



2019 - 2020 Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)

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** For the most up-to-date contact information,
please visit the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Committee page at www.ALAforVeterans.org.



What is this program, and why do we have it?

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program promotes our mission to enhance the lives of veterans, military and their families.

VA&R Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just two simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the 2017-2022 Programs Action Plan.

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and VA&R committee contact information may be found on the VA&R committee page on the national website, www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Service to Veterans

- B. **Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program (per division)
 - Deadline: June 1, 2020
 - Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.
- C. **Department Award:** Best Department VA&R Program (per division)
 - Deadline: June 1, 2020
 - Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) support recognition

- A. **NVCAF Award:** NVCAF Support Recognition
 - Deadline: July 31, 2020
 - Send donations to the ALA Foundation to National Headquarters

Veteran Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

- A. **National Award:** VAVS Volunteer of the Year /ALA NAC Nominee
 - Deadline: November 1, 2019
 - Submitted by the chiefs of voluntary service and department chairman to the national VAVS deputy
- B. **Member Award:** 10,000 Hour Volunteer Service
 - Deadline: March 31, 2020



- Verification of hours must be mailed or emailed to National Headquarters by the first Friday in June
- C. **Member Award: 20,000 Hour Volunteer Service**
 - Deadline: March 31, 2020
 - Verification of hours must be mailed or emailed to National Headquarters by the first Friday in June
- D. **Individual Recognition Award: Volunteer Recruitment & Service Department**
 - Deadline: March 31, 2020
- E. **Individual Recognition Award: 100 Percent VAVS Meeting Attendance**
 - Awarded to each representative and deputy who has 100 percent attendance to VAVS committee meetings at her assigned facility.
- F. **Department Recognition from The American Legion Award: Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach**
 - Deadline: January 15, 2020
 - Entries must be approved by the department adjutant or department employment chairman and sent to The American Legion National Headquarters
- G. **James H. Parke Scholarship**
 - Deadline: November 1, 2019
 - See www.va.gov for information on VAVS, James H. Parke Scholarship

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Reporting:

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department VA&R chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **January 5, 2020** to the division VA&R chairman, plus copy the national VA&R chairman.

Year-End Reports

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 department VA&R chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **May 15, 2020** to the division VA&R chairman, plus copy the national VA&R chairman. Members and units should follow their department's protocol and deadlines for report submissions at the department level.

Special 100th Anniversary History Program Facts:

Kris West, PNP 2000-2001, was contacted by John Hampton, a former staff member of The American Legion from the Washington D.C. office and who was later employed by the VA. He was looking for an organization to support The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) that was going to be held in Washington D.C.

Since the very first sponsorship of the NVCAF was a success, she then knew there would need to be money raised each year, if this was going to continue. She decided to approach and enlist the help of the upcoming members of the leadership team (Katherine Morris, Sheri McLaughlin and Elsie Bailey), to ask them to support and commit to continue with the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.



Kris wrote a resolution seeking donors and business to support the program. That first year, \$2,500 was donated by Pfizer, \$5,000 by Eli Lilly and \$5,000 from a bank all located in Indianapolis.

As a gift she decided to present a scenic book of Washington D.C. with a note on the inside cover thanking the veteran for his/her service to our country and that it was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

Some of the previous MC's for the program were: Ernest Borgnine, Jane Powell and Michael Petersen.