



Department of California  
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation  
Anita Biggs, Chairman

BULLETIN 5  
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# VETERAN'S AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION MONTH



Let the Season of Giving Begin! Who puts the “Happy” in “Holidays”? WE DO! December is Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Month and we look for the opportunities to help make veterans and their families have a jolly Holiday season. There are many veterans and their families who are doing without money, food, homes and jobs. We can provide some relief by hosting Welcome Home events, food baskets to families, invite Veterans to your Post for a holiday party, take gifts of cheer to Veterans at VA Medical Facilities and Veterans Homes, host Christmas parties for children and provide lunch or dinners for families. Whatever your Unit decides to do; please report your activities to your District Chairman, who will report to me. These are difficult times, but as Buffalo Soldiers, we are the Calvary and our members can come to the rescue! "*Buffalo Soldiers*", motto: "*Ready and Forward*". "*We Can, We Will*"

## ***TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE- WHAT'S THAT?***

It truly saddened me when I heard from a member of The American Legion who went to his Post, asked for OUR Temporary Financial Assistance program and then was turned away by Post and Unit members who said there is nothing they could do. The sad part is that what we do is not even known by our own members! We must communicate better and more effectively. You can do your part by sharing bulletins, posting them on the bulletin board or somewhere in your Post Home. If you don't know the answer, please refer the person to your District President or to our Department Office (415)861-5092 and the Chairman will be contacted. Yes donations are down, but we still have funds available. If there is no one available in your Unit to take the application, refer the Veteran to your nearest Hospital Representative. We may not be able to do everything, but we can help with what we have. **THIS IS WHAT WE DO!**

### **REMINDER\*\*FIELD SERVICE ORIENTATION!**

This Chairman will offer the Field Service Orientation course at this year's Midyear meeting (DEC) for all members who are interested. Registration begins at 9:30 and the course will be held at 10:00 am Friday, January 13, 2012 at the Courtyard Marriott. The annual meeting of Hospital Reps and Deps will follow this training at 11:30 with a working luncheon. SEE FLYER IN LAST MONTH'S BULLETIN.



### **DON'T FORGET DIABETIC SOCKS NEEDED!**

We will have **Diabetic socks / men's underwear / women's panties** drive at our Midyear meeting. Please bring only new items. These are the most requested items and will be distributed to the VAMC's and VETERANS HOMES/CONVALESCENT HOMES. SEE ATTACHED FLYER

**DISTRICT CHAIRMEN AND HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES;** please send me a midyear written report, either by e-mail or regular mail detailing the VA&R activities of your Units no later than December 16, 2011. Don't forget to include Veterans' Day activities and any planned Christmas projects.

### **AWARDS**

There are many opportunities for your Unit and/or District to receive some well-deserved recognition for your outstanding contributions and service to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program. The complete Awards List will accompany next month's bulletin. The National Awards list can be found on the VA&R Plan of Action on National's website: [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org).



**From me to you, have a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!**

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