



VAVS NEWSLETTER



Letter from the Director

I am happy to welcome all of you to this first edition of our Voluntary Services newsletter.

We sincerely appreciate the priceless contribution you provide to Veterans by volunteering your precious time, money, energy and smiles by assisting our employees to accomplish our mission to provide care to our nation's heroes. Below are some of the many improvements that will be made to our medical center over the next months and year.

The Spinal Cord Injury Service has been awarded a contract for the construction of a new facility. The construction, which is set to begin in late spring or early summer, is projected to be completed in 2011. The new facility will be a 38-bed two-story building with a connecting tunnel to the Medical Center and will serve both inpatients and outpatients.

Two Community Living Center units for long-term patients will be built close to the director's quarters. Floor 9A will be renovated. The sixth floor will become a 30-bed acute unit. The fifth floor will be updated, and the 8th floor will follow as soon as funds are available. Also included in the budget are construction of an Education Center in Building 70, and increased services for our outpatient mental health units. Repairs will be made to the roofs and sidewalks.

Other construction includes a canopy to provide protection for the east entrance to the hospital and making spaces available for valet parking. Roads to the east entrance will be rerouted and renovated or resurfaced as necessary. Unfortunately, the road construction will involve some unavoidable inconveniences, but we will do our best to advise our volunteers of alternate routes and parking.

The Mega Clinic in Green Bay is expected to be completed by 2010.

Thank you for your service to our nation's heroes.

Robert H. Bellar





NEWS from the North East

Karen Karch
CBOC Manager

In 2008, the clinics in Appleton, Green Bay and Cleveland saw 23,462 patients for more than 97,984 appointments. Our volunteers in the Diagnostic Area assisted 15,600 patients for more than 32,000 appointments.

Appleton Adds Clinic Building

In April 2008, the Appleton Clinic added another building to help manage the expansion of Mental Health Services. The building is located at 14 Tri-Park Way in Appleton. The facility houses mental health providers and OIF/OEF case managers. The clinic offers veterans' support groups as well as help with coping skills and anger management and provides treatment for alcohol and drug addiction, war trauma, mood disorders and PTSD.

Volunteers Needed

The new Mental Health Clinic building has only one volunteer right now and more are needed for this and other clinics. If you're willing to help, please contact Harold Keene at Harold.keene@va.gov or contact the clinics at their toll-free numbers.

Appleton: 1-877-831-0033

Cleveland: 1-877-693-5699

Green Bay: 1-877-204-7970

Drivers Needed

The DAV Transportation Program needs drivers to drive a van from the Appleton Clinic to the VA Medical Center in Milwaukee. If you can help, please call Sharon at 920-734-3474 or stop by the DAV Transportation Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Events

The Appleton, Green Bay and Cleveland Volunteer Awards Banquet will be held on May 13 at 5:00 p.m. at the VFW Post 2778, 501 N. Richmond Street in Appleton.

OIF/OEF case managers will host a Welcome Home event for OIF/OEF veterans and their families this summer. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Scott Herman at ext. 47520.

Annual TB Skin Screenings

A TB test is required each year during your birth month. Contact Joyce Geske, RN, at 920-734-3474 to schedule an appointment.



Volunteer Spotlight

by Penny McCanles

Terry Dimoff is Copy Center's Busy Bee

Volunteer Terry Dimoff is a self-described “workaholic” and jokes that he may have been reincarnated from a worker bee. He says he’s always loved being busy. So two mornings a week, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, he’s a whirlwind working in Medical Media’s Copy Center, rapidly churning out copies, cutting card stock, stapling, 3-hole punching and laminating.

Terry has always enjoyed working. He served in the Army in Germany from 1959-1961. When he returned from service, he couldn’t find a teaching job, so he took a job as a brewery worker. Pabst made him a full-time employee, and when he began teaching high school biology in Milwaukee, he kept the brewery job as well. He taught days and worked in the brewery at night, often carrying pencil and paper so that he could work on his biology assignments and test questions during breaks. Even with his night job, he was an excellent teacher, earning the Master



Photos Amanda Domaszek

Teacher designation in all the schools where he taught.

Terry came at an opportune time for the Copy Center, who lost an employee to retirement. Terry was the perfect fit for the transition: a fast learner, quick and organized.

Then Monday, his work week starts all over again.



Medical Media, where Terry Dimoff volunteers in the Copy Center section, is a very busy place. The department is made up of four areas: the art, photo, audio-visual sections and Copy Center. The products created range from brochure and poster design, medical photography, videotaping and printing materials for the Zablocki VA. Each area works closely together to create professional products. And Terry has really helped to keep production moving along.

Announcements

March – April Calendar of Events

ASAP!

Volunteers need to study the Volunteer Training documents that came in the mail, then sign and return the required form

April 1

Gotcha! April Fool's Day

April 9

Passover

April 12

Easter

April 19-25

National Volunteer Week

April 21

Volunteer Awards Breakfast

10:00 a.m.

Italian Community Center

Looking Ahead - May 13

**Appleton Volunteer
Awards Banquet**

5:00 p.m.

VFW Post 2778

501 N. Richmond St.

We Need a Name!

We'd like your help in finding a good name for our newsletter, so we're holding a contest. Please submit your suggestions to Voluntary Service by April 8. If we choose your suggestion, you'll get credit in our next newsletter!

Voluntary Service Officers Need New Keys

The doors of Voluntary Service Officers have been re-cored and re-keyed. Any Representative or Deputy having an office in Building 70-C can pick up a new key in Facility Management, Building 70-E, room 1070.



Can't Find a Parking Space?

Valet parking is now available at the east entrance for patients.

Consider Volunteering for...



**RECLAIMING
OUR HERITAGE**
MAY 30-31, 2009
www.rohmilwaukee.org

Honoring America's Military
Medical Personnel and
A Celebration of the Lincoln
Bicentennial

Friends of
Reclaiming Our Heritage
1-888-902-1865

And Don't Forget –



There's Still a Little Time to Obtain Free Tax Preparation!

Available at the VA to all veterans through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, sponsored by the IRS and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Please contact Jill Zahn at 42343 in the Medical Center Library for available days and times.

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VAVS Newsletter is created by staff at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center.

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