



Moore County Veterans Council

March 10 at 10:25pm ·

The February meeting was held at Post 12 of the American Legion in Carthage. See below for the list of attendees.

- American Legion Post 12, Carthage
- American Legion Post 177, Southern Pines
- Daughters of American Revolution, Alfred Moore Chapter
- Disabled American Veterans Chapter 83, Moore County
- Military Officers Association of America, Sandhills Chapter
- Special Forces Association Chapter 62
- Veterans Motorcycle Club, Pinehurst Chapter
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7318, Southern Pines
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 966

To learn about our county's veterans, the below summary of the information taken from Veterans Data Central website maintained by the Housing Assistance Council located at: <http://veteransdata.info/report...>

- Veteran population.
 - *** The 10,134 veterans that make up the county constitute 14.7% of it.
 - *** The veteran population consists of 92.6% males.
- Veteran served in the below periods which include veterans serving in multiple eras.
 - *** WWII: 12.9%
 - *** Korean War: 15.5%
 - *** Vietnam War: 33.8%
 - *** Gulf War I: 19.9%
 - *** Gulf War II: 12.4%
 - *** Other: 21.2%
- Veteran demographics.
 - *** The percentage of veterans with service connected disability is 15.1%.
 - *** The percentage of veterans living below the poverty level is 4.9%.

See the below list of events which the group also discussed at the meeting.

- Woodlawn Cemetery Cleanup:
 - *** The event is slated for 12 March 2016 starting at 0800.
 - *** Please bring your own rakes & gloves to assist with the efforts since Memorial Day is coming up soon.
- American Legion Birthday Celebration:

*** The Post 177 of the West Southern Pines will celebrate the birthday of the American Legion on 15 March 2016 at 1800 hours.

*** This event is open to other veterans and their families who would like to attend.

- Veterans Day Parade:

*** Preparation meetings are on-going once a month on the third Thursday.

- North Carolina Canine Handling Clinic:

*** The Hearts for Heroes will hold canine hand and agility course on 18-22 March 2016 from 0900 to 1530 hours.

*** Call 844-224-4487 or e-mail us at info@h4hus.org for registration and location address.

*** Free clinic for Veterans and Active Duty Military.

- Veterans Resource Fair & Stand Down in Sanford:

*** The committee stand down will host a Veterans Resource Fair and Stand Down for Lee and surrounding counties on 30 March 2016 at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic Center located at 1801 Nash Street Sanford, NC 27330 from 0900 until 1400.

*** The Post 177 of the American Legion will support this effort.

*** See flyer at: http://www.cccc.edu/.../veteransR.../Flyer_Vet-Resource-Fair.pdf.

- Steeplechase Warriors 5K:

*** The Carolina Horse Park in Raeford is proud to support Operation Enduring Warrior, Team RWB and Hearts 4 Heroes US in offering the Steeplechase Warriors 5K at 0800 hours on 9 April 2016.

*** All proceeds from the race will benefit these three organizations.

*** The registration period runs through 8 April 2016 for a cost of \$25 per person.

*** Register at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/?raceId=30098>.

- VMC Anniversary:

*** The Pinehurst Chapter of the VMC celebrates its anniversary in the beginning of April 2016 at their clubhouse.

*** More details to follow.

- Air Show:

*** The Blue Angels will conduct an air show at MCAS Cherry Point, NC.

*** The air show shall be on 30 April 2016 & 1 May 2016 with each air show scheduled from 1000 to 1700 hours.

*** Learn more at: <https://www.blueangels.navy.mil/show/>.

- Henry Rifle Raffle Fundraiser:

*** The Post 12 of the American Legion will be selling tickets for \$1 for 1 ticket or \$5 for 7 tickets.

*** The tickets are available from all post members, Eastwood Service Station, Champion Car Wash, Carthage Shooting Sports and various locations around town each weekend.

*** First prize is a .30/30 Henry Rifle, second prize is \$350 & third prize is \$250.

*** The drawing shall be held during the Buggy Festival on 7 May 2016.

- Veterans Day in Raleigh:

*** The North Carolina Veterans Council has set 11 May 2016 as the Veterans Day at the Legislative Building in Raleigh.

*** Each veteran's organization will have a display table along with visits to our respective representatives to talk about issues and pending bills involving military personnel, veterans and their families.

