

# BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 2023



## Edward J. Hines VA Medical Center

Welcome to the "Be A Warrior" year at Edwards Hines Jr. VA Hospital (Hines). This is the largest VA hospital in Illinois. First, Deputy Representative Diane Ahrens and I look forward to working together with every volunteer. We thank those Auxiliaries and individuals who have done so much to help our hospitalized veterans in the past and the future to come.

During the height of Covid pandemic, our 17 gallant Auxiliaries from District 3, District 5, and District 19 believed in the values of our hospitalized veterans and continued to support and service them. We were allowed to provide arm's length services (meals, toiletries and (coffee in general)) for the veterans in the Blind Rehabilitation Center (BRC), Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), Women Health Clinic (WHC), Caregiver's Support Program (CSP), Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV), Community Living Center (CLC), Residential Care Facility (RCF), and the Fisher House.

Hines has cautiously come out of the Covid pandemic. We can now add services to our "in-patients" on the 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 floors in the Hospital. Our favorite game, Bingo is also back for the veterans in CLC and RCF.

Our current top priority is to get enough toiletries and personal items, paper goods and tissues, T-shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, etc. on hand for the next year as we begin distribution to the hospitalized veterans throughout the hospital complex.

We anticipate placing a bulk order with Northgate Ltd for toiletries and personal items. Please check the Wishlist on our Department website for all other items that can be donated.

Dates to Remember:

September 8th, Hines VA and Jesse Brown VA, Women's Health Program presents a MINI-RETREAT WOMEN VETERAN STAND DOWN at Malcom X College from 9am-4pm. Come out to celebrate military women veterans who serve or have served in the Armed Forces.

September 9th, Hines Women Veterans Annual Drive-Thru Baby Shower will be held between the Crossman's Circle behind the Fisher House. Come out, volunteer and enjoy the excitement of these moms' babies' future.

Let's keep the "Be A Warrior" spirit. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the Hospital Conference on August 25<sup>th</sup> in Naperville, IL.