DMVA News

DMVA Reminds Veterans Not To Pay For Assistance To Apply For Their Benefits:
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) reminds veterans to meet with a professional to ensure they are receiving the benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice. "All veterans should occasionally check with an accredited veteran service officer to see if changes in a veteran's circumstances or changes to benefit policies may have modified the programs they are eligible to receive," said Joel Mutschler, director, Bureau of Veterans Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration, and Outreach. [Website.

DMVA Is Hiring A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator:
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is looking for a dedicated individual to assist in the operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Fort Indiantown Gap in Lebanon County. At DMVA we provide quality service to the commonwealth’s veterans and support the members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. You can be part of this amazing mission. Apply today to be our Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator! Apply before Sept. 18, 2020, at [Website.

Wolf Administration Seeks Applicants To Fill State Veterans Commission Member-At-Large Positions:
Governor Tom Wolf recently announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is seeking veterans to apply for two member-at-large positions on the State Veterans Commission. At-large-members serve a four-year term. [Website.

PA Veterans Homes-Specific COVID-19 Updates:
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs puts the highest priority on the health and safety of the nearly 1,300 veterans homes residents we serve and the dedicated staff who serve them. To learn how our six veterans homes continue to serve Pennsylvania veterans during COVID-19 visit [Website.

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

**100 Years Ago-Dedication Of The WWI Memorial In Scranton, PA:**
It was a year and six months from the end of the Great War. One Memorial Day had already passed, but in the interim a planning committee had gotten the idea for a World War I Memorial to be displayed in Nay Aug Park in Scranton (Lackawanna County). [Website](#).

**Pennsylvania Watch Company Vortic Donates $25,000 To Veterans Watchmaker Initiative:**
The VWI describes itself as the only technical school in the U.S. dedicated to disabled veterans and the industry need for professional watchmakers. Vortic specializes in salvaging antique American pocket watches with the purpose of transforming them into wristwatches in its Colorado workshop. The donated money comes from proceeds of Vortic's 2019 military edition watch sales, the company's first limited edition, built from antique pocket watches used by aviators to aid in navigation during World War II. [Website](#).

**New Bill Would Make 9/11 A Statewide Day Of Observance In Pennsylvania:**
A new bill making its way through the state legislature would make 9/11 a statewide day of observance, affecting public schools and even meetings in the workplace. State Rep. Karen Boback, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Luzerne counties, sponsored House Bill 2100. During a voting meeting, the Pennsylvania House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee heard Boback's statements on the bill's importance in reflecting on the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. [Website](#).

**Pennsylvania Veterans Make Up 7.3 Percent Of State's Population, Study Finds:**
Pennsylvania adults who have served in the military account for 7.3 percent of the state's population, the 35th highest percentage among the 50 states, according to an analysis by the website 24/7 Wall St. Military veterans in Pennsylvania number 745,909, the study based on U.S. Census Bureau data found. Among the veterans, 6.9 percent live in poverty, and 857 of them are homeless. [Website](#).
Conrad Weiser Elementary Teacher Finds A Way To Connect With Students While Deployed:
Conrad Weiser West Elementary (Berks County) third-grade teacher Anna Schmeck knew this school year was going to be different even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Schmeck, 27, a Kutztown University graduate, is a specialist in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard assigned to the 628th Aviation Support Battalion and is preparing to deploy for her first time. Schmeck was finding it difficult to leave her students behind, but she found a way to stay in touch with them. She and a few members of her unit made a video welcoming the students and staff back to school. Website.

Carbon County Launching Suicide Prevention Initiative For Veterans:
Veterans face a number of challenges in their lives following their service and live with the scars of battle civilians can't fully understand. Carbon County is trying to help area veterans get the help they need before it is too late. Christine LeClair, the county Veterans Affairs director and an Army veteran, announced that Carbon County is beginning the Together with Veterans initiative, a community-based suicide prevention program aimed at helping rural veterans through partnerships with the community. Website.