- Women Veterans Summit:

*** The NC Women Veterans Summit & Expo shall be held on 25 May 2016 at McKimmon Center on NCSU campus (1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh).

*** The event will feature Onsite Assistance VBA Assistance, Health and Well-being, eBenefits Support, Vet Center Education & Training, VA Home Loans & Business Opportunities.

*** View the flyer at: <http://www.nc4vets.com/.../2016%20WVSE%20Save%20the%20Date%20....>

- Annual American Flag Placements:

*** The VFW Post 7318 leads the effort to place US flags by each veteran's grave marker for Memorial Day at Woodlawn Cemetery in Southern Pines at 1800 hours on 27 May 2016.

- Freedom Starts at Home Weekend:

*** The Duskin & Stephens Foundation will partner with Team Red, White & Blue to hold the event from 1800 hours on 26 May to 2100 hours on 28 May 2016 at Pinehurst.

*** The Weekend will include a CrossFit Hero Workout, 5 Mile Buddy Relay Run/Walk and Golf Tournament and dinner, pairing a threesome with an active duty Green Beret or Navy SEAL.

- Annual Duskin & Stephens Foundation Golf Tournament:

*** The Duskin & Stephens will host their third annual golf tournament at Pinehurst number 5 on 28 May 2016.

*** See link for details: <http://duskinandstephens.org/golf-tournament.html>.

- Memorial Day Ceremony:

*** The VFW Post 7318 sponsors a Memorial Day Ceremony at Woodlawn Cemetery on 30 May 2016 at 1100 hours.

*** The Sandhills Chapter of MOAA sponsors a Memorial Day Ceremony in the Pinehurst Village Chapel on 30 May 2016 at hours.

- DAV Run to Honor Veterans:

*** The Disabled American Veterans Chapter 83 will host a “Run to remember veterans” on 4 June 2016 at the Moore County Veterans Memorial in Carthage.

*** The registration costs of \$25.

*** The race starts 0800 hours.

• VFW Post 7318 Fundraiser Golf Tournament:

*** The post will hold the golf tournament at Hyland Golf Club located in Southern Pines on 7 August 2016.

*** For more information, e-mail post7318golfing@gmail.com for more details & to inquire about sponsorship opportunities. Sign up begins 1 June.

See below for other useful information:

• Durham VAMC Meetings:

*** The VAMC held its next quarterly Town Hall meeting will hold its next meeting in 29 March 2016 in the Canteen Atrium from 1630 to 1830 hours.

• Fayetteville VAMC Meetings:

*** The VAMC will hold its next quarterly Town Hall meeting on 18 March 2016 at Fayetteville Health Care Center.

*** The next meeting of the Veterans Advisory Council on 18 April 2016 at Fayetteville Health Care Center.

*** The VAMC expects the construction on the Sanford Community Based Outpatient Clinic to be completed by early spring.

• Healthcare Equipment Available:

*** The VFW Post 7318 has crutches & a couple of mobile wheelchairs available for veterans to borrow.

• Need Information from TRICARE for Tax Year 2015:

*** The Affordable Care Act requires you to maintain basic health care coverage—called minimum essential coverage. If you don't have coverage, you may have to pay a fee for each month you aren't covered.

*** As you prepare your taxes this year, please be sure to visit the Proof of Minimum Essential Coverage page on TRICARE.mil.

• Winston-Salem Veterans Affairs Regional Office Update:

*** The priority one claims is as follows:

>>>> Homeless, Terminally ill, Medal of Honor Recipients, Former POWs, Financial Hardships, OIF/OEF, VSI/SI, Pre-discharge, & Fully Developed Claims.

>>>> Claims pending over 125 days and Roll-Overs

• Making Sense of VA Disability Claims:

*** The Disabled American Veterans created five new “quick reference” videos that outline everything from who should file a claim to what to expect after receiving a decision on a claim.

