Are your volunteers sometimes at a loss for how to fill their volunteer time when visitors are sparse? Anna, a volunteer with Veterans Connect at the Mission Viejo Library, fills her time by knitting beanies.

So far, Anna has knit 24 beanies for the VA, another 12 for the VA Homeless Shelter in Santa Ana and another batch for Operation Gratitude to distribute. The Crafty Ladies group are also busy with knitting and crocheting for new babies at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.
Veterans Connect Film Event

Looking for an information and popular way to highlight veterans in your community? Patrice Rand, supervisor of the Veterans Connect program at the Mission Viejo library, started a mini documentary festival in February. The first film, Eleven, the Movie, was crowd-funded and directed by a Bay Area man whose grandfather was a WWII airman. Eleven, is a film about eleven surviving WWII veterans from Carrier Air Group 11.

"We did quite a bit of prep for this," shares Patrice. "Two of my vet volunteers helped me setup, implement and clean up."

The director brought 4 movie posters, signed them and we raffled them off. Attendees were asking when we were going to show this again."

Despite rain, cold and the pre-Oscar tv shows, the library had a successful presentation of this film honoring veterans. Many positive comments were received, such as "Excellent. I love history! I was born at the end of the war and don’t know much about it. Glad I came."

Movie trailer link: https://youtu.be/kpC4s8RAMac
Contact for California library screenings: contact@georgeretelas.com
Contact Patrice Rand, Librarian, with questions: PRand@cityofmissionviejo.org
IMPORTANT REMINDER:
IT’S TIME TO REGISTER FOR OUR SPRING WORKSHOPS

Workshops will be held at libraries in four or five communities. Please try to attend the workshop closest to your library. This will provide you important local networking opportunities such as with your CalVet Local Interagency Coordinator (LINC) and other libraries serving veterans in your region. One to two staff and up to three volunteers and/or work-study are invited. If you need more slots, please contact Karen Bosch Cobb at boshcobb@plpinfo.org. CalVet will provide training and updates. Barbara Wolfe will provide a workshop during the day this year’s Volunteer Reboot Intensive. Jacquie and Karen will lead a discussion of successes and challenges. Immediately following the workshop, there will be a mandatory meeting for FY 19/20 and FY 18/19 libraries.

When and Where


Women’s Military History Week: 3rd Week in March

Did you know that there are nearly 143,000 women living in California who have served in our armed forces. How many are there in your community?


CalVet also has a website section dedicated to serving our Women Veterans, available here: https://www.calvet.ca.gov/calvet-programs/women-veterans

VRC Monrovia Partnership to aid struggling Veterans

The Veterans Resource Center at the Monrovia Public Library Monrovia, CA partners with the local American Legion Women’s Auxiliary Unit #830 to help one of their campaigns in support of struggling military veterans.

The American Legion Women’s Auxiliary created this campaign over 5 years ago and they have collected and distributed over 500 pairs of socks and other items such as board games, arts & crafts items, and books for veterans in local hospitals, homeless veterans, low income veterans, and USO service members returning from deployment. The campaign is held throughout the year with a strong emphasis during the holidays as an opportunity for members of the general public and organizations to donate to veterans.

In 2019, Mabel Cross, Veterans Coordinator reached out to the annual Hanes Sock Drive to inquire if they would be willing to donate socks to the campaign. On February 26, 2020 Mabel received an email informing her that Hanes would make a one-time donation of 500 pairs of socks to the library for the American Legion Women's Auxiliary campaign in support of veterans in need. The Veterans Resource Center at the Monrovia Public Library’s relationship with the Women’s Auxiliary is an essential part of what we do and how we connect with local agencies, providers and organizations in support of veterans and their family members who have served in the military.

Submitted by Rebecca Elder, Adult Services Supervisor, Monrovia Public Library

For additional programming ideas, be sure to check the Veterans Connect @ the Library website here:
https://calibrariesforveterans.org/librarians/programming.html