

The Lycoming Vet

Volume 10, Issue 1

January 2017

A SNEAK PEAK AT WHAT'S INSIDE



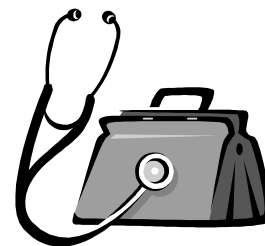
2017
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our Goal This Year:

Continued success in making sure our County Veterans and their Families receive VA Benefits that they are entitled to.

- George W. Heiges Jr.

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



Did you know?

If you were unable to get to your VA Hospital because of an emergency: you, your family, friends, or hospital staff need to contact one of the numbers within **72 hours** of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover.

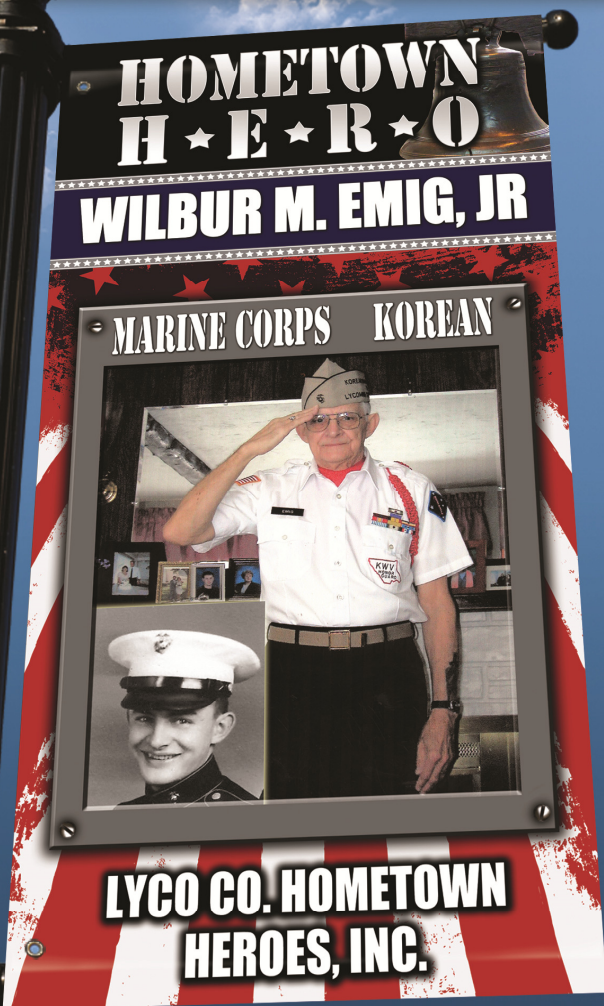
DAY: Utilization Management
8:00AM-4:00PM
EXT. *7258

NIGHT: Health Benefits Advisor
4:00PM-8:00AM
EXT. *7140

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Now Is The
Time To Sponsor
Your 2017

Hometown Hero Banner



EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:
Purchase Banner by April 1st &
recieve 15% off

SPECIAL OFFER:
With the purchase of this year's
banner we are offering, for sale,
a garden flag available for \$40.00

Deadline for Sponsorship is
September 1, 2017

All sponsorships - \$210

Banners Will Be Displayed
Beginning in October 2017

We now accept Paypal

Call Natalie Steppe at 570-320-2101, visit the website at
LYCO.ORG/VA, or stop by The Lycoming County
Veterans Affairs Office for more information
or to sponsor a banner.



Wreaths Across America



233 wreaths were placed at the Wildwood Cemetery on December 17, 2016 followed by a ceremony, where Congressman Tom Marino, Mayor Gabriel Campana, and Director of Veterans Affairs George Heiges, Jr spoke.



Military Share

**A FRESH EXPRESS PROGRAM FOR VETERANS
AND ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIERS!**

**HELD AT: VFW 7863 LEROY O. BUCK POST
150 SHAFFER STREET, DUBOISTOWN, PA
570-323-1579**

Military Share is a fresh express program of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and is designed to provide fresh, nutritious food for families with at least one member who is serving or who has served in the US Armed Forces.

This program is for the veterans of Lycoming County.

Each family will receive, fresh produce, deli and dairy products, pantry staples and meats, fish and poultry.

Please register your family below. Our distribution will be on the third Thursday of each month starting at 10:00am. Registration is **REQUIRED.**

Any questions regarding this program call 570-323-1579.

Name of Veteran: _____

Number of Members in Household: _____

Weekly Income: \$ _____

Branch of Service: _____

VA News



New Regulation Decreases Cost of Outpatient Medication Copay for Most Veterans

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulation on copayments for Veterans' outpatient medications for non-service connected conditions. VA currently charges non-exempt Veterans either \$8 or \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of outpatient medication, and under current regulations, a calculation based on the medication of the Medical Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) would be used to determine the copayment amount in future years.

“Switching to a tiered system continues to keep outpatient medication costs low for Veterans,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Reducing their out-of-pocket costs encourages greater adherence to prescribed outpatient medications and reduces the risk of fragmented care that results when multiple pharmacies are used; another way that VA is providing better service to Veterans.”