Across the Nation

Free Health Transition Training For Women Veterans:
Transitioning from service? Interested in VA's health care, including mental and physical care, specific to your needs as a woman? Sign up for this live, interactive, virtual training offered twice a day through mid-December to learn more about VA's benefits and services for women veterans. Website.

Appointment Management During COVID-19 Pandemic:
The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) took measures to protect patients and employees from COVID-19 by canceling face-to-face appointments that were not urgent and converting some of them to virtual appointments. The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) assessed VHA's appointment management strategies and the status of canceled appointments. The review team found that about five million appointments (68 percent) canceled from March 15 through May 1, 2020, had evidence of follow up or other tracking. Patients completed appointments predominantly by telephone and some by video. Website.

VA Home Loans, No Money Down And Cost Savings For Veterans And Their Families:
The VA home loan is available for eligible veterans, service members, and certain surviving spouses. No money down and no private mortgage insurance. The VA home loan guaranty can help save you thousands of dollars on the purchase or refinancing of your home. Website.
Reach Out And Stay Connected To The Veteran In Your Life:
September is suicide prevention month. This month, and every month, take a moment to reach out to a veteran in your life. Your simple acts of kindness can help give a veteran hope. For a veteran facing hard times, your support can provide hope when it's needed most and you already have what it takes to show you care. Take a few minutes to check in today. [Website].

Veterans Unemployment Down Again In August, But Still Well Above Pre-Pandemic Levels:
Veterans unemployment fell for the fourth consecutive month in August but is still nearly double what it was one year ago, according to the latest statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The jobless rate for all veterans last month was 6.4 percent, down from 7.9 percent in July. The figure translates into about 560,000 veterans actively looking for work last month. [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

Become A Commonwealth Nurse:
Help a veteran who has served their country. Comfort a person in need. The commonwealth is hiring nurses throughout Pennsylvania, offering a competitive benefits package including a state retirement, high starting salary and more. Apply today! [Website].

DMVA Is Hiring:
WE'RE HIRING! The needs of Pennsylvania's veterans do not diminish during this time, and the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) needs staff to serve and care for veterans at each of our six veterans homes. Working at one of the homes is a rewarding career with great benefits. The DMVA has immediate job openings for: certified nurse aides; licensed practical nurses; registered nurses; registered nurse supervisors; registered PRN nurses; custodial workers; food service workers and security officers. Apply online at [Website].

DMVA Is Hiring A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator:
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is looking for a dedicated individual to assist in the operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Division of
Installation Maintenance at Fort Indiantown Gap in Lebanon County. The DMVA provides quality service to the commonwealth’s veterans and support the members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. You can be part of this amazing mission, apply today to be DMVA’s Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator! Apply before Sept. 18, 2020 at [Website](#).

**Virtual Veterans Expo And Job Fair For Camp Hill, Lebanon And York Areas:**
- Sept. 15-30, 2020
- A virtual job fair to learn about job opportunities and businesses and organizations that offer products and services to the community.
- To register and for more information go to [Website](#).

**Ball Corporation Selects Luzerne County For New Manufacturing Plant That Will Create Approximately 230 New Jobs:**
Governor Tom Wolf announced that Ball Corporation will create approximately 230 new, good paying full-time jobs at its new aluminum beverage packaging plant in Pittston, Pennsylvania, in Luzerne County. Ball has pledged to invest approximately $360 million into the project over multiple years. [Website](#).

**Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority Awards Funding To Support Business Expansion And Job Creation In Fayette County:**
Governor Tom Wolf announced a new low-interest loan approval through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) that will assist in the construction of a multi-occupancy building in Fayette County that could create up to 250 full-time jobs. [Website](#).

**Poll Workers Needed In Monroe County For Election 2020:**
With the U.S. presidential election just a few months away, Monroe County election officials are looking to hire poll workers. Poll workers typically work from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. on Election Day. The job includes opening and setting up voting machines, checking voters into the polling place and closing up at night. [Website](#).

