



Department of California
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Anita Biggs, Chairman

BULLETIN 4
NOVEMBER 2011

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

NOVEMBER 11TH VETERAN'S DAY!



Make sure you say a big "Thank You" to our Nation's Veterans!

Have you planned your Veterans' Day Celebration? This is a great time to **HONOR THEIR SERVICE!** Your related veteran, Post legionnaires, hospitalized veterans, active military, homebound and homeless veterans deserve our gratitude for all they have done to keep us safe and free. Many Units will provide lunches, dinners and recognition ceremonies to name a few ideas. Whatever your Unit decides, make it a special day for the Veterans in your community.

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. Please see the attached flyer for promotion. All members are invited to come out, learn more about volunteering in the VA system and get certified. It is important we increase the volunteers in the VA Voluntary system. This is an opportunity for our Unit members to become more involved with helping the many veterans who need our help. You can make the difference in many of these veterans' lives with your participation. The annual meeting of Hospital Reps and Deps will follow this training at 11:30 with a working luncheon.

YOUR DONATIONS ARE NEEDED

In last month's bulletin, we spoke about the need to increase Gift Shop/Patient Remembrance donations. At The Wild West Shows (Department Program Workshops) our Parliamentarian and Past Department President Diane Delashmit spoke to us about our dwindling Department program donations. This information bears repeating since many of you may not have heard the startling statistics and some solutions. There are many Unit members who prepare their annual budgets and make donations "across the board" to all of our Department programs. You might notice in the Book of Reports that some Unit's Children & Youth, Education, VA&R, etc all

receive the same amount, such as, \$10.00 donation each. While these donations are very much appreciated, some accounts need more funds; which brings me to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Fund. The VA&R Fund has been declining for several years, although the need has increased. There are more homeless veterans, un-employed and under-employed veterans who need Temporary Financial Assistance and other assistance we may be able to provide. Through Diane's statistical calculations, it has been determined that if our Units donate only \$1.27 for each member to the Department VA&R Fund, we could provide a budget that would better support our state's veterans. If you can get this information to your Unit members and make your donation to VA&R based on this formula of \$1.27 per Unit member, we could help so many more veterans.

DECEMBER IS VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION MONTH

This is good time to start planning your activities to highlight the VA&R program during December. Now is the time to send your donations to Gift Shop/Patient Remembrance as the Hospital Representatives begin shopping to help give some necessary items and spread some good cheer to the hospitalized veterans. You can help by donating goods, services and money to make the WISH LISTS come true! Please earmark those funds to GS/PR on your checks when you send them to Department.

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.

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN; 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.

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RESOURCES FOR VETERANS' DAY

1. [America's Veterans Video](#)
Designed for students and educators. It helps to answer the question, "What does Veteran's Day mean to you?" After viewing this video, students will be able describe who veterans are, what they have done, and why they should be honored.
2. www.letsaythanks.com
Pick out a thank you card and it will be sent to a soldier currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to some member of the armed services. It only takes a second and wouldn't it be wonderful if they received a bunch of these.

