

Creative Arts
Programs Action Plan
2021-2022
Sue Comerford, Chairman

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.

The 41st NVCAF selected gold-medal winning Veterans will be invited to attend the 2022 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival hosted by the VA Medical Center and held in St. Petersburg, Fl April 18-25, 2022. The culmination of the week will be 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 **Unit reports to your District Chairman by April 15, 2022 and District Chairman to Department Chairman by April 23, 2022** because the VA & R Chairman will include their reports on theirs.

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, 2022.

Personal Award

To the Unit and the District with the largest amount for Creative Arts sent into Department by April 1, 2022.

No Mid-Year Reports

End of Year Reports- Unit to District reports are due by April 15, 2022 and District to Department Chairman due by April 23, 2022.

Stamps for the Wounded: We are still doing stamps. Keep collecting and send them to P.O Box 297 Dunn Loring, VA 22027. Keep track of how many you send so that I can recognize you. They help brighten someone's day.

**Sue Comerford
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“NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE HEALING POWER OF THE ARTS”

