



Idaho Division of
**VETERANS
SERVICES**

*Caring for
America's
Heroes*

BULLETIN

**April
2018**

STATE OF IDAHO

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GOVERNOR

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To be connected with a VA suicide prevention and mental health professional,
call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention hotline and indicate you are a veteran.
(800) 273-8255

ALL EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES ARE ADMINISTERED IN A NONDISCRIMINATORY
MANNER IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE EEO AND CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS



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**If you’ve not already done so, please volunteer to receive the bulletin via email
by emailing Jennel Binsky at
jennel.binsky@veterans.idaho.gov**



FROM BILL'S DESK

Can anyone believe we are already in the month of April of 2018? This year seems to be flying by! We currently do not have any personnel changes within the Office of Veterans Advocacy, so I will hit on some issues taking place within the VA. I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Department Conventions.

For the last two quarterly newsletters, I have been talking about the RAMP Program where claimants with pending appeals are being invited by the VA to waive their legacy appeal rights and opt-in to the new Appeals Modernization Act (referred to as "RAMP" Letters) and be able to choose 1 of 2 options. Option 1 is a higher level of review and will get a new rating decision within 120 days. If this option is chosen, no new supporting information can be submitted to support the appeal and it will be reviewed by a rater more senior than the one who made the previous decision. Option 2 allows the veteran/claimant to submit additional evidence to support the appeal, which will then be reviewed/rated again. The VA has been increasing the number of RAMP letters being mailed to claimants in order to reduce the amount of pending legacy appeals. From the information our office has been receiving, there are a high percentage of grants being issued for the contentions on appeal. If the RAMP process is chosen and the contentions remain denied, the claimant will have the option to eventually have the appeal submitted to the Board of Veterans Appeals beginning in February 2019. If you know of anyone who receives a RAMP Letter, please have them contact a Veteran Service Officer to discuss whether the Appeals Modernization Act is the right fit for their current appeal or if they are better off remaining within the Legacy Appeals System. Currently, the Board of Veterans Appeals median docket date is December 2014, which means the average docket date of cases being worked at the BVA are for those certified to the Board in December 2014.

When a veteran passes away, the surviving family members have the option of requesting a Presidential Memorial Certificate from the VA. The certificate is suitable for framing and honors the veteran for their service to our Country. I recently called Quantico, VA (where the requests are processed) and requested the status of several of our requests. I was informed that due to the high demand for the certificates, the current requests are taking up to five to six months to process.

On February 5, 2018, the VA updated their procedures manual to reflect that when a surviving spouse is incarcerated, death pension payments will be discontinued effective on the 61st day of imprisonment following conviction of a felony- just as they would for an incarcerated veteran in receipt of Non-Service Connected Pension.

As of January 12, 2018, VA Medical facilities are now offering same-day care for urgent primary and mental health care needs at 100% of their medical facilities across the country. This means a veteran with an urgent need for primary care or mental health care will receive a face-to-face visit with a clinician, advice provided during a call with a nurse, a tele-health or video care visit, an appointment made with a specialist, or a prescription filled the same day; depending upon what best meets the needs of the veteran.

The VA became the first hospital system to release opioid prescribing rates. Highlights include a 41% drop in opioid-prescribing rates across the VA between 2012 and 2017; 99% of facilities decreased their prescribing rates; San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Cleveland, Ohio, top the list of medical centers with the lowest prescribing rates at 3%; El Paso, Texas, and Fayetteville, North Carolina are most improved, and decreased prescribing rates by more than 60% since 2012. El Paso's prescribing rate decreased by 66%, and Fayetteville's decreased by 65%. The VA is currently using a multifaceted approach to reduce the need for the use of opioids among veterans. Since 2012, the Opioid Safety Initiative has focused on the safe use and slow and steady decrease in VA opioid dispensing. The VA also uses other therapies, including physical therapy and complementary and integrative health alternatives, such as meditation, yoga, and cognitive-behavioral therapy.

