HOSPITAL
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Another month has gone by and maybe the decisions have been made by your Auxiliary as to where you will donate this year. If you decide to have a fundraiser where will that money go? You do the same on deciding what to spend your own money on! What bills do I pay this month or what can I afford to do once my bills are paid.

Think, for a moment, of the Veteran who served our country and now must reside in a VA Hospital or a Veterans Home for their health, either for rehab, medical, or because they can no longer get by living at home or in an apartment. They no longer have some or any of their possessions and some can no longer "go home" or have family visit due to where they are from or where their family lives. Look around you when you get home from your meeting and decide what you would like to take with you if that was you in this situation!

At the beginning of each new Auxiliary year, we ask that you send donations to certain programs to help locally, statewide or nationally. If you haven't yet sent in your donations for the Hospital Program or decided not to do it this year – **Please reconsider!** Your donations are greatly needed to help improve the lives of these Veterans as they sit in hospitals or nursing homes sometimes far away from their own homes.

In case you have forgotten – we have two (2) areas that we need your help with! **Hospital Programs** – this is the $2 donation per member based on your membership as of 06-30-2026. These funds go toward the VAVS Representative allowance and mileage, convention charms, and the annual gifts we give to each facility during the President's annual visit.

The second one is **Hospital Projects** – these funds go toward canteen books, coffee and treats and so we can do events at these facilities such as Oktoberfest that we just had at Tomah VA. We had a band and pumpkin bars, root beer and yes, some of the residents danced (in their wheelchairs) and they had a great time.

"Volunteers" are always welcomed and needed – whether it be for an hour to take a Veteran to church or to play bingo. **Please consider becoming a volunteer and help when you can!** If you would like to volunteer and have questions, please reach out and we can answer your questions.

You don't have to be great to serve, but you have to serve to be great. Look for opportunities to Love. Serve. Care.

Smile and laugh more. They are natural anti-depressants!