*** The videos are concise, to the point and designed to be free of confusing government jargon.

*** View the videos at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist...>

• Appeals Process at the Local VA Regional Benefits Office Level:

*** If you disagree with VA's decision for any reason – the effective date of your award, the rating percentage you were given or the reason you were denied – you should file a Notice of Disagreement (NOD) within one year from VA decision date.

*** You have several rights:

>>>> Submit new evidence.

>>>> Request a de novo review by a senior-level, highly experienced claim processor who can grant your appeal, deny your appeal and issue an SOC, or order additional information / exam.

>>>> Ask to testify and present evidence at a telephone or in-person hearing.

*** Learn more at: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/.../the-appeals-process-appeals-at-t.../>.

• Home Depot Now Accepting Applications for Community Impact Grants:

*** Each year, the Home Depot Foundation awards grants up to \$5,000, are available to IRS-registered 501c designated organizations & tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that serve veterans plus their families or involve veterans volunteering to help other veterans where they live.

*** Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials or services.

*** View an application guide at: <http://www.vfw.org/.../2016HomeDepotGrantStepByStepInstructio....>

*** Apply at: <http://homedepotfoundation.org/page/applying-for-a-grant>.

• VA Reevaluates Blue Water Navy Definition:

*** The Department of Veterans Affairs reevaluated and clarified its definition of “inland waterways” on 4 February 2016 per the Veterans Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims decision, Gray v. McDonald.

*** For purposes of adjudicating disability claims regarding Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam, VA will now determine if a body of water is considered an inland waterway by drawing straight lines across the opening in the landmass leading to the open ocean or other offshore water feature, such as a bay or inlet.

• Team Red, White and Blue Involvement Benefits Veterans:

*** The officials from Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families released its new study on Team RWB that involved more than 270,000 individuals took part in group events last year.

*** Of veterans surveyed, 81% said their involvement made them feel more satisfied with their lives, 64% said it helped them maintain a healthier weight,

53% said it helped them better connect to their civilian peers & 70% said it helped them build a better network of professional contacts.

*** Download the full report at: <http://vets.syr.edu/ivmf-launches-new-measurement-releases.../>.

- Gulf War Newsletter:

*** The Department of Veterans Affairs published its winter 2016 newsletter.

*** The newsletter covers such topics light therapy for the brain & discussion on presumptive illnesses.

*** Access it here: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/.../gulfwar-newsletter-feb2016....>

- VA Improves Timeliness of Provider Payments:

*** To enhance Veterans' access to care and eliminate payment delays in Choice provider, the Department of Veterans Affairs is reducing the administrative burdens placed on VA community providers

*** Previously, payments to Choice providers were not allowed until a copy of the Veteran's medical record was submitted.

*** Now, community providers, under the Choice program, will no longer be required to submit medical records prior to payment being made.

*** Learn more details at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2755>.

- Active Duty Suicides Up, Reserve Component Suicides Down in 2014:

*** As seen in previous years, most service members who died by suicide in 2014 were men under age 30, mostly enlisted, white and married.

*** The 2014 deaths shared the below commonalities:

>>>> 50% had a mental health diagnosis, with the most common being mood or adjustment disorders or substance abuse.

>>>> In the enlisted ranks, infantry personnel, gun crews or seamanship specialties had the highest rates of suicide, 21%, followed by electrical or mechanical equipment repairers, 18.9%.

>>>> The occupational specialties with the highest suicide rates for officers were tactical operations, at 4.3%.

*** See more at: <http://t2health.dcoe.mil/.../files/CY-2014-DoDSEER-Annual-Repo....>

- Service Component Retiree Newsletters:

*** View the Army at: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retire.../echoes/latest-pf.pdf>.

*** View the Navy at: <http://www.public.navy.mil/.../Shift%20Colors%20Winter-Spring....>

*** View the Air Force at: <http://www.retirees.af.mil/.../me.../document/AFD-151005-019.pdf>.

*** View the Marines at: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/.../VOL%2060%20NO%20%201%20JAN%....>

NOTE: The next MCVV meeting will be held on 22 March 2016 at 7 pm at
TBD.