

## **Creative Arts Program Action Plan 2019-2020**

We are still going to break away from VA&R this year in Indiana so that it can get the support and attention it really needs to help our veterans.

Nationwide, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Across the country each year, Veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities compete in a local creative arts competition. The competition includes categories in the visual arts division that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are categories in writing as well as the performing arts of dance, drama and music. Local creative arts competition first place winning entries advance to a national judging process and first, second and third place entries in each category are determined.

Selected gold-medal winning Veterans will be invited to attend the 2019 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival hosted by the Battle Creek VA Medical Center and held in Kalamazoo, Michigan October 28 – November 3, 2019. The culmination of the week will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with a display of art in the afternoon and the show immediately following.

### **The Festival**

Co-presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) is the culmination of talent competitions in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music for Veterans treated in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national health care system.

Veterans exhibit their artwork and original writings or perform musical, dance or dramatic selections in a live stage show performance. All Veterans invited to participate are selected winners of year-long, national fine arts talent competitions in which thousands of Veterans enter, from VA medical facilities across the nation.

VA medical facilities incorporate creative arts into their therapy programs to further the rehabilitation goals for both inpatients and outpatients. This annual competition recognizes the progress and recovery made through therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our Nation's Veterans.

### **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Reporting**

I will need to get my report to the VA&R Chairman at least a week before she needs her report to National so I'm asking you to have your Mid-Year Report to me by December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and end of year report by April 20, 2020.

**Creative Arts Department Awards**

Charlene Walden Monetary Award to the unit Chairman with the best essay of 200 plus words of their Creative Arts program with activities and amounts submitted to the Department Chairman by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

**Personal Award**

1. To the Junior group that collects the highest monetary amount for the Creative Arts Program to be given at Junior Conference
2. To the Unit and the District with the largest amount for Creative Arts sent into Department by April 1, 2020

**We are going into our 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and I would like to see President Jennie Maune accept the award for Gold Sponsor (\$5000.00) for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!!!!!! Let's make this happen for her and the State of Indiana.**

**Mid-year reports- unit to District 12-1-2019 and District to Dept. Chairman by 12-8-19.**

**End of year reports- unit to District reports are due by 4-15-2020 and District to Dept. Chairman by 4-20-2020.**

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**" NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE HEALING POWER OF THE ARTS"**

