

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Sick and Visiting Committee

There is no function that is closer to the aims and objects of the organization, than the work of this committee. This Committee Chair must organize their work so the committee functions efficiently. The committee can be as large as the volunteers make it. There can never be too many hospital visitors. The Chair, at the first meeting, should draw up a schedule of regular hospital visits in the area and then allocate Comrades to visit each institution. There should be a Sick Members Notice Board listing not only members in various hospitals, but those who are recuperating at home as well. This must be kept up to date so those members can rely on the information entered.

It should be the objective of the committee to visit any Veteran, whether a Legion member or not. The general membership should supply the names of hospitalized patients or persons who are sick at home. This is especially vital at Christmas time, when effort is made to comfort those who are alone or away from home.

It is recommended to have a Vice Chair, in case of a chair becoming ill and someone else is needed to take over. The hospital visitor is often asked by a patient to give assistance with matters they cannot look after. It is important such requests are handled correctly. It may be necessary to enlist the assistance of the Padre, the branch or Command Service Officer or Veterans Affairs Canada. Visitors must always be impartial in any assistance given, and at no time should accept remuneration or compensation.

It should be the duty of the President to ensure that this committee's report appears on every agenda, regardless of the pressure of other business. Any requests from this committee must have high priority on allocation of branch resources. Some money is available through gaming to assist with the costs associated with Sick and Visiting.

Hosting Luncheons for Hospitalized Veterans

This can be a most rewarding experience for both the residents and the Legion members. Care providers tell us the residents look forward to these luncheons. In some cases, this is the only outing residents have because they have no local family. It is important to make their time at these luncheons as enjoyable as possible, and make the Veterans feel like guests in one's home. They are greeted at the door upon arrival and seated at tables with a branch host. The branch host ensures each person at their table is made to feel welcome. Encourage involvement from as many of your members as possible. Efforts are also made to provide entertainment. This doesn't have to be an expensive venture. Even taped music such as Vera Lynn is appreciated. Some branches have a member play the piano and there is a little sing along. It doesn't take much to make the Veterans feel welcomed but it can mean so much to them.