



CHAPTER 10 ARLINGTON- FAIRFAX, VA

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CHAPTER 10 WEB SITE

The Chapter 10 Arlington-Fairfax, VA web site has information for members and non-members alike.

There are links to the National Headquarters, Department of Virginia, and other chapters' web sites. The site also contains information on news and events of interest.

Visit the Chapter 10 web site at www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/va/10/

EXPEDITED DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM PROCESS FOR COMBAT WOUNDED

The Department of Defense, in collaboration with VA, announced in January 2009 a process designed to expedite service members seriously injured in combat from military to veteran status, by waiving the standard Disability Evaluation System (DES). The expedited process will result in receipt of benefits in three to four months, compared to a recovery and standard DES process that would normally take much longer.

The expedited process applies to service members whose conditions are designated as "catastrophic" and whose injuries were incurred in the line of duty as a direct result of armed conflict. A catastrophic injury or illness is a permanent, severely disabling injury, disorder, or disease that compromises the ability to carry out the activities of daily living to such a degree that a service member or veteran requires personal or mechanical assistance to leave home or bed, or requires constant supervision to avoid physical harm to self or others.

Service members who participate in this optional expedited process will be rated by DOD at a combined rating of 100 percent, and the VA will identify the full range of benefits, compensation and specialty care offered by the VA. The pol- **continued on page 3**

THE VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION NETWORK WHO WE ARE

The Volunteer Transportation Network provides no cost transportation to ambulatory veterans for outpatient appointments at the DCVAMC. We serve those patients that have no means of transportation or have medical restrictions for driving. Since its 1986 inception by the VA and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the Washington operation has facilitated 31,016 transports for outpatient appointments. Currently we accommodate the transportation needs for roughly 1200 appointments a year with our shuttle service.

All our vehicles are donations and have historically been provided to the DCVAMC through Disabled American Veterans at no cost to the VA. Other than gas and vehicle maintenance, the operation has no budgetary draw on the **continued on page 4**

NEW MEETING CHAPTER MEETING PLACE

DAV Chapter 10 has a new meeting place. The next Chapter 10 meeting is Wednesday, March 11 at the Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. If you need assistance in finding the meeting location, please contact one of the Chapter Officers and they will assist with directions. The Chapter Officers and contact phone numbers can be found on page two of this newsletter. ★

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CHAPTER 10 COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We recently bid goodbye to Chris Cheney, who moved to the Roanoke area and had to relinquish the office of Chapter Adjutant. We wish Chris well in his new endeavors.

Several important events are coming up this spring, to include the annual election of officers to lead the Chapter during the 2009-2010 business year. During the March meeting, a Nominating Committee will be elected to coordinate the selection of officer candidates. Members interested in serving on the Nominating Committee should contact me.

Following election of the Nominating Committee, Chapter members in good standing who desire to run for office may contact the Committee to communicate their intent. Election of officers will be conducted at the April meeting, and installation of newly elected officers will be conducted in May.

John Maki
Commander
Chapter 10

VA IDENTIFIES PROBLEM WITH A TRANSCRIPTION SERVICES CONTRACT

During a routine internal inspection, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) discovered a contractor providing medical transcription services who was not following the Department's rules for protecting medical information.

Although there is no evidence that any patient information was disclosed as a result of the violation, VA has suspended the contractor from receiving any sensitive information from the Department until the contractor guarantees compliance with VA's standards for information technology (IT) security.

"VA insists that contractors, as well as our own personnel, adhere to the highest standards for protecting personal information," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "When we detect a problem, as happened in this case, we will quickly fix it, and we will ensure such problems are not happening elsewhere."

The issue involves a contractor whose employees create written transcripts of recordings made by health care professionals while performing physical examinations, reporting on surgeries, and taking patients' histories. VA officials found the contractor's employees used computers that do not adhere to government policy on security.

Based on this incident, the Secretary has launched an intensive examination of all VA's contracts to ensure all contractors properly safeguard information about VA patients, Veterans and employees. ★

COME TO A CHAPTER MEETING

The next Chapter 10 meeting will be at our new meeting place Wednesday, March 11. We meet at the Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. If you need assistance finding the meeting location, please contact one of the Chapter Officers and they will assist you with directions.

Please bring another DAV or potential member. Bring your wife and friends.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 5** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
- Mar. 11** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District, Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. Election of Nominating Committee for 2009-2010 Chapter Officer Elections.
- Apr. 2** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
- Apr. 8** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District, Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. Election of Chapter Officers for 2009-2010 business year.
- May 7** Bingo at Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center Nursing Home.
- May TBA** Annual Chapter Forget-Me-Not fund drive. Details to be announced in next newsletter and on web site. Volunteers are needed.
- May 12** Regular business meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason District, Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. Installation of newly elected Chapter Officers.
- May 25** Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington and Quantico National Cemeteries. ★

continued from page 1 icy provides special consideration and exception for members who retire under the expedited DES process to reenter the service with a waiver, should they subsequently request reentry to the service after recovery and rehabilitation.

The expedited policy differs from the DES pilot program, currently underway to test a new process design eliminating the duplicative and time consuming elements of the current standard disability processes at DOD and VA. Key features of the DES pilot include one medical examination and a single-sourced disability rating. To date, more than 1,000 service members have participated in the pilot during the last 14 months. ★

ONE MILLION VETS SHARE \$320 MILLION IN VA INSURANCE DIVIDENDS

One million veterans are in line to share \$319.8 million in annual insurance dividends during 2009. VA operates one of the nation's largest life insurance programs, providing more than \$1 trillion in coverage to seven million service members, veterans and family members.

