* CDCE SERVICE AWARD *

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY VOLUNTEER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE IN THE CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Award for Leadership was first presented in 1963 by Hy and Sue Rosen, Past National Commandant and Auxiliary President, as a trophy to be awarded each year at the National Assembly to the League or Auxiliary member chosen by the CDCE Committee as most deserving of this award for leadership in the VA Hospital program. Volunteers in our CDCE Program are the key people who represent us at the VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and the many Community programs sanctioned by the Department of Veterans Affairs. We believe they should be given special recognition for outstanding activities, excellence in carrying out their programs, as well as providing leadership, when necessary, in order to make life easier for the hospitalized veteran, outpatient, homeless or one in a nursing home under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs. In years past, there were trophies presented to the winners, but they have not been given since 1999. To preserve the record of winners, a large plaque showing winners should replace the trophy and be displayed permanently at National Headquarters, with individual plaques or certificates given to winners at discretion of the National CDCE Representatives and Deputies of the League and Auxiliary and past winners.

Criteria for eligibility to be chosen as the outstanding volunteer of the year in the CDCE Program are:

1. Must be a member in good standing to be chosen as the outstanding volunteer of the year.
2. Must have served on a regular basis in a VA Hospital, Outpatient Clinic, or other properly certified area for a period of at least three (3) years.
3. Must meet attendance requirements for CDCE quarterly meetings if a currently certified Representative or Deputy.
4. Must have a letter of recommendation submitted to the Committee by a VAMC Director, Manager of Voluntary Service, or other qualified staff; and by the Unit or Detachment describing works, programs, special activities, which they feel make that person an excellent nominee.
5. Qualifications should include one or more of the following: outstanding hours, special program, leadership, manner in which patients are cared for, or other service provided which significantly adds to the better care of veteran patients under the CDCE Program.

Department Conventions are an excellent time to consider selecting a volunteer for this award. Recommendations should be sent to your National League or Auxiliary CDCE Representative no later than July 10. Winners each year at National Convention shall be chosen by the National CDCE Representatives and Deputies of both the League and the Auxiliary, and any interested previous winners present at that Convention. Names will not be divulged until the annual CDCE meeting during Convention and shall be included in the printed proceedings of both the League and Auxiliary Convention. If no current nominee is able to meet the criteria, the Committee may review nominees for the 2 previous years. The committee reserves the right to choose one who has not been properly sponsored but meets other criteria by 100% vote.