There have been several changes to some of the grant programs we work with. To be eligible for the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Grant, a veteran must be a current member of the American Legion (previously, a veteran only had to be eligible for membership). Also, the current maximum amount of the grant is now \$1,500 and is a one-time only grant. The VFW Unmet Needs Grant now has a maximum grant amount of \$1,500 (previously it was \$5,000). The biggest change for the VFW Unmet Needs Grant was that only active duty service members or those who discharged within the last 6 years were eligible to apply. Now, veterans who discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of military service connected injuries and/or illnesses may apply. Those discharged prior to September 11, 2001, who are on a fixed income and only VA Disability Compensation who are facing an unexpected financial hardship may also apply. Please remember, there are many requirements to be met in order to be approved for the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Grant, the VFW Unmet Needs Grant, the Bravehearts Grant, and the Idaho Wartime Veterans Emergency Grant programs, so please contact a Veteran Service Officer to see if someone meets the grant criteria.

The 2018 County and Post Veteran Service Officer Training will be held at the Riverside hotel in Boise from July 11-13, 2018, and the 2018 Idaho Women Veterans Conference is currently being planned to be held in Boise in October of this year (more details to follow). I hope everyone enjoys the spring weather and please let me know if there is anything that our office can do to assist you.

VA BECOMES FIRST HOSPITAL SYSTEM TO RELEASE OPIOID PRESCRIBING RATES

News Release, January 11, 2018

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), Dr. David J. Shulkin announced the VA has begun publicly posting information on opioids dispensed from VA pharmacies, along with the VA's strategies to prescribe these pain medications appropriately and safely. With this announcement, the VA becomes the only health-care system in the country to post information on its opioid-prescribing rates. The disclosure is part of the VA's promise of transparency to veterans and the American people, and builds on the VA's strong record of transparency disclosures — including on wait times, accountability actions, employee settlements, and the Secretary's travel — under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump over the past year. "Many veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system suffer from high rates of chronic pain and the prescribing of opioids may be necessary medically," Secretary Shulkin said. "And while VA offers other pain-management options to reduce the need for opioids, it is important that we are transparent on how we prescribe opioids, so veterans and the public can see what we are doing in our facilities and the progress we have made over time."

Counselor to the President, Kellyanne Conway said, "Declaring the opioid crisis a nationwide public health emergency was a call to action by the President. His administration is exploring all tools and authorities within their agencies to address this complex challenge costing lives. Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. Shulkin is heeding that call; the VA is now the first hospital system in the country to post information on its opioid prescribing rates. This is an innovative way to raise awareness, increase transparency, and mitigate the dangers of over-prescribing." The interactive map shows data over a five-year period (2012-2017) and does not include veterans' personal information. The posted information shows opioid-dispensing rates for each facility and how much those rates have changed over time. It is important to note that because the needs and conditions of veterans may be different at each facility, rates may also be different for that reason, and cannot be compared directly. The prescribing rate information will be updated semi-annually, on January 15th and July 15th of each year.

As a learning health system using the current best evidence to learn and improve, the VA continually develops and refines best practices for the care of veterans. Releasing this data will facilitate the sharing of best practices in pain management and opioid prescribing among doctors and medical center directors. Highlights from the data include a 41% drop in opioid-prescribing rates across the VA between 2012 and 2017; 99% of facilities decreased their prescribing rates; San Juan, PR, and Cleveland, OH, top the list of medical centers with the lowest prescribing rates, at 3%; and El Paso, TX, and Fayetteville, NC, are most improved, and decreased prescribing rates by more than 60% since 2012. El Paso's prescribing rate decreased by 66%, and Fayetteville's decreased by 65%. The VA currently uses a multifaceted approach to reduce the need for the use of opioids among veterans. Since 2012, the Opioid Safety Initiative has focused on the safe use and slow and steady decrease in VA opioid dispensing. The VA also uses other therapies, including physical therapy and complementary and integrative health alternatives, such as meditation, yoga, and cognitive-behavioral therapy.

