

The Lycoming Vet

Volume 8, Issue 1

January, 2015

A SNEAK PEAK AT WHAT'S INSIDE



Holiday Blessings

Wishing Everyone a Happy and Safe New Year!

VAMC Wilkes-Barre Toll Free: 1-877-928-2621

Thanksgiving Blessing

We would like to give a BIG thank you to Fed Ex for putting together bags full of canned goods, toiletries, and other odds and ends, for our Veterans and their families of Lycoming County.



CHECK PRESENTATION

On December 12, 2014 two checks were presented to the Williamsport Vet Center, Department of Veterans Affairs. Jack Dudek representing the VFW Post 3428 of Muncy PA, and George Heiges Jr representing the American Legion Post 251 of Montgomery PA, both presented Lori Raffensberger, Team Leader with a \$1000.00 check from each organization. These donations help the Vet Center with their Annual Vet Picnic they put on every summer.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	PAGE
Sneak Peak Of Volume 7, Issue 2	1
Thanksgiving Thank You & Check Presentation	2
Christmas Gifts	3
Project New Hope	4
Project New Hope (Continued)	5
American Legions, VFWs, and Other Vet Organizations	6
Your Reps In Washington & Harrisburg	7
News From the County, State, and U.S. VA	8
Your Local VA Clinic, Vet Center, Career Link	9
Contact Information, Holidays	10

Be a Santa to a Senior

Home Instead Senior Care



This year Home Instead and Veterans Affairs Office set out to put a smile on local veterans and widows of veterans by giving them a Christmas surprise. They collected some names and picked a few gifts for those who are housebound or receiving in home care. George Heiges Jr, Director of Veterans affairs along with his Secretary Natalie Miller had the privilege to deliver these presents to many thankful veterans and widows. This is the first year they have done this program and they plan to continue this program and serve more and more every year.

~Thank you Home Instead

Montgomery American Legion, Post 251

Traveled to Wilkes-Barre VA Hospital on Sunday December 14, and passed out 169 gifts to Veterans.





Project New Hope

Helping PA Disabled Veterans & Their Families

- Project New Hope was founded by caring individuals who understand that for disabled veterans and their families, the wartime experience does not end the day a disabled veteran comes home. The effects are often felt throughout a disabled veteran's entire lifetime and can have an impact on each family member, often in ways that may be quite subtly, or hidden from view.
- Healing and understanding is vital to life success after military service. Each family member will deal with what has happened in their own way. Returning disabled veterans face the challenge of transitioning from military to civilian life. For many, they feel alone and forgotten. Spouses and children may struggle, first when their loved one being home and then another adjustment after their return.
- No matter which era a soldier served, ALL PA Disabled Veterans and their families are welcome.
- There is no charge for PA Disabled Veterans and their families with Project New Hope. Donations are greatly appreciated.

2015 Sessions

Retreat Dates	Registration Deadline
July 26-29, 2015	July 16, 2015
August 6-9, 2015	July 27, 2015

To sign-up for a Retreat please contact PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp

Address: 114 State Route 103 S
Mount Union, PA 17066

Phone Number: 814-542-2511
Email: beaconlodgecamp@verizon.net

**Applications also available at the Lycoming County Veterans Affairs Office
330 Pine Street, Williamsport PA 17701**



PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp, located in Mount Union, PA in central Pennsylvania, offers an ideal outdoor retreat that encompasses 583 acres of scenic mountain woodland with fully accessible facilities, accommodations and activities. Beacon Lodge began in 1948 to provide blind and visually impaired individuals the opportunity to enjoy a camping experience.

The Main Lodge, which serves as the Adult Camp, houses a large dining room, kitchen, living room, library, a sun porch and guest rooms. It also includes a canteen, infirmary, an activity/ art room and family accommodations.

Camp Facilities Include:

- Large Outdoor Pavilion
- Playground & Nature Trails
- Outdoor Bowling Alleys
- Wheel-Chair Accessible Outdoor Heated Pool
- Lake for Fishing & Paddle boating
- Mountain & Tandem Bikes
- Camping Facilities
- Climbing Tower
- Zip Line & More!



The children's Village area of the camp includes 12 air conditioned cabins complete with bathroom facilities and individual storage cabinets for personal items. Each cabin can accommodate up to seven family members. The cabin area includes a dining hall, infirmary, art room, laundry facility and activity center.