**Wolf Administration Seeks Applicants To Fill State Veterans Commission Member-At-Large Positions:**
Governor Tom Wolf recently announced that the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is seeking veterans to apply for two member-at-large positions on the State Veterans Commission. At-large-members serve a four-year term. [Website](#).

**Assessments Are Becoming The New Norm In Federal Hiring:**
President Donald Trump signed an executive order in June 2020 that tasked federal agencies with modifying their hiring practices to value actual skills over degrees, and the order will have an increasing impact on applying for government jobs over the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. Website.

Background Investigations-How To Get A Security Clearance For A Federal Job:
Working in the federal government or as a contractor who performs work on behalf of an agency means going through at least one background investigation to determine if a candidate is a suitable fit for federal employment, but the extent of that investigation can vary widely. Website.

Big Hill Ciderworks Is Hiring:
- Part time tasting room servers, part time farm stand attendant, and full-time or part-time cidery assistant.
- Big Hill Ciderworks, 1365 Gablers Rd, Gardners, PA (Adams County)
- To apply or for more info email at info@bighillcider.com with the position in the subject line. Please attach a resume and include available days/hours.
- They're looking for fun, self-motivated, enthusiastic individuals to join the team and grow with them.

Instructor-Operator For Medical Simulation Training, At Fort Indiantown Gap, PA (Lebanon County):
Phoenix Logistics, Inc. is now accepting applications for a full time Instructor/Operator EMT supporting the Army MSTC (Medical Simulation Training Centers) at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. The I/O role provides training services for the Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC), which plans and carries out instruction and validation in accordance with accepted medical practices and established military medical and operational doctrine. The I/O will be capable of instructing a mixed population of soldiers, both inexperienced and seasoned. The training may be conducted in a classroom or a field training/evaluation environment. Website.

Navigating USAJobs And The Federal Hiring Process:
Almost all federal job openings are listed through the official USAJobs website, which was created in 1996 to replace a paper-based system that required applicants to visit federal buildings to view job announcements. The website has gone through several redesigns and enhancements since that time to make the system more user-friendly. Website.

PennDOT Is Hiring Winter Maintenance Program (WMP):
A winter with PennDOT can be your on-ramp to a rewarding career or a great way to earn money during the winter months! Multiple titles, varying locations, and competitive pay available now! PennDOT may waive the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Skills Test for Pennsylvania residents who are active or reserve duty military or recent
honorably discharged veterans with at least two years' experience operating a commercial motor vehicle as part of their military job requirements. The waiver applies to CDL applicants who wish to operate vehicles similar to those they operated in the military. For more information visit Website.

Understanding The GS Pay Scale And Required Skills For Federal Jobs:
More than 70 percent of federal jobs are classified under the General Schedule, a system that was enacted in 1949 to standardize federal positions across agencies and ensure pay parity with the private sector. The GS scale is divided into 15 levels, with each level generally resulting in higher pay and increased skills requirements. Website.

Veterans Fit Into The Tech Industry's New Collar Workers Movement:
The year of change for higher education was in 2018. A college degree was the steppingstone to a career, but the announcement by more than 15 of the biggest names in business that they would no longer require employees to have a college degree rocked the foundation of higher education. Website.

Catholic Charities, Diocese Of Allentown Is Hiring A Case Manager:
- Provides direct case management services to individuals and their families who reside within the five counties of the Diocese of Allentown: Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Schuylkill, and Carbon counties.
- If interested please send your resume with a cover letter to Catholic Charities Executive Director, Robert Nicolella at rnicolella@allentowndiocese.org
- Duties include, but are not limited to, intake and assessment of individuals and families, service planning and information and referral along with marketing and promoting the program within the Diocese. The ability to work in office and field settings is required.

Fort Indiantown Gap Exchange Is Hiring:
The Exchange at Fort Indiantown Gap, Lebanon County, is hiring for hourly, management, corporate, distribution, and associates positions. Contact Lisa Carr at 609-723-6100 or email at carrlisa@aafes.com. For a job posting list go to 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.

