

Creative Arts Program Action Plan 2020-2021

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 2020 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

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 8th, 2020 and end of year report by April 20, 2021.

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 1st, 2021.

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 May 1, 2021.

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

Mid-year reports- unit to District 12-1-2020 and District to Dept. Chairman by 12-8-20.

End of year reports- unit to District reports are due by 4-15-2021 and District to Dept. Chairman by 4-20-2021.

Please send in the postage stamps for the wounded to the following address.

**Stamps to the Wounded
PO Box 297
Dunn Loring, VA 22027**

**Sue Comerford
Creative Arts Chairman
702 Willowridge Dr.
Kokomo, IN 46901
Jocko702@att.net 765-419-1900**

" NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE HEALING POWER OF THE ARTS"