DMVA Digest
A publication of Pennsylvania's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
December 2, 2020

DMVA News

Wolf Administration Encourages Active Duty Military And Veterans Needing Help To Use Support Resources And Networks:
The Wolf Administration shared resources for people struggling with anxiety, depression, loneliness, isolation, and other stressors this holiday season. The holidays can be both a time of joy and a period of stress for people, and people who are more likely to experience mental health challenges like active duty military, veterans and their loved ones may feel them more acutely because of the pandemic. [Website.]

State Veteran's Commission (SVC) Virtual Meeting Open To The Public:
DMVA will host a virtual Pennsylvania State Veteran's Commission (SVC) meeting on Dec. 4, 2020, at 10 a.m. The SVC is established in accordance with Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. It is comprised of representatives of all major veterans organizations throughout the commonwealth, as well as a representative of the Association of County Directors for Veterans Affairs. To attend to the virtual meeting call 408-418-9388 and enter access code 179 711 4348. For more information visit [Website.]

Amputee And Paralyzed Veterans Pension/Blind Veterans Pension/Educational Gratuity Program:
The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) will continue to process claims as they are received. We currently anticipate no delay in payments. For more information on the Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension visit [Website. For more information on the Blind Veterans Pension visit [Website. For more information on the Educational Gratuity Program visit [Website.]

Holiday Season Great Time To Support Pennsylvania's Heroes:
In the spirit of the holiday season, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) reminds Pennsylvanians that this is a great time to give to programs that support the commonwealth's nearly 800,000 veterans, active military and their families. "As we approach the holiday season people often ask how they can honor current and former servicemembers as a way to thank them for their incredible service to our nation," said Maj. Gen. Anthony Carrelli, Pennsylvania's adjutant general and head of the DMVA. "Many Pennsylvania veterans and current military need our help this year more than ever because of the challenges brought about by COVID-19. We are proud to administer four tax deductible programs that honor our veterans and provide them
with aid, but these programs rely on generous donations from the public." The four tax-deductible programs administered by the DMVA are: Website.

Immediate Job Openings Statewide At DMVA's Pennsylvania Veterans Homes:
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is hiring custodial worker 1, food service worker 1, and security officer 1. Did you serve in one of the branches of the Armed Services? Are you looking for a way to continue to serve others who served? DMVA operates six extended care facilities for veterans. You can be part of the mission. DMVA has immediate openings for custodial workers, food service workers and security officers. The commonwealth offers veterans preference. Apply today at Website.

DMVA's Southeastern Veterans' Center Is Hiring:
The Southeastern Veterans' Center in Spring City (Chester County) is hiring. Immediate positions are available for Certified Nurse Aides, Licensed Practical Nurses, Nurse Aide Trainees and Registered Nurses. Website.

DMVA Is Hiring Nurses:
At the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, we currently have immediate openings for rewarding careers in nursing across Pennsylvania. Website.

Around the State

Wolf Administration Reminds Family Caregivers About Resources Available To Help Them During COVID-19 Pandemic:
The Pennsylvania Departments of Aging and Human Services reminded Pennsylvanians who serve as caregivers for either a family member or a close friend that there are resources available to help them as the number of COVID-19 cases continue to rise. Website.

Wolf Administration Applauds Veteran-Owned Lehigh Valley Distillery For Response To PPE Call To Action:
Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin highlighted the efforts of Eight Oaks Farm Distillery a veteran-owned, family-run, farm distillery in New Tripoli (Lehigh County), for its pivot to begin making hand sanitizer in response to the state's critical need for personal protective equipment. Eight Oaks Farm Distillery is listed on DCED's Business-2-Business Interchange Directory (B2B). Website.

Olde Bedford Brewing Company - Excellence in Agribusiness Award:
U.S. Navy veteran Dave and spouse Mary Heller were awarded Bedford County Chamber of Commerce's Excellence in Agriculture award. Their ethos of respect for the
land and building partnerships with other small businesses and their consumers is earning them a well-deserved reputation among the competitive craft beer landscape in the Commonwealth. [Website]

**Raising Funds For Veterans In Need:**
Many areas of need have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, and veterans in need are no exception. The nonprofit Central Susquehanna Valley Veterans Council is hoping to assist veterans this holiday season with the myriad of needs that exist, from homelessness, home heating, food and clothing. The council is partnering with Northumberland County Veterans Affairs to raise funds for the Northumberland County Veterans Emergency Fund, which relies solely on donations to assist with veterans in need throughout Northumberland County. [Website]

**Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment For Military Veterans Treatment Program By Livengrin:**
While many veterans suffer minor physical and psychological injuries, some experience worse conditions. Many veterans experience traumatic events in the military which can lead to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Veterans may turn to drug and alcohol use to self-medicate and in turn, end up worsening PTSD symptoms. [Website]

**2021 Fishing Licenses On Sale December 1:**
The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission reminds anglers that 2021 fishing licenses are now on sale. Get a jump on next season or give the gift of fishing. 2021 licenses, permits, and vouchers purchased now are valid immediately for up to 13 months, from December 2020 through December 31, 2021. Fishing licenses, permits, and vouchers can be purchased at one of nearly 700 retail license issuing agents or online at [Website]

**Volunteers Needed For The Veterans Service Program Restart:**
The Spring Creek Chapter of the Trout Unlimited Veterans Service Program needs volunteers to support all aspects of the operation. The Streamside Coaches will work directly with guest veterans to assist them in learning how to become independent fly fishermen/women. Please consider serving veteran guests as and further developing your own fly-fishing skills by volunteering as a Streamside Coach or in another role. For additional information please contact Bob Sills at rasills@earthlink.net or Ray Faczan at rfaczan@aol.com. [Website]

**Wolf Administration Highlights Partnership Between Letterkenny Army Depot And WellSpan Health To Protect Medical Professionals, Community:**
Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin highlighted the efforts of Letterkenny Army Depot for its pivot to produce 120,000 protective medical gowns for WellSpan Health through a Public Private Partnership in
response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the ability for medical professionals to acquire personal protective equipment (PPE). Website.

**Across the Nation**

**What's The Difference Between A Cold, The Flu, Seasonal Allergies And Coronavirus?:**
Fever, chills, body aches, and cough. All the symptoms seem the same for a cold, the flu, seasonal allergies, and coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. How do you know the difference? Here's information to help you better understand the signs, symptoms, and treatments. Website.

**VA Recognized For Impact On Lives Of Blue Water Navy Veterans:**
The Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals has awarded the Veterans Benefits Administration Blue Water Navy communications and outreach campaign with a 2020 MarCom Platinum Award. The campaign increased awareness about the BWN Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 which extended the presumption of exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange to veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Website.

**Organ And Tissue Donation Survey For Veterans:**
The Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA and Harvard Medical School are working together on a study looking at veterans perceptions of a specific type of organ and tissue donation. Their intent with the survey and their study is to better understand veteran opinions and knowledge surrounding organ and tissue donation. This is a paid, voluntary study. For more information visit Website.

**Are You 65 Or Older? A Flu Shot Can Protect You:**
Are you age 65 or older? Your risk for moderate to severe flu illness is high. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 70 to 85 percent of flu-related deaths are in people age 65 and older. Additionally, 50 to 70 percent of flu-related hospitalizations occur for those 65 and older. If you get the flu when you’re over 65, you have more risk for other illness. Website.

**Volunteer To Help Defeat COVID-19:**
VA is part of Operation Warp Speed, a program of the U.S. government working to purchase enough COVID-19 vaccines to provide universal coverage for the United States. They are asking veterans, their family members, VA employees and others to volunteer to participate in VA's COVID-19 research. By signing up, you are under no obligation to participate in a study. Website.

**Have You Attended The Women's Health Transition Training?:**
The Women's Health Transition Training Program helps female service members and veteran women learn about the services VA provides and how to enroll in VA health care. You can enroll in an online class that is offered twice per day, five days per week. [Website.]

**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*

**DMVA Is Hiring:**
DMVA is hiring custodial workers, food service workers, and security officers. Did you serve in one of the branches of the Armed Services? Are you looking for a way to continue to serve others who have served? We have the job for you! The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs operates six extended care facilities for veterans. These facilities offer eligible veterans and their spouses the highest quality of dedicated nursing care. You can be part of this amazing mission. Apply today! [Website.]

**Work From Home Information Session & Career Readiness Event:**
- Dec. 3, 2020, 1-2 p.m.
- This debut event will focus on what it means to work from home, highlight which partner companies are hiring remotely, and look at key industries you may not have realized are filling remote opportunities!
- Register at [Website.]

**Remote Work Could Be Silver Lining Of Pandemic For Some Veterans, Including Those With PTSD:**
The global coronavirus pandemic has created an unprecedented increase in remote work arrangements for Americans a Gallup Survey conducted in early August revealed that more than 30 percent of American workers are mostly or completely remote, and record levels of cases and hospitalizations may keep people working from home for the foreseeable future. Post 9/11-era veterans stand to benefit from this shift, according to experts and veterans interviewed by Military Times. [Website.]