VA FACILITIES NOW OFFER SAME-DAY CARE FOR URGENT PRIMARY OR MENTAL HEALTHCARE NEEDS

News Release, January 12, 2018

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced a major milestone, that 100% of its more than 1,000 medical facilities across the country now offer same-day services for urgent primary and mental health-care needs. Same-day services means a veteran with an urgent need for primary care and mental health-care receives services that may include a face-to-face visit with a clinician; advice provided during a call with a nurse; a telehealth or video care visit; an appointment made with a specialist; or a prescription filled the same day, depending upon what best meets the needs of the veteran. "We made a commitment to our nation's veterans that we would work to reduce wait times and improve access, and we are doing it," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "We were able to meet this goal, in large part, because of the concerted focus of our staff who care for our veterans in facilities across the country."

Since 2014, the VA has concentrated its efforts on improving access and meeting the urgent health-care needs of veterans. In 2016, all of the VA's medical centers offered same-day services for primary and mental health services. In addition to offering same-day services, the VA has reduced patient wait times. The VA also implemented a new process to ensure timely follow-up appointments for time-sensitive medical needs. More than 100,000 such appointments have been completed. In 2017, veterans completed over 57.5 million appointments and VA clinicians saw almost 6 million patients. To view access information about each facility nationwide, visit www.accesstocare.va.gov. The information provided at this link is not offered by any major national hospital organization in the country.

VA LAUNCHES TELEHEALTH PROGRAM FOR RURAL VETERANS WITH PTSD

News Release, March 6, 2018

With a focus on improving access to mental health care for veterans living in rural areas, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it has launched a pilot telehealth program that will give rural veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) remote access to psychotherapy and related services. The VA's Office of Rural Health, in partnership with VA's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative, is supporting the Telemedicine Outreach for PTSD (TOP) program to deliver therapy and other care through phone and interactive video contact. "Our researchers have worked diligently in recent years to establish the safety and efficacy of PTSD psychotherapy delivered remotely, ensuring veterans will get the same quality of PTSD care as if they were in a doctor's office at a VA medical center," said VA Secretary David Shulkin. "We are excited to see this program help greater numbers of veterans living in rural areas and pleased that it will save them time and effort to get to a VA facility that is far from their homes."

Dr. John Fortney, a research health scientist at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle, Washington, is leading the project. "Long travel distances to urban areas can be a major barrier to care for rural veterans," Fortney said. "In a prior trial, we were able to use telehealth technologies successfully to engage veterans in evidence-based, trauma-focused therapy without their having to travel to a distant VA medical center." To date, more than 500 rural veterans who are not receiving specialty PTSD care have enrolled in the study. The participants may choose between the two main forms of evidence-based, trauma-focused psychotherapy used in VA: cognitive processing therapy and prolonged exposure therapy.

Veterans participating in the program receive frequent phone calls from a care manager who helps them access services provided by off-site psychiatrists and psychologists. The psychotherapy is delivered via interactive video from a VA medical center to a community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) or to the veteran's home. The telephone care manager also monitors the veterans' progress and helps them overcome barriers to care. The program includes 12 CBOCs across the nation in Charleston, SC; Iowa City, IA; Little Rock, AR; Denver, CO; San Diego, CA; and Seattle, WA. The results, which will be available in 2020, will lay the groundwork for national implementation of the TOP program. To learn more about VA research on PTSD, visit www.research.va.gov/topics/ptsd.cfm.

BIG GAME HUNT OFFERED FOR 2 DISABLED VETERANS

The Idaho Division of Veteran Services will be coordinating an all-expense-paid deer or elk hunt for two disabled veterans in 2018. The purpose of the hunt is to offer disabled veterans an opportunity to participate in a big-game hunt that might otherwise be prevented by the seriousness of their disability.

