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Veterans Creative Arts Competition Underway

NEW ORLEANS – Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS) is seeking Veterans in the performing and visual arts interested in submitting their work to the local 2019 Veterans Creative Arts Competition in March, with a chance to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, October 28 to November 3, 2019 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The competition is open to all Veterans who receive health care at VA and there are more than 100 categories in performing, visual arts and creative writing open in the local competition.

“We are expecting quite a few more entries this year and I’m excited this is our first year to include performing arts,” said Recreational Therapist Tom Petterson. “It’s great to be able to showcase the large amount of creative talent in our Veterans at a special event like this.”

The deadline for visual arts, creative writing and performance arts registration is Friday, March 1, 2019.

To qualify for the SLVHCS contest, the artist must be enrolled for care at SLVHCS. All art must have been created after April 1, 2018, except for Military Combat Experience entries. A Veteran can enter up to three art categories within any division (i.e. art, music), but only one submission per category.

A gallery featuring the submissions will be held at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 14 in the therapeutic recreational gym, with performing arts shows at noon followed by the presentation of awards at 1:30 p.m. The gallery will close immediately after the awards presentation.

The top local winning entries will move on to compete at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Local Veteran Tanya Whitney won the local competition and was a gold medal winner at the 2018 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in the “Poetry-Inspirational” category for her poem “*In and Out*.”

For more information or to enter, contact Thomas Petterson at thomas.petterson@va.gov or 1-800-935-8387, extension 67508.

For more information about the new Veterans medical center, clinic locations and other services available to Veterans in southeast Louisiana, visit the website www.neworleans.va.gov, Facebook at www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans or Twitter at www.twitter.com/vaneworleans.

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