

VETERANS VOICE

New Year's Resolution: VA Benefit "Double Check" Should be Your Number One Resolution

Now for the most important New Year's Resolution a veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran can make in 2015 – "Double Check Your VA Benefits". Over the past fifteen years, the Veterans Administration and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs have added many new benefits that many veterans and surviving spouses may not be aware of. Statistics show that over 65% of veterans and their dependents are not aware of their VA benefits. You may have called or stopped in the office and discussed your benefits many years ago, but have not "double checked" your benefits recently to see if there any new benefits you may be entitled too.

Make a New Year's Resolution to "double check" your benefits this year by calling our office or making an appointment so I can discuss potential benefits to which you are entitled. Contacting my office every year is a practice every veteran and surviving spouse of a veteran should be doing. Also, you should make sure your discharge papers are recorded and on record.

We have the most current Veterans Administration benefit books and VA Healthcare Pamphlets available free for those who stop in or call. I look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Also, we are looking for businesses that would like to support the Veterans Voice by advertising your business within the Veterans Voice publication. Please contact my office to discuss advertising possibilities and supporting veterans in the community.

To apply or obtain more information on the above benefits, contact Joe Aulik at the County Veterans Service Office at 388-7198 or e-mail at aulikj@kewauneeeco.org to sign up for the veteran benefit e-mail list to keep up-to-date on federal and state benefits. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KewauneeCVSO.

2015 American Legion Oratorical Contest

The Kewaunee County American Legion Oratorical Contest will be held on January 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center in Luxemburg. All members, public, and veterans are encouraged to support the youth of Kewaunee County and attend. If you need more information, contact Rick Philips, County American Legion Commander, at 553-9663.

Mobile Vet Center Coming to Kewaunee

The Green Bay Mobile Vet Center will be in Kewaunee at the Human Service Building, 810 Lincoln Street, Kewaunee, WI on February 6, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in conjunction with the monthly visit by the Green Vet Center counselor. Come out and see what the Mobile Vet Center is all about.

Vet Center Counseling in Kewaunee

The establishment of Vet Centers was to provide readjustment counseling services to Vietnam veterans who were experiencing problems adjusting from military life to civilian life after serving during war times. The Vet Centers were so successful at addressing the needs of combat veterans, the program was expanded to include veterans who served during WWII, Korean War and Post-Vietnam Conflicts. Services included sexual harassment/trauma in the military. There are over 235 Vet Centers throughout the United States. A counselor comes to Kewaunee once each month to meet with veterans and all of these service for FREE. Please contact the Kewaunee County Veterans Service Office for more information.

2015 Casco American Legion Post 319 Gunless Poultry Shoot

Casco American Legion Thibaudeau-Drossart Post 319 is sponsoring the 2015 Gunless Poultry Shoot. Proceeds will go to the Casco American Veterans Activities Fund which includes American Legion Youth program, community programs, and Kewaunee County veterans who are in need. Come out and support the American Legion and your community. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. During each raffle there are three or four items that can be won. There are about 20 raffles each afternoon. In addition, there are two 50/50 raffles each afternoon.

January 25, Sunday at Tippy Canoe, Euren 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
February 8, Sunday at TJ's Pub and Grill, Casco, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
February 22, Sunday at Moxie's Supper Club, Casco, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
March 8, Sunday at Moe's Corner, Rio Creek, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
March 29, Sunday at Jim's Bar and Bowl, Casco, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Items to be raffled are: Frozen meats, baby back ribs, boneless turkey breasts, pork tenderloins, beef tenderloins, Marchant's side pork, ten-pound box of bacon, Green Bay Packer's jersey's, several hams, 50/50 raffle, and much more!!! If you have any questions call Chuck Zellner, Post 319 Commander, at 920-255-6767. Wisconsin Raffle License # B0028745B-12751.

Veterans Manor

Cardinal Capital Management is building the Veterans Manor near the VA Green Bay Clinic. They are looking for veteran contractors or unemployed veterans with experience in construction. If you are interested contact Julie at jcardina@cardinalcapital.us

VA Pension Recipients Need to Report Medical Expenses

Prior to December 2012, the Veterans Administration (VA) would send annually an Eligibility Verification Report (EVR), along with a Medical Expense Report (MER). This process has now been changed. If your only income is Social Security, the Veterans Administration will not send you an EVR and they are not sending MERs. This is because they are able to obtain your Social Security income directly from the IRS.

What you need to be aware of, is that you need to report your calendar year 2014 medical expenses on the Medical Expense Report form after January 1, 2015. Again, this form is not being sent to you. You need to contact my office or obtain the form from the Internet (search for VA Form 21-8416).

I would caution you in completing the form yourself because many pensioners have not claimed the medical expenses that they were entitled to and have lost thousands of dollars of pension money due to incorrectly completed forms.

We are here to assist you in completing the form correctly and obtaining the maximum amount of VA pension to which you are entitled. The services we provide are FREE of charge.

96th Annual Legion Birthday Banquet

Come out and enjoy some great food, fellowship, and entertainment with your fellow veterans. Every year this is a well-attended stellar event. You do not need to be a veteran to attend. Contact your local American Legion post or call the Kewaunee County Veterans Service Office for more information at 388-7198.