Waste Management Needs Mechanics:
Waste Management is in need of a heavy equipment mechanic in Morrisville, PA (Bucks County). Waste Management has been recognized as best employer of veterans by
Looking For Some Country Air? These Rural VA Sites Have Jobs:
Are green, open spaces calling your name? You're not alone. A growing number of Americans are opting out of cities in favor of rural areas and small towns. As the only nationwide health care system in the U.S., VA has more than 2,000 locations in every state in the nation, the District of Columbia and several U.S. territories. Clinics and medical centers can be found in some of America’s best small towns, and many locations are currently hiring. [Website](#).

Immediate Need To Fill VA Housekeeping Staff Positions Nationwide:
VA is seeking housekeeping staff to fill numerous, immediate openings at health care facilities across the country. Temporary, permanent, part-time and full-time positions are available. The housekeeping staff supports the mission to help veterans get better fast by keeping facilities clean and safe for patients, staff and visitors. Veterans who become housekeeping aides will work alongside fellow veterans, who make up 85 percent of VA’s custodial staff. [Website](#).

Army National Guard Career Management Fields Specialist For NCO Academy:
Strategy Consulting Team is seeking to hire a career management fields specialist for the Army National Guard to provide career management fields training services for NCO Academy in Annville, PA (Lebanon County). For more information and to apply visit [Website](#).

Brewery BGBC LLC Is Hiring Cooks:
- Part-Time Cooks
- 1250 Simon Blvd. K100, Easton, PA (Northampton County)
- For more information contact Thomas Thomasik at 610-704-0413 or email at tthomasik@gmail.com
- The Brewery BGBC LLC is looking for two part-time cooks for their small brew pub
- [Facebook](#).

Butcher Apprenticeship Program:
Penn State Extension is hosting a 40-week butcher apprenticeship program. Apprentices will receive four months of in-classroom instruction and meats lab training in State College in Centre County, followed by a six-month paid external apprenticeship from January to September 2021 at a Pennsylvania meat processor. For more information visit [Website](#).

Don Farr Moving And Storage Is Hiring In Allegheny County:
Don Farr is hiring for driver helper/laborer, delivery driver CDL A and delivery driver non-CDL. The positions include benefits package, promotion opportunities and job training.
All positions are full time with guaranteed minimum weekly hours. Don Farr moves military and veterans year round locally, regionally, and across the country. To apply, email Stefanie.Doyle@careerlinkpittsburgh.org or at Website.

**Exide Technologies Is Hiring In Lancaster, PA (Lancaster County):**
Exide Technologies is a global provider of stored electrical energy solutions, batteries and associated equipment and services for transportation and industrial markets. Your valiant service is not taken for granted at Exide Technologies. The skills you gained will be put to good use to help drive their mission forward. Exide Technologies offers a veterans-friendly culture from the executive suite to every other level in the company. Check the company out to see where you fit in. Website.

**PA Department Of Health Is Hiring Contact Tracing Field Managers:**
Contact tracing field managers are being hired for regions across the state. If you're interested in coordinating and leading COVID-19 contact tracing efforts in PA, 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.

**Post-Military Career At VA:**
Job changes can be stressful and transitioning to your first civilian career after life in the military only adds another layer of complexity. VA understands the challenges that come with that transition. VA patients are veterans, and many of VA employees are former military as well. Many have walked in your shoes. Pursue a career at one of the most veteran-friendly employers in the country. 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.)*

**Vietnam Round Table - September, 2020:**
- Sept. 10, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Michael J. Novosel MOH Chapter 542, 8000 Derry St., Harrisburg, PA (Dauphin County)
- Contact Richard Burton at 717-545-2336 or email at centralpavietnamrt@verizon.net
- We received a legal opinion that we meet Gov. Wolf's criteria as entertainment, live theater, as we educate and entertain our attendees.
- Masks are mandatory and we will meet in the big bingo hall so we meet social distancing; rules will be posted and are the same as the July meeting.