**To make a contribution to this worthy program,
please send your donations to:**

Beacon Lodge/ Project New Hope

114 State Route 103 S Mount Union, PA 17066

AMERICAN LEGIONS, VFW's & OTHER COUNTY VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS



American Legion Post 1-

Garrett Cochran
10 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-323-9409

Veterans of the Vietnam War – Post PA 51

P.O. Box 23, Hughesville, PA 17737
Phone: 570-547-2814

American Legion Post 35-

Glenn Sharrow
78 N. Main St., Hughesville, PA 17737
Phone: 570-584-2123

VFW Post 3428-

Edward J. Smith Post
12 N Market St., Muncy, PA 17756
Phone: 570-546-3820

American Legion Post 36 -

George Webster Pepperman
P.O. Box 211, Jersey Shore, PA 17740
Phone: 570-398-4174

VFW Post 5859-

Billy O. Brandt Post
201 N. Lincoln Ave., Jersey Shore, PA 17740
Phone: 570-398-2801

American Legion Post 104 -

Eugene Grafius
1312 Broad St., Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 570-368-9000

VFW Post 7863-

Le Roy O. Buck Post
150 Shaffer St., South Williamsport, PA 17702
Phone: 570-323-1579

American Legion Post 251 -

Bower Decker
185 Broad St., Montgomery, PA 17752
Phone: 570-547-2039

VFW POST 844-

Howard W. Kahler Post
1260 West 3rd Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-326-2752

American Legion Post 268 -

Roland Ritter
515 Legion Rd., Muncy, PA 17756
Phone: 570-546-5210

Forty & Eight Voiture 382

345 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-322-1670

American Legion Post 617 -

Royal P. Steinbacher
901 Market Street, South Williamsport,
PA 17702
Phone: 570-327-0255

Susquehanna Valley Chapter 47 of The Disabled American Veterans

P.O. Box 3372, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-567-4554

American Legion Post 999 -

West Branch Service Post
2985 Four Mile Drive, Apt. 107
Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 570-447-1572

Williamsport Detachment 388 Marine Corp League Inc.

P. O. Box 3245, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-323-9900

Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County, Inc.

P. O. Box 3232, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-745-3775 (Military Funerals)

Your Reps in Washington & Harrisburg



U.S. Representative Thomas Marino— 10th Congressional District

Williamsport District Office
1020 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 1A
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-322-3961
Fax: 570-322-3965
Office Hours: M-F 9-5
Website: <http://marino.house.gov/>



PA State Senator Gene Yaw— Senate District 23

330 Pine Street, Suite 204	One Progress Plaza, Suite 13
Williamsport, PA	Towanda, PA 18848
Phone: 570-322-6457	Phone: 570-265-7448
Fax: 570-327-3703	Fax: 570-268-4313
Toll-free: 1-800-443-5772	
Website: http://senatorgeneyaw.com/	Email: gyaw@pasen.gov



PA State Representative Garth D. Everett— 84th Legislative District

Penn Hills Plaza, Halls Station	Tiadaghton Valley Mall
21 Kristi Road, Suite 2	Room 105
Muncy, PA 17756	Jersey Shore, PA 17740
Phone: 570-546-2084	Phone: 570-398-4476
Fax: 570-546-5220	Fax: 570-398-5963
Office Hours: M-F 9-5	Office Hours: M-F 9-4:30
Website: http://www.repeverett.com/	Email: geverett@pahousegop.com



PA State Representative Jeff C. Wheeland— 83rd Legislative District

Penn Hills Plaza, Halls Station	414 Irvis Office Building
21 Kristi Road, Suite 1	P.O. Box 202083
Muncy, PA 17756	Harrisburg, PA 17120-2083
Phone: 570-321-1270	Phone: Toll Free 1-855-249-8373

Not sure who your representative is? Find out at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/countylist.cfm?CNTYLIST=LYCOMING>

FROM THE LYCOMING COUNTY VA OFFICE:

Would you like to have a VA Benefit Seminar at a Nursing Home, Legion, VFW, or Other Organization? Have George come and speak to the Veterans and Widows about what they could be eligible for through the VA. Call our office at 570-327-2365 to set it up.

Home Loans? Contact Bob Brown, Sr. Loan Officer at Allentown Mortgage Corp. VA Loan Specialist/ Residential Financing.