**CAT Veterans Employment Transportation Program:**
The veterans employment transportation program provides an 11-Ride Pass for the fixed route systems of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin and York counties to attend job interviews. Once a job has been secured, they will provide a monthly pass for
four months. The first month is FREE with pro-rated options to follow. All vehicles are
ADA accessible. For more information, call 717-846-5562 ext 1630 or visit Website.

**Code Platoon Offers Software Development Training For Veterans And Spouses:**
Code Platoon trains veterans and their spouses with the skills and certificates
necessary to find employment as a full stack developer. Code Platoon's Coding
Bootcamp, is an immersive, hands-on training program with opportunities for paid
internships (in Chicago only) and job placements as a web developer upon
graduation. Website.

**Gateway Shelter Supervisor:**
The primary role of the gateway shelter supervisor will be to implement and assume day to
day responsibility for the programmatic operation of the Shelter families in
accordance with its written goals and objectives. The shelter supervisor will be
responsible for case management, emergency food and shelter. For more information
visit Website.

**These Are The States And Jobs Where Veterans Make The Most Money:**
It pays to be a veteran, according to a new study by veterans claims law firm Hill and
Ponton. The average annual income for veterans was about $65,000 in 2019, the study
reported. Those who didn't serve brought home nearly $11,000 less, with an average
annual income of about $54,000. Website.

**UPMC Health Plan, Pathways To Work:**
UPMC Health Plan recently launched a new initiative, Pathways to Work that aims to
increase access to employment through training, education, and dedicated support from
UPMC staff. Pathways to Work makes a concerted effort to engage individuals in the
community who are unemployed or underemployed and those with an intellectual,
physical, or behavioral disability who are looking for employment and no-cost job
training programs. Interested individuals can email pathwaystowork@upmc.edu and
they will receive a response within one-two business days from one of our Pathways
recruiters. Website.

**Why Military Veterans Make Natural Entrepreneurs:**
The vim and vigor of a patriotic spirit can easily transition to entrepreneurial pursuits.
Military veterans and entrepreneurs require dedication and drive, along with faith and
optimism. These all-too-familiar characteristics are what carried many veterans through
their daily military routines and duties. Website.

**Governor Wolf New Announces Apprenticeships In Water Treatment, Abatement, And Industrial Manufacturing And Mechatronics:**
Governor Tom Wolf announced new apprenticeship programs in Southcentral and Southeastern Pennsylvania in water treatment, abatement, and industrial manufacturing and mechatronics. The Wolf Administration is committed to helping workers increase their skills and attracting more businesses throughout the commonwealth. [Website]

**IBM Has A Program To Connect Vets With Technology Jobs:**
IBM has a free resource that provides online job training designed for veterans looking to enter the workforce after their service and gain new skills, along with one-on-one mentoring support, to make them more resilient and successful amid COVID-19. SkillsBuild for Vets focuses on helping military veterans gain valuable technology and professional skills as they move out of the armed forces. [Website]

**UNFI Is Hiring Order Selectors:**
- Every Tuesday, 1-3 p.m., and every Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- 3900 Industrial Rd., Harrisburg, PA (Dauphin County)
- Starting at $21.75-$23.75, plus incentive
- [Website]

**VA Adds Tens Of Thousands Of Jobs, Increases Remote Options:**
Even during challenging economic times, VA has added to its workforce and is poised to continue growing, according to Jessica Bonjorni, chief officer of human capital management at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Bonjorni recently joined Mike Owens, VHA marketing specialist, for "Talk About It Tuesday," a weekly broadcast on LinkedIn. [Website]

**Launch Your VA Research Career At The VA Center Of Innovation In Health Equity Research And Promotion (CHERP) In Philadelphia:**
CHERP welcomes applicants for a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship in Philadelphia. Fellows come from a range of disciplines, including health services research and policy, nursing, public health, social work, epidemiology, health economics, medical sociology, and other relevant fields. CHERP's Pittsburgh site offers five fellowship programs, including health services research, and the applications are considering on a rolling basis. [Website]

**The 12 Coolest And Best Jobs In The Marine Corps:**
With more than 180 military occupational specialties, the Marine Corps offers everything from aviation to intelligence to special operations. [Website]

**An Essential List Of Fall Virtual Events VA job Seekers Should Attend:**
While in-person events are currently off the table, there are still plenty of chances to catch the VA at virtual career events. [Website]

**ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages LLC is Hiring:**
ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages LLC is one of the largest employers of veterans in the United States. ABARTA knows first-hand the benefits that come with hiring veterans as team members. Join ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages's work force community at Website.