**Mini-Stand Down:**
- Sept. 12, 2020, 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](#)

**Telethon Concert To Support Veterans:**
- Sept. 12, 2020, 5-7 p.m.
- To join the telethon concert go to [Facebook page](#).
- Voice of Vets was formed in 2016 to provide free "Live" music by professional musicians to veterans homes across America. With the onset of COVID-19, veterans homes are on lockdown and typically veterans cannot leave their rooms. Voices of Vets is seeking your help to fund the purchase of digital devices to donate to veterans homes so veterans can have easy access to our livestream concerts and other virtual experiences while maintaining safe social distancing.

**Glenn Hope Farms Is Training Veterans:**
- Sept. 17, 2020
- Schedule with Aimee Jo Morris at 717-891-7797 or email at aimee@glennhopeagricare.com
- Glenn Hope Farms is looking for at least 10 veterans for a program that is a vocational training introduction. The one-day teaching event would be an introduction about riparian buffers (trees, shrubs, and other types of vegetation in a streamside forest that make up a filter strip along waterways). These plants buffer waterways from the impacts of surrounding land use. There will be three instructors from PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources who will do some powerpoint presentations along with a hands-on tree planting demo and maintenance of invasive species removal, if any are present.

**Virtual Benefits And Services Symposium For Faith-Based, Non-Profit And Community Organizations:**
- Sept. 24, 2020, 12:30-5 p.m.
- Join event at [Website](#). Or call by phone +1 (404) 397-1596, with access code: 199 454 8899
This informative symposium will allow faith-based and community leaders the opportunity to learn about VA benefits and services for veterans within their congregation and the communities they serve. Don't miss this opportunity to be empowered with knowledge to help our nation's veterans!

**Pottstown Veterans Community Day:**
- Sept. 26, 2020, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Veterans' Island, 251 Manatawny St., Pottstown, PA (Montgomery County), Second St. entrance
- For more information call Michael Murphy at 610-587-6556 or email at Murfhesurf@aol.com
- A free public event honoring veterans and their service to the country. The event will feature Police and Fire Department motorcycle escorts, military vehicles, classic cars, a flag presentation, presentation of the glass tear hero award and veteran of the year, a Celtic pipe and drum band and more. Social distancing measures will be in place. A 501(c)3 organization.

**8th Veteran Shark Tank:**
- Submission deadline Oct. 20, 2020, midnight
- If you are a veteran business owner and want to participate, please sign up using the online portal. The final event in Philadelphia on Dec. 7, 2020, will feature five veteran business owners who pitch and compete for a large cash prize. Each contestant gains valuable experience to professionally grow while creating relationships that will last a lifetime.
- Application form [Website](#).

**Women Veterans Retreat By Veterans Of Foreign Wars Department Of PA:**
- Register by Feb. 20, 2021 for March 26-28, 2021 retreat
- Ramada Conference Center, State College, PA (Centre County)
- Point of contact: Amy MacKenzie at 717-575-3982 or email quartermaster@ephratavfw.org
- Registration is required. Please join us for a weekend of fellowship, camaraderie, and informational workshops by, for, and about women veterans and the issues that matter and impact them directly.
- For more information visit [Website](#).

**Virtual Appointments About Questions On Benefits:**
- Every Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- To make an appointment request send an email to PCU.VBAPIT@va.gov
- Do you have questions about your VA benefits? Veterans and dependents can schedule a virtual appointment with a representative for the Pittsburgh VA regional office.
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.

Adult/Youth/CPS Virtual Drop-In:
- Adult Virtual Drop-In, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., Meeting ID: 131-337-859, Website.
- Youth Virtual Drop-In, Mondays and Fridays, 1-2 p.m., Meeting ID: 410-999-098, Website.
- Certified Peer Specialists Virtual Drop-In, Mondays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Meeting ID: 305-863-445, Website.
- Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association (PMHCA), Youth MOVE PA, and the Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition (PaPSC) understand the toll social isolation can take on our mental health. Connecting online can be a good way to alleviate this issue. The agencies have collaborated in hosting a series of Virtual Drop-In Zoom meetings to help reduce the sense of social isolation we can experience during this difficult time. Website.

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