

Veteran Benefit 101 Newsletter

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Message from VACKC!

Message from Chad
Lockman,
Superintendent:

It appears that summer is finally upon us in Illinois, and hopefully everyone is enjoying the intermittent nice weather. The VACKC continues to grow and expand services throughout the community as we have for the last couple of years. The VACKC staff just returned from a VA-accreditation conference in San Diego, CA where we were briefed on the latest updates and goals of the VA. Several upper-management VA officials, to include the Interim Deputy Secretary, spoke at the conference and outlined updated methods of handling veterans' issues to

include a new program that will expedite the processing of disability claims. Also, the VA is putting a lot more responsibility in the hands of the VACKC staff as well as other veterans service officers (VSOs) nationwide. VSOs are now able to review all evidence to include physician examinations prior to filing a disability claim for a veteran. This process is further explained later in this newsletter. On May 16, 2017, the Kendall County Board proclaimed Kendall County a "Purple Heart County." All county buildings now fly a Purple Heart flag to show



support for combat-wounded veterans as well as those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. "Purple Heart County" signs will also be appearing along roadways at the Kendall County line in the near future. The VACKC wishes you a wonderful upcoming Independence Day, and hopes that you will keep in mind the reason for the holiday aside from fireworks and cookouts. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

Veterans Needs to Know:

Dream Foundation:
Dreams for Veterans

This program is free of charge for terminal veterans who would like to experience their final Dream. This program is

like "Make a Wish" but for veterans. There are certain criteria to meet, however, do not let this sway you from inquiring or applying.

Our office can assist you

in getting in touch with the wonderful coordinators within Dream Foundation. Let them help you bring beautiful memories to the veteran and veteran's family.

Benefit Highlight

Decision Ready Claims:

At our recent conference, we were able to hear from current Deputy Under Secretary for the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding these new Decision Ready Claims (DRC). We were introduced to Fully Developed Claims a few years ago, and their impact on the claims process was profound in that it sped up the process

for disability compensation claims to have decisions made. The VA has developed a new process to have claims decided on in (possibly) 30 days!

Decision Ready Claims would essentially mean that ALL paperwork must be in front of a Claims Rater for a decision to be issued.

This would mean the veteran and the County Veteran Service Officer

(our office), would develop and request all paperwork prior to submission.

This would certainly be beneficial for anyone who is doing an increase as all their STRs and other documentation is already uploaded into the VA systems.

This **HAS NOT** been implemented yet, but is expected to be out soon!! We will certainly let you know!



SEARCH: Veterans Assistance Commission of Kendall County

“My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

-John F. Kennedy

Events

Our office is planning for an informational and fun 2017 for veterans and their families.

Veterans Breakfast at Senior Services & Associates off of Game Farm Rd. August 31st, 2017. Please RSVP as space is limited. We would love to see you there!

Join fellow veterans and first responders at Red,

White, & Brew Fest on August 19th at the Kendall County Fairgrounds off of Rte 71. This fest will include multiple country and rock bands, food, and beverages. The festivities begin at 2pm, and admission for veterans is FREE!!

Inquiries can be sent to veteransoutreachkc@gmail.com

A VA Education Series will begin at Oswego Senior Center this September and run for three months. We will cover various VA related topics such as Health Care and Benefits available to the veterans and possibly their family members! Presentations will be held on the second Tuesday at 10am. Feel free to join us at OSC breakfast at 9am! For questions call 630-553-5602

Office Contact Information

Our office is open Monday through Friday (8am-4pm) and closed most government holidays.

We would love to schedule time for you to visit so we can better fulfill your needs.

Appointments are preferred and can be made by calling : 630-553-8354

Our office is located at: 811 West John St. Yorkville, IL 60560

We look forward to assisting you and your family with veterans benefits **FREE** of charge.

If you wish to opt out of this newsletter, please contact us at 630-553-8354 and we would be happy to remove you.