Phone: 610-883-7601 or 484-494-6593

Email: bobbrown@worldlynx.net

Web: www.allentownmortgage.com

Licensed by the PA Dept. of Banking

FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:

Are you rated 100% disabled by the VA? Then you may be eligible for real estate tax exemption and free hunting and fishing licenses. Call 570-327-2365 for more information.

If you or anyone you know are interested in being trained for an Honor Guard position please contact the VA office at 570-327-2365.

Important information to Know when Transitioning from TRICARE Prime to Standard.

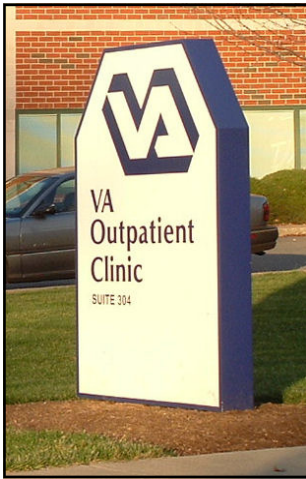
- You can still see your same doctor.
- Costs for care will change.
- Your health care prior authorizations are still valid.

Be aware that your out-of-pocket costs for existing care will change from TRICARE Prime copayments to TRICARE Standard (Extra) cost-shares and deductibles on **October 1, 2013**.

If you have any other questions or concerns please contact us at 570-327-2365



VA Outpatient Clinic



The VA Outpatient Clinic was established July 1997 on the Campus of Divine Providence Hospital in the Wenner Building, 1705 Warren Avenue, Suite 304, Williamsport, PA **Phone:** 570-322-4791 **Fax:** 570-322-5170
Open: Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Scheduled appointments only
~ No Emergency Services/No walk-ins

Services Include: Primary Care, Enrollment/Eligibility forms, Psychiatry, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Social Services, Counseling, Lab, Nutrition services, and Immunizations.

The VA Clinic has a social worker at the clinic on Tuesday and Thursday. Her name is Chris Veach; please call the clinic at (570) 322-4791 to schedule an appointment.

Vet Center

The Vet Center is located at Suite 104, 49 East Fourth Street, Williamsport, next to the James V. Brown Library. Phone 327-5281. All services provided by the Vet Center are **FREE OF CHARGE**. These include readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members. These include:

- individual and group counseling: women, spouses, WWII, Korean, Vietnam, OEF/OIF, and other combat veterans.
- group counseling
- marital and family counseling
- bereavement counseling



- substance abuse information and referral
- referral in applying for VA Benefits, job counseling and educational VA benefits
- referral for homeless vets
- military sexual trauma (male and female) counseling & referral
- outreach and community education

Pennsylvania
CareerLink
LYCOMING COUNTY

The PA Career Link—Lycoming County office is located at 329 Pine Street in Williamsport and is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Contact: Timothy French

E-mail: tifrench@state.pa.us

Phone: 570-601-5934

Online: www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us



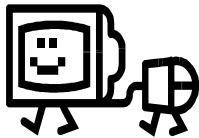
**Lycoming County Office Of
Veterans Affairs**

330 Pine Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
Suite 401
Executive Plaza Building
Mailing Address:
48 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-327-2365

County Commissioners
Tony R. Mussare,
Chairman
Ernest P. Larson,
Vice Chairman
Jeff W. Rauff,
Secretary



For up-to-date
News and
Information
For Veterans



The Lycoming Vet
is published
by the Office of
Veterans Affairs
in Lycoming County, PA

We are here to help you . . .

MSGT George W. Heiges (Ret.)

Lycoming County Director of Veterans Affairs

570-327-2365 gheiges@lyco.org

- Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Twenty- one years USAF

David A. Keene

Assistant Director of Veterans Affairs

570-327-2365 dkeene@lyco.org

- Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Four years USMC

To make an appointment, please contact

Natalie Miller at: 570-320-2101

Office Hours

Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday– Thursday: Scheduled Appointments Only
Friday: Walk-Ins 9:00 AM- 4:30 PM
Closed weekends and major holidays.

The Lycoming County VA

Office Will Be Closed:

New Year’s Day- Thursday, January 1, 2015
Martin Luther King Jr. Day– Monday, January 19, 2015
President’s Day– Monday, February 16, 2015

**Do you have announcements
or information to share???**

The Lycoming County Office of Veterans Affairs invites you to submit articles and items of interest to be published in the next edition of *The Lycoming Vet*.

For questions or to make submissions,
please contact Natalie Miller at the Veterans Affairs Office.