

DMVA Digest

A publication of Pennsylvania's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

April 12, 2017

DMVA News

97-Year-Old Volunteer Retires From Veterans Center:

For nearly two decades, Wanda Spiering drove herself to the Southwestern Veterans Center to make ice cream cones for patients and staff. But on Thursday, the 97-year-old volunteer celebrated a bittersweet last day at the center. [Read more.](#)

Pennsylvania State Veterans Homes Recognize Nearly 2,500 Volunteers:

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' six state veterans homes this month are recognizing and thanking their 2,491 outstanding volunteers for contributing more than 94,000 hours of service to residents in 2016. "Volunteers are an intimate part of the care provided to the residents in the state veterans' homes, and I salute them all for their selfless commitment," said Brig. Gen. Tony Carrelli, Pennsylvania's adjutant general. [Read more.](#)

Veterans Temporary Assistance:

Are you experiencing a financial crisis due to some unforeseen circumstances? Veterans Temporary Assistance may be able to provide temporary financial assistance to veterans and their beneficiaries who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessities of life (food, dairy, shelter, fuel and clothing). To learn more about this program [watch this video.](#) Contact your County Director of Veterans Affairs to apply.

Around the State

Do Not Pay To Apply For Veterans Benefits:

It can be difficult navigating the government bureaucracy to obtain veterans disability and other benefits, but all it should cost you is time, not money. [Read more.](#)

Girl Scout In Perry County Needs Your Help To Build Memorial Wall:

Laura Steele, a 12th grade Ambassador Girl Scout in Perry County, PA is working on a project to design a memorial wall that would honor the military men and women of Perry County who have been killed in action since WWI. The memorial wall will recognize their sacrifice, honor their families, and give those who pass by the wall a chance to think about what it costs for the freedoms we often take for granted. To meet her goal, Laura is conducting a number of fundraisers, including selling Perry County Memorial Wall t-shirts and engraved bricks. Anyone who would like to help Laura with a purchase or a donation can contact her directly at 717-514-9695 or Steele_06@yahoo.com.

Spartansburg Woman Honored By Governor Wolf For Military Service:

A Spartansburg woman was among 28 female veterans honored in Harrisburg last week for their brave service and selfless contributions to Pennsylvania and to the nation. Christina Wilhelm was honored by Gov. Tom Wolf, First Lady Frances Wolf and the Pennsylvania Commission for Women during the second annual event to recognize Pennsylvania's female veterans in celebration of Women's History Month. Wilhelm joins Crawford County's Estella Hyde and Kim Lengling, who were honored in the program's first year. [Read more.](#)

Veterans Receive Vietnam Pins:

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Zionsville, visited 23 Vietnam veterans Tuesday at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center to thank them for their service and present them with Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative pins. [Read more.](#)

5K Race For Respect:

April 22, 2017

Memorial Lake, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003 (Lebanon County)

[Register](#)

POC: SSG Oriana White 717-821-1989, oriana.t.white.mil@mail.mil; or Mr.

Angelo Hernandez 717-821-9032, angel.i.hernandez1.mil@mail.mil

Registration is free, but donations are accepted and encouraged. All donations will go to support the Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center of Lebanon and Schuylkill counties.

Honor Bus With WITF:

Veterans are invited to join WITF for a special day of gratitude honoring the sacrifices veterans have made for our freedom. [WITF's Vietnam War Stories](#) project, in partnership with Northeastern High School, will host a free Honor Bus trip to Washington, D.C., Saturday, April 22. The trip includes visits to the Vietnam memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and more. Space is limited. [Register here.](#) WITF is proud to be able to help bring high school students and veterans together for a day of gratitude through this unique partnership.

Employment Opportunities

This listing is offered as a resource to both Pennsylvania's veterans and businesses that seek to employ veterans. The DMVA has not investigated the positions being offered or the businesses listed, and does not warrant or guarantee either the availability or the terms and conditions of the positions listed. Please contact the employers represented in this listing directly. To have an employment opportunity listed please email: RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov

Temporary Cemetery Caretaker:

Three vacancies in Annville, PA (Lebanon County). Details:

- Work schedule is full time - temporary NTE Sept. 30, 2017. Opened Monday March 6, 2017, closes Monday April 17, 2017
- Salary range \$17.27 to \$20.13/per hour
- Series & grade WG-4754-05/05
- Promotion potential -- 05
- Supervisory status -- No

[Apply here.](#)

Wawa Plans To Hire 5,000 Employees During Three-Month Campaign:

April 19, 2017, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Delaware County Community College Career Fair, Stem Lobby, 901 S. Media Line Road, Media, PA 19063 (Delaware County)

[Website](#)

Open positions include customer service and management.