This new regulation eliminates the formula used to calculate future rate increases and establishes three classes of outpatient medications identified as Tier 1, Preferred Generics; Tier 2, Non-Preferred Generics including over-the-counter medications; and Tier 3, Brand Name. Copayment amounts for each tier would be fixed and vary depending upon the class of outpatient medication in the tier.

These copayment amounts will be effective February 27, 2017:

\$5 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 1 outpatient medication

\$8 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 2 outpatient medication

\$11 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 3 outpatient medication

These changes apply to Veterans without a service-connected condition, or Veterans with a disability rated less than 50 percent who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service connected condition, and whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law. Medication copayments do not apply to former Prisoners of War, catastrophically disabled Veterans, or those covered by other exceptions as set by law. Copayments stop each calendar year for Veterans in [Priority Groups 2-8](#) once a \$700 cap is reached.

More information on the new tiered medication copayment can be found at:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-12/pdf/2016-29515.pdf>

VA Announces Funding Opportunity for Community Partners Working to End Veteran Homelessness



WASHINGTON – Building on President Obama’s commitment to end Veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing the availability of funding for non-profit organizations and other groups that serve Veterans through VA’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families

(SSVF) program. The SSVF program assists very low-income Veteran families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. These SSVF grants are available to current grantees seeking renewals and make new funding available for eight high-need communities.

VA relies on strong, targeted collaborations in key areas at federal and local levels and engages community partners to develop innovative and forward-thinking solutions that can lead to scalable and replicable models of service. SSVF grantees currently operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam, working within their communities to end or prevent homelessness among Veteran families.

“One of the things you learn in the Army is you never leave a soldier behind,” said Secretary McDonald. “Unfortunately, we’ve left some people behind, and they’re our homeless Veterans. VA is committed to achieving the goal of ending Veteran homelessness, and we won’t rest until every homeless Veteran has a place to call home.”

SSVF grantees typically serve Veterans with incomes below 30 percent of the area median income.

Grantees must follow the housing first approach, which centers on permanently housing homeless Veterans quickly without preconditions and providing supportive services as needed. Additional SSVF requirements are that grantees engage in outreach to find and serve Veterans in need, provide Veterans with case management, and assist them in obtaining VA and other public benefits. SSVF served nearly 150,000 Veterans and their family members in fiscal year 2016. As a result of these and other efforts, Veteran homelessness is down significantly since the launch of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in 2010. Since 2010, homelessness among Veterans had dropped by 47 percent.

For more information about VA’s homeless programs, visit www.va.gov/homeless. The *Federal Register* notice of funding availability may be found at: www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp. The application deadline is February 3, 2017 at 4p.m. EST.

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
76 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: 570-8656216

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

Blue Star Mothers of America Inc. -

Chapter 12
P.O. Box 851
Williamsport, PA 17703
Phone: 570-772-4638

Williamsport Detachment 388

Marine Corp League Inc.
P. O. Box 3245, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-323-9900

United States Submarine Veterans Inc.-

Williamsport Base
Mailing: 160 North Broad St, Hughesville, PA 17737
Meeting Location: Zafar Gorotto Club
381 E. 2nd St, S. Williamsport, PA 17702
Phone: 570-244-1351

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
Website: http://www.repeverett.com/	Email: geverett@pahousegop.com



PA State Representative Jeff Wheeland— 83rd Legislative District

349 Pine Street Suite 1	Room 414 Irvis Office Building
Williamsport, PA 17701	P.O. Box 202083
Phone: 570-321-1270	Harrisburg, PA 17120-2083
Fax: 570-327-3719	Phone: 717-787-2885
Office Hours: M-F 8:30-4:30	
Website: www.repwheeland.com	Email: jwheeland@pahousegop.com

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.

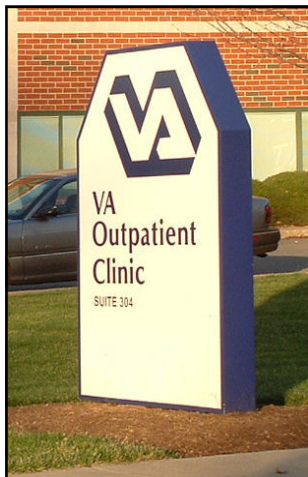
Be aware that your out-of-pocket costs for existing care will change from TRICARE Prime copayments to TRICARE Standard (Extra) cost-shares and deductibles on **October 1, 2013**.

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



MARINE CORPS BALL

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



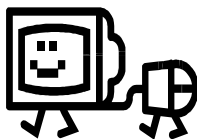
Lycoming County Office of Veterans Affairs

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
R. Jack McKernan,
Chairman
Tony R. Mussare,
Vice Chairman
Richard Mirabito,
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

(No Comp or Pension Claims, Info ONLY)

Closed weekends and major holidays.

The Lycoming County VA

Office Will Be Closed:

New Year’s Day– Monday January 2, 2017
Martin Luther King Jr. Day– Monday January 16, 2017
President’s Day– Monday February 20, 2017

**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.