Tags are provided at no charge to the successful applicant by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game under a special program. The selected veterans may choose antlered or antlerless deer or elk in compliance with established seasons. Specific tag information will be provided to the selected veteran. The hunt will occur on a private ranch in Unit 45, north of Mountain Home, Idaho. Hunt dates will need to be coordinated well in advance, based on established seasons. In most cases, hunts occur in October or early November. Hunters will be expected to provide their own transportation to Mountain Home or Boise. Rustic cabin/bunkhouse accommodations, meals, and on-site transportation and assistance will be provided at the ranch at no cost to the veteran. If the veteran has or requires a medical caregiver, these items will also be provided at no charge for the caregiver. The cabin/bunkhouse is not barrier-free, so hotel accommodations in Mountain Home will be provided if necessary. Hunters will need to make arrangements for their prescription and medical supplies, if any. Hunters will be responsible for their own meat processing and mounting in the event their hunt is successful.

Please fill out the application found on the next two pages of this bulletin or on the Idaho Division of Veterans Services web page at veterans.idaho.gov. Once completed, you can mail it to the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, Attn: Disabled Veterans or Elk Hunt, 351 Collins Road, Boise, ID 83702; fax it to (208) 780-1301; or email it to kevin.wallior@veterans.idaho.gov. **All personal information submitted will be confidential and used only by the selection committee.**

A committee consisting of personnel from Idaho Division of Veterans Services and Idaho veterans will make the final selections. The selected veterans will be notified by the Idaho Division of Veterans Services and will be contacted by the ranch to coordinate hunt dates and other specifics. Applications must be submitted no later than April, 30, 2018. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Kevin Wallior at (208) 780-1300 or via email at kevin.wallior@veterans.idaho.gov.

DISABLED VETERANS ELK HUNT APPLICATION

PERSONAL DATA

PLEASE PRINT

ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL & USED ONLY BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____ MIDDLE INITIAL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____ MIDDLE INITIAL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Will you be bringing your own firearm and ammunition?
(If not, a firearm and ammunition will be provided) Yes _____ No _____

Will a caretaker be accompanying you? Yes _____ No _____

Will you want the meat? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have the necessary clothing? Yes _____ No _____

What is your percent of disability? _____ %

Is your disability combat related? Yes _____ No _____

Please describe the nature and extent of your disability: _____

Please describe how and where you received your disability: _____

Do you have a copy of your DD Form 214?
(Please enclose a copy of your DD Form 214)

Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a disability letter from the Department of
Veterans Affairs?
(Please enclose a copy of your disability letter)

Yes _____ No _____

Do you require special meals?

Yes _____ No _____

If so, please list your special meal requirements: _____

Do you have any other special needs?

Yes _____ No _____

Would the extent of your disability require special
transportation during the hunt?
(ATV, wheelchair, crutches, walker, etc.)

Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a medical condition other than your disability
that could be aggravated during the hunt. If so list below.

Yes _____ No _____

WHY I WANT TO ATTEND AN ELK HUNT

Please answer in 200 words or less why you want to attend a big game hunt: _____

By signing below, I waive all liability connected with my participation in the hunt.

Applicant Name (printed): _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING CONFERENCE INVITATIONS GOING OUT IN EARLY APRIL

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The Idaho Division of Veterans Services 2018 Veterans Service Officer Training Conference is scheduled at the Riverside Hotel in Boise July 11, 12, and 13, 2018. Invitations and a tentative agenda will go out in the next two weeks, so if you don't receive one by the end of April and would like to attend, please contact Jennel Binsky at jennel.binsky@veterans.idaho.gov or (208) 780-1380.