**PepsiCo Is Hiring:**
Thousands of veterans have made PepsiCo their professional home, as they are one of the largest employers of veterans in the United States. PepsiCo has seen first-hand how the skills, training, and dedication to teamwork veterans bring to the team drive results. Join PepsiCo's veteran talent community at Website.

**Redesigned PA CareerLink Website Helps Pennsylvanians Find Work:**
The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry Secretary is launching a redesigned PA CareerLink website that makes it easier than ever for Pennsylvania workers, employers and workforce development groups to connect to vital job search and career development tools. "L&I is focused on training Pennsylvanian workers for the new economy emerging in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic," said Labor & Industry Secretary Jerry Oleksiak. Website.

**Waste Management Is Hiring:**
Waste Management is in need of a heavy equipment mechanic, junior diesel technician and diesel technician. Waste Management has been recognized as best employer of veterans by Military Times Top 75 and CivilianJobs.com. To see all Waste Management job listings, visit Website.

**Career Link-Translate Your Military Skills And Experience:**
PA Career Link helps find civilian occupations that best align with your military skills, experience and training. Career Link offers a variety of veteran services for transitioning to civilian professions. Website.

### 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.)

**Humana Medicare 101:**
- Dec. 3, 2020, 1-2 p.m.
- Healthcare planning presented by Humana. Discussions on Medicare eligibility, what Medicare is, your Medicare options, important dates, costs and more.
- Register at Website.

**State Veteran's Commission (SVC) Virtual Meeting Open To The Public:**
- Dec. 4, 2020, at 10 a.m.
- To attend to the virtual meeting call 408-418-9388 and enter access code 179 711 4348
- The Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission is established in accordance with Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. It is comprised of representatives of all major veterans organizations throughout the commonwealth, as well as a representative of the Association of County Directors for Veterans Affairs.
- For more information visit Website.

**REBOOT Combat Recovery Training In York County:**
- Jan. 7, 2021, 6 p.m.
- James A. Danner VFW Post 537, 1095 Pines Road, Etters, PA (York County)
- For more information contact Charles Yost at 724-630-4956 or email at yost.ch@gmail.com
- To register visit Website.
- Created to aid service members and their families work through their post-traumatic stress. The training focuses on healing the spiritual and moral wounds of war, whether a recent conflict or from 50 years ago. The training is a unique blend of clinical insight and faith-based support in the form of weekly classes that include topic-based instruction, class discussions, homework, group exercises and a family-style meal.

**Mini Stand Down- Berks County:**
- Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-Noon
- Parking Lot at 40 S. Front St., Reading PA (Berks County)
- Point of contact: call 610-372-8267 or email: info@TeamVCOP.org
- Rain or shine, clothing, a hot meal and more free stuff.
- Website.

**Mini Stand Down - Montgomery County:**
- Fourth Saturday every month, 10 a.m.-Noon
- Douglass Municipal Park, 31 Park Lane, Gilbertsville, PA (Montgomery County)
- Point of contact: call 610-372-8267 or email info@TeamVCOP.org
- Rain or shine, clothing, a hot meal and more free stuff.
- Website.

**Medically Assisted Recovery Support Group:**
Every Tuesday, 6 p.m.
JFT Recovery and Veterans Support Services, downstairs meeting room, 300 Market St., Lemoyne, PA (Cumberland County)
This is a 12-Step based program of recovery for those utilizing medically assisted treatment; however, anyone is welcome, no matter your program of recovery.

Veterans Breakfast Club Webinar:
Every Monday at 7 p.m. and every Wednesday at 1 p.m.
Contact Ellie DePastino at ellie@veteransbreakfastclub.com
Veterans share their stories and take questions from a live online audience.
To access the live-streamed events visit Website.

Veterans Resource Rally On Site Services Available Open To Veterans And Their Families:
3rd Wednesday of the month
For the love of a veteran, 1082 Carlisle St., Hanover, PA (York County)
For more information contact Chris Waltz 717-451-2511 or email at chris@fortheloveofaveteran.org
Representatives on site to assist with veteran benefits, housing resources, employment, VA eligibility, military share food program

Virtual VA Benefits Appointments:
Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
To schedule an appointment email PCU.VBAPIT@va.gov
Do you have questions about your VA benefits? Contact Pittsburgh RO to schedule a virtual appointment.

Walkthrough Of Veterans ASCEND Virtually:
Every Friday
This brief covers how easy it is for service members, veterans, and military family members to setup a profile, shows a glimpse of how the business side works, and gives you an opportunity to ask questions about the program. Walkthrough the process of creating a profile, sneak a peak of the business view, and ask your questions.
Website.

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