Veterans Hiring Fair:

April 28, 2017, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lebanon VA Medical Center, 1700 South Lincoln Avenue, Building 37, Lebanon, PA 17042 (Lebanon County)

POC: 717-274-2554

This is for veterans only. Onsite interviews will be conducted.

Pennsylvania Veteran Farmers Project & Troops To Tractors:

Paid apprenticeship meat processing and farm work positions available in Latrobe and New Alexandria, PA (Westmoreland County). [Apply.](#)

IBM Is Expanding Its Commitment To Veterans:

Military veterans bring outstanding skill and value to the civilian workforce, but transitioning from a military career can be frustrating for service members. Our veterans have unique talents that make them a natural fit for some of the technology industry's fast-growing areas. IBM recently expanded its broad commitment to America's veterans, pledging to hire 2,000 of them through 2020 and to expand our national veterans training initiative. In Pennsylvania, we are

teaming with PNC Bank, National Cyber-Forensics Training Alliance and the national nonprofit Corporate America Supports You to help veterans get the professional training and certifications they need to transition to “new-collar” careers. [Read more.](#)

Vacancies For Five Veterans Employment Representatives:

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry is currently recruiting to fill five vacancies for the veterans employment representative job titles. There is one vacancy for veterans employment representative 1 in Philadelphia. The agency is willing to fill this vacancy with a service-connected disabled veteran (job code VER1D) or an eligible veteran (job code 06370). There are four vacancies for veterans employment representative 2 -- one in each of the following counties: Allegheny, Berks, Butler, and Dauphin. The agency is willing to fill these positions with a service-connected disabled veteran (job code VER2D), an eligible veteran (job code 06380), or an eligible spouse (job code VER2S). Log in to the [Online Services](#) section of the homepage, and select View Open Announcements & Apply from the menu. Reference announcement #2014-078 for veterans employment representatives to view the minimum requirements for each job title, submit your application and documentation of veterans’ status, and schedule your civil service exam. Be sure to select the one veterans’ status that applies to you, and choose job titles from the announcement accordingly. POC: Job questions -- 717-772-1853, or for application and testing questions -- 717-783-3058.

UPS Global Business Services In Throop, PA Looking To Hire Veterans:

The UPS facility in Throop (Lackawanna County) has openings for the following positions:

- Collections associate (Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Billing associate – night shift (Sun-Thurs 8:30 p.m.-5 a.m.)

All interested candidates must apply [online](#). Forwarded resumes will not be accepted. The vacancies are listed as a Scranton, PA location on the website.

POC: Jennifer Compton 570-969-3394 or jennifercompton@ups.com

Veteran Events

This listing is offered as a service to individuals and organizations to promote their veteran and military-oriented events being held in Pennsylvania. The information is taken directly from emailed submissions from requestors. DMVA is not responsible for incorrect information submitted. Please send details on events to RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov and include the following key pieces of information: 1. Name of event, 2. Date of event, 3. Time of event, 4. Address of event, 5. County of event, 6. Event website, 7. Point of contact name, 8. POC phone number, 9. POC email address, and 10. Additional details/coordinating instructions (fees, pre-registration, etc.)

Southeastern Veterans Center Advisory Council Meeting:

April 13, 2017, 10 a.m.-noon

Southeastern Veterans' Center, 1 Veterans Dr., Spring City, PA 19475 (Chester County)

[Website](#)

50th Anniversary Ceremony Honoring U.S. Vietnam War Veterans:

April 13, 2017, 3-5 p.m.

Shaler Area Middle School, 1810 Mt. Royal Blvd. Glenshaw, PA 15116 (Allegheny County)

[Website](#)

POC: Amber Lepic 412-487-660 or alepic@pasen.gov

Veterans should call or e-mail to register.

Veterans Cafe:

April 19, 2017, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

U.S. Army Heritage Center, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA (Cumberland County)

[Website](#)

POC: 717-258-1102 or vetcafe@armyheritage.org

Veterans of all services and eras are invited to the Veterans Café, a place for veterans to meet and share their stories. The breakfast is free but please R.S.V.P. to the POC above.

Mental Health First Aid - Adults:

April 19, 2017, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lehigh County Government Center, 17 South 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18101 (Lehigh County)

[Register](#)

For more information, please visit: www.olderpa.org or contact anne@olderpa.org.

Mental Health First Aid is a public education program that helps the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Mental Health First Aid is offered in the form of an eight-hour course that presents an overview of mental illness and substance use disorders in the U.S. and introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common treatments. Those who take the eight-hour course learn a five-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

Veterans Expo & Job Fair:

April 20, 2017, 9 a.m.-2p.m.