VA EXPANDS TRANSPARENCY EFFORTS OF INSTITUTIONS RECEIVING GI BILL PAYMENTS

News Release, March 12, 2018

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As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) ongoing commitment to expand public transparency and accountability of agency expenditures, the VA released data showing GI Bill tuition and fee payments to VA-approved colleges, universities, and other education and training institutions across the country. Though there's no dispute about the success of the program, veterans and taxpayers still have a right to know where and how much money is being spent at these institutions," said VA Secretary David Shulkin. "VA is committed to becoming the most transparent organization in government."

The current available data spans fiscal years 2009 to 2017, and includes key information, such as names of institutions, states, countries, school classifications, number of enrolled beneficiaries, total amount paid to each institution by fiscal year, and grand total money spent. The GI Bill has long been noted for its popularity as one of the most successful programs administered by the VA for veterans and eligible family members. Millions of American veterans have benefited from this program, which assists them in starting, or continuing, their education after service to the nation. This information is posted at www.va.gov/transparency/Post-9-11-GI-Bill-Data and will be updated at the end of each fiscal year.

NEW NATIONAL CEMETERY IN TWIN FALLS

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The Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration is developing a new national cemetery in the Twin Falls area. The property was purchased in 2016. The land for this new cemetery is located at 1585 East, 4150 North, Buhl, Idaho, which is 14 miles west of Twin Falls. The new cemetery will serve more than 14,000 veterans, their spouses, and eligible family members located within the vicinity of Twin Falls.

The new cemetery will become the first VA national cemetery in the state. The Idaho State Veterans Cemetery is located 129 miles away and is open to new interments. The new cemetery is part of the National Cemetery Administration Rural Initiative Program. The initiative's primary goal is to build small national cemeteries in states without an open national cemetery. Of the 22 million veterans nationwide, 5.3 million live in rural communities. Between fiscal years 2006-2014, there was a 7% increase in VA-enrollment by veterans who reside in rural areas. The VA will construct in-ground casket and cremation burial sites, above-ground columbarium niches, a memorial wall, flagpoles, a memorial walkway, roads, and other infrastructure.

Burial in a VA national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and veterans who have met the minimum active duty service requirements, as applicable, and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or who die while on training duty under certain circumstances are also eligible for burial, as are servicemembers and former servicemembers who were eligible for retired pay at the time of their death. A veteran's spouse, minor children, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities, may also be eligible for burial, even if they predecease the veteran.

The VA provides the gravesite, grave liner, opening and closing of the grave, government headstone or marker, U.S. burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate, and perpetual care of the gravesite at no cost to the family. The VA now provides eligibility determinations for burials in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need. Pre-Need eligibility determinations assist veterans and families in making burial plans ahead of time and help VA beneficiaries use the benefits they have earned. Additional information about the VA Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program is available on the VA website at www.cem.va.gov/preneed.

The VA operates 135 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico. Almost 4 million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in the VA's national cemeteries. The VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve, and maintain 105 veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, the VA provides headstones, markers, or medallions to commemorate their service. Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, online at www.cem.va.gov, or by calling the VA at (800) 827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (800) 535-1117.

VA OPEN APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACE PLEDGE GAINS MOMENTUM

News Release, March 19, 2018

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced to further accelerate the benefits of the VA Open Application Programming Interface (API) pledge, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin has asked Dr. Rasu Shrestha, chief innovation officer at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, to lead the initiative. “I am excited to see this vision become a reality, and am actively seeking other health-care systems to join our pledge, and ask developers to take part in our Lighthouse Lab, so we can shape a new direction for health care together,” Shulkin said. Shulkin announced the pledge March 9th at the annual Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society Conference in Las Vegas, where 11 health-care providers initially signed up to partner with the VA. To date, several additional institutions have expressed interest in joining the pledge.

