

GREAT NEWS

You may or may not have heard, but The American Legion has finally granted our request to allow the Sons of The American Legion to Certify our own VAVS Representatives and Deputies at VA Hospitals and Medical Centers across the Country! This resolution was passed by the SAL at the Fall 2022 NEC Meeting, with subsequent approval by TAL at their Spring meetings. This has been a major undertaking by our VA&R Commission over the last couple of years, and is a major accomplishment for all of us with The Sons of The American Legion!

There is a large untapped need at every VA across the Country for volunteers, support, and the fulfillment of needs for our Veterans. This is now our opportunity to fill those needs without time delays, unnecessary red tape, and extraneous levels of approval that only delay our mission. Simply stated, a VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) Representative and/or Deputy appointment allows our Organization to have a "liaison" to a VA facility. That individual then communicates what needs there are to fill and what ways there are that we as Sons can help, in each and every VA.

Attached is a short brochure describing the role of a VAVS Representative and/or Deputy. It is a volunteer position that is available at EVERY VA FACILITY, with over 155 facilities in the U.S. Each VA can have 1 Representative from the SAL and multiple Deputies. The Sons of The American Legion is currently 1 of only 41 Veteran and/or Community Service Organizations that is authorized by the Dept. of Veteran Affairs to be a member of the National Advisory Council, providing these positions and services at VA facilities.

It has been a cumbersome process to appoint VAVS Representative and Deputies up to this point, but that has now ended with our new ability to certify these positions across the Country. A Certification form is also attached to this email. An appointment to a Representative or Deputy now only requires the approval of the Detachment Adjutant and Detachment VA&R Chairman. Note: Associate positions are for a Representative or Deputy who will be at a VA that is in a neighboring State from his Detachment.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, identify 1 or 2 individuals to serve in these capacities at your neighboring VA. If you have 5 facilities within your Detachment, then line-up members for each of the 5. This is such an important role, and is so important that we build on what we have. We currently have Representatives and/or Deputies in 31 VA facilities across the Country. **That means we need to fill the other 124!**

Please let us know if you have any questions, or need further assistance in making this happen.

Sincerely,
Gabe Cinquegrana, National VAVS Representative
National VA&R Commission Vice-Chairman
Sons of The American Legion