Place: Rendezvous Pleasure Palace, Luxemburg, WI

Date: Sunday, March 08, 2015

Cocktail Hour: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (cash bar)

Dinner: 12:00 noon

Program to follow with patriotic violin entertainment.

Raffle prize drawing (Tickets available at the banquet for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00)

Door Prizes to be given away after program

Cost: \$13:00 per person, \$26.00 per couple

AMVETS 35th Annual Dart Ball Tournament March 14th and 15th

The tournament will be hosted by AMVETS Post 11 in Green Bay and will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center. Entry fee is \$50.00 per team with 7 to 10 players. Come out and enjoy a fun day of competition and support your AMVETS.

For a flyer and entry forms, contact Marvin Dequaine, AMVETS Post 42 Commander, Algoma, at 487-2248 for more information.

Highground, Neillsville, WI

The Highground, located three miles west of Neillsville, was incorporated in 1984 as the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc. It is a 148 acre manned veterans' memorial park that pays tribute to the dead, and honors the survivors, their service and sacrifices. The mission is to heal and educate by bringing past lessons into hopes for the future.

The Highground continues to be a focus of healing for all, regardless of the battle. The park includes tributes to veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Persian Gulf War. Other tributes include the National Native American Vietnam Memorial, a Meditation Garden, a handicap accessible tree house, an exact replica of the Liberty Bell, Effigy Mound, a Learning Center with Library and four miles of hiking trails. The Park is open 24 hours a day, year around.

The Highground is a place for all of us. It is through the generosity of individuals, organizations and businesses, whether it be financial, time or talents, that helped build and maintain the Highground.

For more information visit the website at www.thehighground.org

File Discharge Paperwork

As a reminder, take the time to file your discharge paperwork in this office. It is very difficult to have to tell a family member that paperwork cannot be completed or filed for a flag and other benefits until the discharge paperwork is on file. To obtain the records from other resources can take several months.

You're Veteran's Post Need YOU!

If you served in the military and have not joined a local Post, please consider taking the time to do so. These Organizations are a fighting voice for us in Washington to maintain and acquire benefits for all of us who have served in the military. Please contact the Veterans Service Office to discuss eligibility.

Why I am a Legionnaire

For God and Country, to do and dare;

That's why I'm a Legionnaire.

To make my community a better place

and meet my neighbor face to face,

help distressed comrades their cross to bear;

That's why I'm a Legionnaire.

To face with courage the coming day,

to teach my children how to pray;

to make my flag a symbol rare;

That's why I'm a Legionnaire.

And at last when taps is sounded,

and I climb those golden stairs;

to face my Lord and Maker

Thank God, I'm a Legionnaire.

Submitted by Nellie P. De Baker

American Legion and Community

America is paying attention to The American Legion because we are doing great things in our communities. Many charities benefit the military and their families. The most common request of a soldier who is dying on the battlefield is "Tell my wife/husband/kids I love her/him/them." Nothing is appreciated by a veteran more than taking care of his or her family and that's exactly what American Legion programs are intended to do - support the families of men and women

Calendar

Jan 6	Kewaunee American Legion Post 29 (1st Tue) American Legion Auxiliary, Kewaunee Legion Hall	7:30 p.m.	388-2662
Jan 8	Kewaunee VFW Post 3392 (1st Thur) Kewaunee Legion Hall	7:30 p.m.	388-0217
Jan 12	Casco American Legion Post 319 (2nd Mon) Casco Village Hall	6:30 p.m.	255-3344
Jan 14	Robinson American Legion Post 538 (2nd Wed) Carlton Town Hall	8:00 p.m.	776-1136
Jan 15	Algoma American Legion Post 236 (3rd Thur) Algoma Legion Hall	7:00 p.m.	487-9929
Jan 19	Luxemburg American Legion Post 262 Annual Christmas Part and American Legion Auxiliary (3rd Mon) Luxemburg Community Center	7:00 p.m.	365-6155
Jan 20	Kewaunee County AMVETS Post 42 (3rd Tue) Algoma Legion Hall	6:30 p.m.	487-2248
Jan 25	Casco American Legion Post 319 Gunless Poultry Shoot, Tippy Canoe	1:00 p.m.	255-6767

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Paradise Estates LLC would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Veterans and their spouses and to offer assistance in receiving your full benefits you deserve for any assisted living needs you or your spouse have earned.

Thank you,
Mike & Kathy Paral

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Feb 14th 4 - 8pm Prime Rib

March 1 Bobby Rivers
Cocktails, Dinner, Show \$35
Feb. 1 9 Pin Bowling 2pm & 5pm

Wed Baked or Broasted Chicken Special
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FREE FINANCING AVAILABLE

Kewaunee County Veterans Organizations, their Auxiliaries, and the Sons of American Legion Want You!

AMERICAN LEGION

Kewaunee Post 29 Casco Post 319
Algoma Post 236 Carlton Post 538
Luxemburg Post 262

VFW
Kewaunee Post 3392

AMVETS
Kewaunee County Post 42

SQUADRON POST 538
Sons of the American Legion

To apply or obtain more information, contact **Joe Aulik** at the County Veterans Service Office at 388-7198 or e-mail at aulikj@kewauneeeco.org to sign up for the veteran benefit e-mail list to keep up-to-date on benefits. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KewauneeCVSO.