The API pledge encourages health-care providers to commit to work collaboratively with the VA to increase the mapping pace of health data to industry standards, including the current and future versions of Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR). Considered the “front door” to the VA’s vast data stores, Lighthouse is the department’s application programming interface management platform, and functions similar to a waiter’s role in a restaurant — the critical link communicating orders to the “kitchen.” For the VA, the kitchen is the system that will prepare the order then deliver it back to the waiter, or API. The coalition effort includes key stakeholders across the industry to elevate electronic health record (EHR) interoperability and realize the potential of the Open API Pledge to accelerate the design, testing, and implementation of the Argonaut Project implementation guides of the FHIR API. Shrestha added, “There is no moment greater than now for the industry to step up and make their voices heard to push towards real and meaningful interoperability. This is an important moment for the private sector to answer the Secretary’s call and work with our vendors to make information flow and use as freely accessible as possible to make care safer and better for veterans.”

Pledgees will meet for the first roundtable discussion in April and commit to working with the VA and standards community to implement the existing Argonaut implementation guides. The organizations will participate in testing draft specifications for scheduling, clinical notes, questionnaire, and encounters, as well as implement access standards for veterans, clinicians, and the care teams that serve them. Stephen Klasko, president and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health and current pledgee, said, “Just as our veterans deserve the best technology when they are defending our country, they deserve the best health-care technology when they return. Dr. Shulkin’s leadership in assembling the open API pledge is not only important for veterans but is an important first step in creating seamless electronic records for all U.S. citizens.”

VA & U.S DIGITAL SERVICE LAUNCH NEW WEB TOOL TO TRACK BENEFIT APPEALS

News Release, March 23, 2018

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S Digital Service announced their launch of an improved Appeals Status tool to increase transparency and enable veterans to track the progress of their benefits claims appeals. “It’s important that our veterans have the opportunity to track their appeals process in a timely and efficient manner,” said VA Secretary David Shulkin. “For the first time ever, veterans can see their place on the Board of Veterans’ Appeals’ docket, including the number of appeals that are ahead of them.”

The tool, which went live March 21st on the VA’s Vets.gov website, will allow veterans to access detailed information about the status of their benefits appeals and will include alerts about needed actions, as well as estimates of how long each step of the process takes. Some veterans who have previewed the new tool said it had given them hope and helped them understand that the process might take longer than expected.

GO GREEN AND GET THE BULLETIN VIA EMAIL

In our continual effort to reduce costs and lessen our “ecological footprint,” the Office of Veterans Advocacy is again asking for your help. In order to reduce printing and mailing costs, as well as the amount of paper used, we are asking you to volunteer to receive the bulletin via email.

The bulletin will arrive in your in-box every quarter as a Word document, which will allow to you forward or print and disseminate as many copies as you like. In addition to receiving the quarterly bulletin, you will also receive our annual Veterans Resource Directory via email.

If you can help us with our goal of reducing costs and the saving paper, please email Jennel Binsky at jennel.binsky@veterans.idaho.gov. Thanks for your help with this most worthwhile endeavor! And don’t forget you can always view and print the Bulletin and Resource Directory by visiting our website at www.veterans.idaho.gov.

DAV VAN SCHEDULES TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL CENTERS

BOISE & SURROUNDING AREA TO BOISE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For more information call Jim Rossette at the Boise VA Medical Center (208) 422-1000 ext. 7555.

* Homedale, Marsing, and Canyon County: Call Laverne Gillum (208) 422-1000 ext. 7555.

Pickup points: Star Star Merc
Middleton Downtown Shell Station
..... Shell Station at exit 25 of I-84
Notus Shell Station
Parma M&W Market
Wilder Shell Station
Homedale Shell Station
Caldwell Chevron at 10th Avenue South & the freeway
..... Emergency entrance of West Valley Medical Center
..... Maverick at 10th Avenue South & Ustick
..... 20248 Hoskins Road
Nampa Karcher Mall near Ross Dress for Less
..... Albertson's at 7th Street & 12th Avenue South
..... D and B Supply on 12th Avenue South
Melba/Bowmont Chevron at Greenhurst & Southside
..... McDonalds at exit 38 of the freeway
Kuna West side of the Winco parking lot

