



**Department of California
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
January 2024 Bulletin**

Happy New Year Everyone!

Thank you to the District VA&R chairmen who took time to prepare and send me a mid-year report. Your input allows me to prepare a comprehensive summary of the wonderful work accomplished for the VA&R program so far this year.

As we venture forth into 2024 let us do so with open minds and a clear resolve to serve the Auxiliary mission to the very best of our ability, creating new and exciting opportunities to better serve our national treasures – our veterans.

Each year the Department of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the American Legion Auxiliary, co-presents the **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF)**. Veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities across the nation compete in a local creative arts competition. The competition features five divisions including art, creative writing, dance, theater, and music.



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 that therapy and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's Veterans.

Local creative arts competition top winning entries advance to a national judging process and first, second and third place entries are determined at the national level. First place winning Veterans are then invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival hosted by a different VA facility each year. This year the Festival will be held in Denver, Colorado, May 11-18, 2024.

Auxiliary members are encouraged to check with their local VA medical facility to see if a local NVCAF competition is scheduled in 2024 and learn how they can provide volunteer assistance.

Susan Baker, VA&R Chair
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