The dividend payments are being sent to an estimated one million holders of VA insurance policies on the anniversary date of their policies. Sent automatically through different payment plans, the amounts vary based on the age of the veteran, the type of insurance, and the length of time the policy has been in force. The dividends come from the earnings of trust funds into which veterans have paid insurance premiums over the years, and are linked to returns on investments in U.S. government securities.

VA officials caution veterans about a long-running scam in which various groups charge fees to "locate" veterans who are eligible for the dividends. Veterans eligible for the dividends have had VA life insurance policies in effect since they left the military and have received annual notifications from VA about the policies. ★

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE (Washington, D.C.): 202-530-9260
DAV NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE (Roanoke, VA): 1-540-857-2373
VA MEDICAL CENTER: 202-745-8000
VA CENTER FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER: 1-802-296-5132
WOMEN'S COORDINATOR (DC VA MED CTR): Fran Johnson: 202-745-8469
ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC: 703-313-0694
ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME - WASHINGTON, D.C.: 800-422-9988
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: 703-607-8585
QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY: 703-221-2183

SUICIDE PREVENTION

LIFELINE

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has been enhanced to provide a new service for veterans in crisis. Veterans will be connected immediately to VA suicide prevention and mental health service professional by calling 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and pressing 1. ★

METRO CARDS

John Capriotti is still collecting cards for hospitalized and adjusting veterans at the DC VAMC.

If you have extra cards you can donate, please send them c/o DAV Chapter 10 or bring them to a meeting. ★

VAN DRIVERS NEEDED

The DAV transportation is in need of volunteer drivers to support the DAV Trans van in Virginia.

The DAV Trans van provides rides for veterans who have no means of getting to and from the Washington DC VA Medical Center for the care they need and earned.

We desperately need drivers to assist Monday through Friday from morning till early afternoon. We may no longer serve in uniform, but we can still serve those who served and also keep serving our country.

For details on how you can join our mission, contact Peter Ahearn, DAV Hospital Service Coordinator at (202) 745-8177. ★

NEWSLETTER

To receive your Chapter 10 newsletter by e-mail as a pdf file, send an e-mail to: webmaster@DAV10.org. This will save us the postage. Past copies, as well as additional information are also available on our website at www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/va/10/ THANKS! ★



continued from page 1 Veterans Affairs, the transported veterans or your tax dollars. Most, if not all of the volunteers are veterans themselves devoted to providing relief for our brothers and sisters.

If you are a veteran receiving outpatient care at the DCVAMC and are unable to access public transportation or other alternatives, we are here to help you. The Volunteer Transportation Network has just a few rules.

Patients should be fully ambulatory, not in a wheelchair, and not on oxygen.

Patients should live within a 50 mile radius of the medical center.

Shuttle service is for appointment times no later than 11:30 am.

Requests should be made at the time you make your appointment and received by the DAV Service Coordinator no less than three business days prior to you appointment.

Please contact the DAV service coordinator at (202) 745-8177 for details about how this resource can be accessed, or request a consult for DAV travel from your physician.

The Volunteer Transportation Network needs support to continue serving those that served. If you or your organization is in a capacity to contribute time or economic relief to our effort, we welcome your generosity. You may call Volunteer Services at (202) 745-8320 or the Volunteer Transportation Network Service Coordinator at (202) 745-8177. Opportunities do exist to continue honoring flag and country with our proud mission. ★

VA EXPANDS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Thirty percent of VA employees are veterans and nearly 8 percent are service-connected disabled veterans. VA intends to increase the number of disabled veterans who obtain employment in its workforce.

All severely injured veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will be contacted by VA's Veterans Employment Coordination Service to determine their interest in — and qualifications for — VA jobs. So far, that office has identified 2,300 severely injured veterans of those wars, of whom 600 expressed interest in VA employment.

The coordination service was established a year ago to recruit veterans into VA, especially those seriously injured in the current wars. It has nine regional coordinators working with local facility human resources offices across the country not only to reach out to potential job candidates but to ensure that local managers know about special authorities available to hire veterans. For example, qualified disabled veterans rated by the Defense Department or VA as having a 30 percent or more service-connected disability can be hired non-competitively. ★

VETERANS REFORM BILL PROMISES TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY

The Disabled American Veterans applauded the introduction of much-needed legislation that provides sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans health care and an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability to the budget process.

“The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act is all about making government more efficient, transparent and accountable. These are three key elements that President Obama, Congress and veterans all agree are needed in these challenging times,” said DAV National Commander Raymond E. Dempsey. “Now, more than ever, it is absolutely imperative for Congress to end the old-style partisan politics of gridlock and reform the budget process to ensure that veterans, particularly sick and disabled veterans, have access to quality and timely health care,” he said.

The measure would authorize Congress to approve VA medical care appropriations one year in advance each fiscal year, which would help end funding delays that have plagued VA when Congress has failed to pass appropriations bills on time. The legislation would also add needed transparency to the process by having the Government Accountability Office (GAO) review and report on the VA budget request. The advance appropriation legislation picked up bipartisan support after its introduction last year, including then-Senator Obama, who pledged during his Presidential campaign to request it in his first budget submission for fiscal year 2010. ★



Currently DAV Chapter 10 has 3,183 members.
Help recruit a fellow disabled veteran to Chapter 10.



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