, narrative length, submission deadline, and point of contact. All awards will be mailed to the department office after ALA National Convention. Department presidents may wish to recognize award recipients by presenting them with the award at a department function.

DONATION TO MARIE MOORE FUND

Units may make a donation to the Marie Moore Fund in honor of all Unit, District, County Council, Department, and National Presidents in the amount of $5.00 per past president. This donation to be sent to department Headquarters with names of Past Presidents listed on the Marie Moore Fund donation sheet. Funds from the Marie Moore Fund to be given to the VAMCs, OVH, and CBOCs by the Department President based on donations received.

Each volunteer needs a separate form, therefore, copy additional sheets as needed. This information is to be turned into the Vice Chairman of VA&R by April 15, 2027, to receive your pins and hours bars at the Department Convention.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Ohio, Inc.

MARIE MOORE FUND

DONATION FORM
2026-2027

Please enclose a separate check for payment with completed form to:

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
1100 BRANDYWINE BLVD, STE D
ZANESVILLE OH 43701
(740) 452-8245

District # _____ Unit # _____ Check # _____

Total number of Past Presidents _____ X $5.00 each = $_____

Names of Past Unit, District, County Councils, Department, and National Presidents
(Type or print clearly - Additional names may be listed on reverse side)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

Unit Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone number _____

Service to Our Veterans
2026 – 2027 Member Report Form

Please include hours at VAMCs not covered by Department of Ohio (ex. Georgetown, local CBOCs, etc.). Members give this report to your VA & R Chairman, and she will **send all reports by April 15, 2027, to VA & R Vice Chairman, Robyn Cooper, 901 W High St Piqua, Ohio 45356.** Volunteers receiving their FIRST 50 volunteer hours will receive a Service to Our Veterans Pin to wear and hold their future hour bars. There is no cost to the volunteer if it is the Volunteers 1st Pin. Volunteers that have already received their Volunteer Pin may purchase new pins at their own expense through Emblem Sales or thru Department.

Volunteer Name _____ Membership # _____

District # _____ Unit # _____ Unit Name _____

Unit Chairman _____ Telephone # _____ Zip _____

Date	Hrs. Worked	Work/Activity Performed Where	Actual Cost/Amount
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

TOTAL HOURS _____ TOTAL COST/AMOUNT _____

Certifying Member or Unit VA&R Chairman: _____