

BULLETIN – JULY 2023



MARION VA MEDICAL CENTER



The doors are FINALLY opening for visitors and volunteers in the CLC! After almost 3 years volunteers will be able to play bingo with the patients! The “slow, soft opening” will start on June 19 with a few requirements, one requirement is masks, when around the patients. I will take a small inconvenience to be able to physically see our Veterans! Currently, they are limiting the bingo games and cookouts to 2 per month. These guidelines are subject to change, and we need to be flexible.

We, I, Karen Robinson and Marcia English (Deputies for the Marion VA), continued to bring items to the CLC (Community Living Center). We, with the help of all Auxiliaries that donated to the hospital fund, have been providing all the cookout items for the staff to cook for the patients. They really like the cookouts! We also have been delivering birthday celebration cupcakes each month. We also restocked the food pantry in January and again in March. They know the VFW Auxiliary can be counted on when needed.

The money donated to the hospital fund also purchased flowers for the Veterans to dress up the courtyard. Gardening helps the Veterans receive “sunshine” therapy and create a beautiful space for everyone to enjoy! Some of our Veterans were gardeners and enjoy passing on their knowledge! The courtyard flowers bring smiles to the patients as well as the employees!

Since Christmas will be here before we know it, we are asking that all Auxiliaries in the state donate an ornament that represents them. Our Post, Heyde-

Pillow Post 1301 in Marion has a tank on the property. We will be getting a small tank, along with a description of our tank and the history of how we acquired it. Another idea would be to research the name of your Post. If you have pictures of the namesakes, they can be included also. Be creative! I know we have VERY creative members in the VFW Auxiliary! We would like the entire state to be represented on the tree. I received 3 large tubs of cards from a closing card store. I would like to send your Auxiliary some of the cards for you to sign and mail back to me. We will take them to the CLC and the hospital and give them to the Veterans. I will send

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you a return envelope with postage, all you will need to do is write a message to the Veteran or sign your Auxiliary name, number, and where you are from. We want them to know that the VFW Auxiliary is everywhere and thinking of them! My address is Lori Crites at 9534 Herrin Rd, Johnston City, IL 62951.

We are looking forward to having a GREAT year and doing whatever we can to make the lives of our Veterans and their families better!

