

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC) Volunteer of the Year Award

Revised 11/14/2024

We're thrilled to announce the 2024 call for nominations for the VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) awards. This year, we are combining the male and female categories into a single **Volunteer of the Year Award** to recognize one outstanding volunteer who has made a lasting impact on the lives of Veterans. Presented by the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee, this distinguished honor celebrates an individual who has provided exceptional service and demonstrated unwavering dedication through a VA volunteer assignment. The award highlights remarkable commitment and impactful contributions that go above and beyond in serving those who have served our country.

The VAVS NAC, a Federally chartered advisory committee, represents volunteer organizations partnered with VA. Its purpose is to provide advice and guidance to the VA's volunteer program, ensuring that the needs of Veterans are met with the highest level of care and support through community and volunteer engagement. The NAC Executive Committee (EC) oversees the Volunteer of the Year Award selection, with a dedicated committee responsible for reviewing nominations, to include the immediate past NAC EC Chairperson, the current NAC EC Chairperson, and the NAC EC Vice Chairperson.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria:

The Volunteer of the Year Award is open to volunteers affiliated with NAC member organizations. This includes VAVS Representatives, Deputy Representatives, and members who are actively involved in supporting Veterans through their VA volunteer service. In addition to being an active regularly scheduled (RS) volunteer, individuals must fulfill at least one of the following criteria in an approved VA volunteer assignment through the VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) office:

- Volunteer with hospitalized Veterans.
- Volunteer with Veterans at outpatient clinics.
- Volunteer with Veterans in community living centers or inpatient residential units.
- Volunteer with Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Volunteer with Veterans and Veterans groups in the community.
- Host Veterans' functions in the Lodge, Post, Chapter (e.g., Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans Day observances, etc.) that qualify as a VAVS assignment.
- Host Veterans' functions outside the Lodge, Post, Chapter (e.g., fishing trips, day at the races, sporting events, etc.) that qualify as a VAVS assignment.
- Visit homebound Veterans as a VAVS assignment.
- Participate in or facilitate Adopt-A-Veteran programs as a VAVS assignment.

Submission Process and Guidelines:

- Nominations must be in a narrative format, not to exceed 500 words, on letterhead of the nominating NAC organization.
- The nominee's name and NAC organization must be printed on the upper left corner.
- VA Staff making recommendations for this award must do so through the National Representative of the NAC organization the nominee is a member. The National Representative must submit the official nomination.
- Letters of recommendation may be submitted with the narrative nomination.
- Nominations must be received by the NAC EC Chairperson by January 31, 2025, submitted via email to the VA CDCE mail group at VHA15CDCEStaff@va.gov, and marked to the attention of Mr. Tyrone Green.
- Submissions failing to follow the guidelines or meet the deadline will not be considered.

Awardee Selection:

- Only one awardee will be selected.
- The awardee will be notified of selection no later than one month before the annual VAVS National Advisory Committee Meeting. They will be recognized and presented with an award at the meeting.