



**Department of California
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Anita Biggs, Chairman**

**BULLETIN 1
AUGUST 2011**



***"Buffalo Soldiers", motto: "Ready and Forward".
"We Can, We Will"***

Congratulations on your appointment as the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman for your District or Unit! As members of The Department of California VA& R Buffalo Soldiers, we will celebrate President Linda's theme: "Hats Off to The American Legion Family Volunteers" and hats are already off to YOU! As front-line volunteers, you already provide outstanding service to our veterans and through your dedicated service we can lead the Calvary to assist veterans.

As I know you are aware, donations are down and unfortunately cuts to the budget have become necessary. We need to figure how we raise donations to the Department VA&R fund so we support the many programs we assist and the veterans who are in the most need.

Temporary Financial Assistance continues to provide veterans with much needed financial help when times are rough and a little help can go a long way. While we want to help as many veterans as we can, we must receive donations in order to make the difference when the money is needed. Rent, utilities and food are the leading basic necessities that are requested. Please ask your Unit members to dig a little deeper to donate to the Department VA&R fund.

This year we will once again host the R2R – Ride to Recovery –Golden State Challenge: San Francisco to Los Angeles starting October 2, 2011 and winding down our great state to huge fanfare in Los Angeles October 8, 2011. This happens to be one of our Department President's special projects and we want to make this the best R2R ever! The National President will attend part of the ride and it would be great to see Unit members along the route and at the finish line. Please remember to find a way to help with fundraisers to support this extremely worthy cause. Additional information and the route can be found at www.ride2recovery.com. Support Spinning Recovery Labs and outdoor cycling which can also help injured veterans overcome obstacles and becomes an important part their recovery.

The National Creative Arts Festival will take place in Fayetteville, Arkansas October 17 – 23, 2011. The key purpose of the National Veterans Creative Arts competition and Festival is to recognize Veterans for their creative accomplishments and to educate and demonstrate to

communities throughout the country the therapeutic benefits of the arts. For more information go to www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov.

The plight of homeless veterans and female veterans continue to be a challenge for our organizations. The National organization has put together a series of marketing tools that allow you to personalize posters for your specific Unit or VAMC. You may go on National's website: www.alaforveterans.org and go to Member Resources and then click on Marketing Resources. These posters should provide additional awareness about our veterans and provide information on how to obtain services.



Your service is greatly appreciated and I look forward to an exciting and fulfilling year serving our veterans. Please invite other members to join the VA&R committee as we take our Hats Off to our American Legion Family and our beloved Veterans!

My contact information: acjbiggs@aol.com or phone me at 323-547-3729.

Anita Biggs, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Department of California

RESOURCES

1. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: A Guide for Volunteers provided through the Auxiliary
2. R2R: www.ride2recovery.com
3. VA&R Guide (formerly Guide for Volunteers) provided through the Auxiliary contains Field Service orientation course.
4. Gulf War Benefits and Programs, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Vietnam Veterans Guide to Agent Orange Benefits, What to do before a Veteran dies, Women Veterans- Identifying Risk, Services and Prevention: brochures available through The American Legion
5. National Veterans Creative Arts Festival: www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov.
6. Websites: Department: www.calegionaux.org - National: www.alaforveterans.org