* Weiser, Payette, Ontario, Emmett, and surrounding area: Call Lori Walla (208) 919-5733

Pickup points: Emmett Tom's Cabin Restaurant
..... Subway near Albertson's
..... Stinker Station
Fruitland Shell Station at Palisades Corner
..... Shell Station at the highway
Middleton (Caldwell) 44 Quick Stop
New Plymouth Lowell's Market at 5 Corners
..... Hamilton Corners at Highways 52 & 30
Nyssa Anderson Corner
..... McDonalds at West Park Plaza
Ontario McDonalds at West Park Plaza
..... McDonalds at K-Mart
..... Shell Station at the freeway
..... Shell Station on Idaho
..... The Elk's
Payette Albertson's
..... Jerry's Market on 6th
..... Kings Variety/Maverick at Highway 95
Weiser Sinclair Station at Highway 95
..... Maverick Station at Highway 95
..... Chevron Station
..... Pioneer Market
..... Ridley's Market

* Twin Falls, Jerome, Lincoln, Gooding, and Elmore Counties: Call Calvin Armstead (208) 733-7610 ext. 2415.

Pickup points: Twin Falls Sheriff's Office
Filer Logan's Market
Buhl Oasis Stop-N-Go
Jerome Ridley's Market
Gooding Ridley's Market
Wendell Farmhouse
Bliss Ziggy's
Hammett Valley Market
Glenns Ferry Shell Station
Mountain Home Foothills Chevron, Albertson's, & Exit 90 Chevron/Burger King

* Cassia, Minidoka, and Blaine Counties: Call Georgia Greenwell (208) 678-3599 or 878-2565.

Pickup points: Burley Sheriff's Office
..... Exit 211 Wayside
..... Exit 208 Hub 66
..... Greenwood Store

* Southeast Oregon - Baker City, Haines, Halfway, Huntington, John Day:

Call Carl Swinyer (541)-894-2546, Robert Warner (541)523-5340 or the VFW Hall (541) 523-4988.

DAV VAN SCHEDULES TO AND FROM THE SPOKANE VA MEDICAL CENTER

LEWISTON & SURROUNDING AREA

Wednesdays: Spokane VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Genesee, Moscow, Viola, Potlatch, Tensed, Plummer, and Worley. Arrives Spokane at 9:30 a.m.

Fridays: Spokane VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Uniontown, Colton, Pullman, Colfax, Steptoe, Rosalia, and Spangle, WA. Arrives Spokane at 9:00 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

*****If you are interested in being a volunteer driver, please call Voluntary Services at (509) 434-7503*****

LIBBY & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 6:00 a.m. departure from Libby, MT.

Picks up in Troy MT, Bonner's Ferry, Sandpoint, Priest River, and Newport WA. Arrives at Spokane VA Medical Center at 9:00 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

COEUR D'ALENE & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

Daily: Door to door pick up and return, times variable.

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

SANDPOINT & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays:

Picks up in Noxon, Clark Fork, Hope, Sandpoint, Laclede, Priest River, Newport, Diamond Lake, Chattaroy. Arrives at Spokane at 9:00 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940 ext. 7019.

WALLA WALLA VA MEDICAL CENTER VAN TO AND FROM LEWISTON

Thursdays: Walla Walla VA Medical Center Van. 8:00 a.m. departure from the CBOC at 1630 23rd Avenue, Building 2.

Arrives at Walla Walla at 10:00 a.m. Departs Walla Walla at 1:30 p.m. Arrives Lewiston at 3:30 p.m.

*****If your appointment runs past the departure time of 1:30, there is no alternative for returning to Lewiston*****

SALT LAKE CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER

April 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 30

May 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 30

June 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29

All appointments for rides should be made 72 hours in advance.

Call the VTS/DAV Transportation Office at (800) 613-4012 ext. 2003 or 1027.