York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Ave, York, PA 17404 (York County)

POC: Kimberly Shaffer 717-285-8122 or kshaffer@onlinepub.com

2017 Hersheypark Military Day:

April 23, 2017, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Hersheypark, Hershey, PA 17033 (Dauphin County)

[Website](#)

POC: Kaila Lehr, 717-534-3353 or kalehr@HersheyPA.com

Advance ticket purchase price is \$25. Walk-up ticket purchase price is \$30. Parking is free. This is a semi-private event. Military and other select groups invited. This event is not open to the general public. Hershey Lodge is offering special military rates starting at \$179 – plus applicable taxes. Receive 20 percent off sites and cabins at Hersheypark Camping Resort from April 21-23, 2017. For more information and to make your reservation, please call 1-800-HERSHEY (1-800-437-7439) and refer to military days at Hersheypark rooms.

Learn To Fish On Spring Creek:

April 23, 2017, 1 p.m. until dusk

Fisherman's Paradise, 1150 Spring Creek Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823 (Centre County)

[Website](#)

POC: Jim Lanning at 951-231-8000 or jlanningvsp@gmail.com

All veterans and active duty military personnel -- join the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited talented stream mentors to learn fly fishing, improve your existing skills, and learn about conservation projects to keep our streams and watersheds healthy and protected. They provide fishing gear, supplies, fishing license (as needed), a one-year membership to Trout Unlimited, and lots of fun and laughs. This is a family fishing program for veterans. This event is held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

Rural Veterans Outreach:

April 25, 2017, noon-4 p.m.

Somerset VFW Post 554, 139 West Union Street, Somerset, PA 15501 (Somerset County)

POC: Tina Pelesky 814-255-0355 or peleskyt@atlanticbbn.net

Veterans Resource & Jobs Expo:

April 27, 2017 2-6 p.m.

Gannon University, Hammermill Center, 620 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16501 (Erie County)

POC: Regina Smith 814-453-2515 or rksmith@pasen.gov

Centre County Walk To Fight Suicide:

April 30, 2017, 11 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

Sidney Friedman Park, 241 South Fraser Street, State College, PA 16801 (Centre County)

[Register online](#)

POC: Shanon Quick 814-404-5075 or shanon.quick@uhsinc.com

111th Attack Wing Military Retirees Appreciation Day:

May 6, 2017, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Horsham Air Guard Station, 111th HQ, Building 203, Auditorium, Horsham, PA (Montgomery County)

POC: Jenny Pappas or Vincent Acquaviva at 215-323-7135, or jenny.pappas.ctr@mail.mil or Vincent.acquaviva.ctr@mail.mil

This is a retiree information seminar. Complimentary lite buffet will be provided. R.S.V.P by April 21, 2017.

Pennsylvania State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs Western District Fundraiser:

May 13, 2017, Doors open at 4 p.m. with dinner at 5 p.m.

AMVETS Post 103, 123 Buttermilk Lane, Hopwood, PA 15445 (Fayette County)

POC: Patty Tegge 724-430-1241 or ptegge@fayettepa.org

The Pennsylvania State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs (PSACDVA) Western District is holding a fundraiser featuring two nationally recognized Elvis Tribute Artists. Dinner is homestyle and the show starts after dinner. There will be a silent auction and a 50/50 during the show. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased by mail or at the Veterans Affairs Office.

Dauphin County Commissioners Veterans Breakfast:

May 18, 2017, 8-10 a.m.

Lower Swatara Fire Hall, 1350 Fulling Mill Road, Middletown, PA (Dauphin County)

POC: Colleen Washinger 717-780-6356

Bring your DD 214 and you may be able to obtain a veterans discount ID card – the newest program for our veterans that will enable the veteran to receive discounts at various Dauphin County businesses. This is a free event for all veterans and their spouses. R.S.V.P. no later than May 11, 2017.

Northwestern Pennsylvania Seven County Military/Veteran Expo:

May 23, 2017, 2-6 p.m.

Cross Creek Resort, 3815 State Route 8, Titusville, PA 16354 (Crawford County)

[Website](#)

POC: Clarion County, Judy Zerbe 814-226-4000 x2601; Crawford County, Richard Krankota 814-333-7314; Erie County, Thad Plasczynski 814-4516270; Forest County, Basil Huffman 814-755-3404; Mercer County, Larry Scheetz 724-662-7511; Venango County, Richard Mulholland 814-432-9780; Warren County, Ed Burris 814-728-3478

Organizations and agencies from the seven counties will be there to answer your questions and offer support.

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