

Disabled American Veterans Donate Two Vans to VAIHCS

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) recently donated a 12 passenger van and a 7 passenger van. The two vans will transport Veterans to and from their appointments at the VA hospital in Danville, Illinois. The 12 passenger van will be utilized to transport Veterans from Decatur, Illinois to Danville. Seven volunteer drivers coordinate the trips that are made on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Last year there were 147 trips made for 805 Veterans for a total of 25,425 miles. The 7 passenger van will be utilized to transport Veterans from Robinson, Illinois to Danville on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Three volunteer drivers coordinate the trips that last year saw 134 trips for 298 Veterans for a total of 24,218 miles.



Pictured left to right: Emma Metcalf, Director at VAIHCS accepts the keys from Bob Barrett, DAV Transportation

The DAV has a Transportation Coordinator, Bob Barrett, who coordinates these trips as well as others. Barrett works with the volunteer drivers and Veterans to see that they get transportation when needed so they can make their appointments.

Poker Run

The Danville Firefighters IAFF Local 429 in conjunction with the Friendly Tavern in Danville sponsored their 14th annual Poker Run on July 7th.

The Poker Run started and ended at the Friendly Tavern. This year the Poker Run Committee wanted to make it a patriotic theme and decided to donate the proceeds to VAIHCS and 40 & 8 which is a Veterans Organization. Each received \$4,425. VAIHCS will use this to purchase clothing for their clothing room that is utilized to provide clothes for Veterans needing it. VAIHCS will purchase all the clothes from stores in the Danville area. The 40 & 8 will utilize the money they received for nursing scholarships, which will be kept locally as well, being used at either the Lakeview School of Nursing or the Danville Area Community College.



Seated: Bob Sprouls, Chief Recreation Service, Ruth Sullivan from the Friendly Tap, Ryan Allison and Brad Tarquini both with the Danville Fire Fighters Local 429. Standing: Several members of 40 & 8 Veterans Organization.

A SPECIAL THANKS to the 375 riders that battled the extreme heat conditions. When the riders returned, they were given a meal and music for entertainment. There were raffles, 50/50 and a silent & live auction of merchandise that was donated from various businesses throughout the local area. Much appreciation goes to all the Corporate Sponsors who generously helped to fund this event.

Executive Corner

As we focus on the future we always want to look at new ways of doing things by being more creative and efficient. I want all employees to look at how you can do your job more effectively. Look at ways to improve processes. You know your job better than anyone else so as you go about your job see how you might be able to do things more efficient and provide better service for our Veterans. I challenge everyone to come up with new processes and share these with your supervisor and service chief.



Our budget for the next couple of years will more than likely be challenging. So this is even more of a reason each of us need to see how we can improve the processes with our duties and responsibilities. Lean thinking and systems redesign is going to be very important in the coming years. If you have the opportunity to go to training on lean thinking and systems redesign, I encourage you to sign up. The tools you learn through this training will allow you to think differently as you look to improve your thought processes.

I will be having a retreat/team building session with Ms. Carranza, Dr. Rozario and Ms. Coe in the near future. Just as I am asking you to re-evaluate the processes you utilize in doing your job, so should the Quad. We are here to support you and by doing so we need to be more creative and efficient as I am asking you to be.

In my first Executive Corner I wrote in March 2012 I talked about the four principles I care deeply about to ensure we are providing quality care for our Veterans. The principles are: Clinical Excellence, Patient Safety, Clean Environment and Employer of Choice. These four principles along with looking at new processes I feel we help us move forward to ensure our Veterans are in the middle surrounded by all of us and the services we provide.

Thanks for all you do for our Veterans!

***Emma Metcalf, MSN, RN
Director***

Calendar of Events

Coast Guard Day

August 4

Assistance Dog Week

August 5 - 11

National Health Center Week

August 5 - 11

Atomic Bomb Dropped on Hiroshima (1945)

August 6

Purple Heart Day

August 7

U.S. War Department Established (1789)

August 7

Operation Desert Shield Begins (1990)

August 7

Atomic Bomb Dropped on Nagasaki (1945)

August 9

National Aviation Day

August 19

Women's Equality Day

August 26

March on Washington, "I Have A Dream" Speech (1963)

August 28

Hurricane Katrina Strikes Gulf Coast (2005)

August 29

***Illiana News - Proudly Serving
Those Who Served***

Committee Members

Teresa Ard

David Boerst

Jaime Kanger

Doug Shouse

Bob Sprouls

Paper Recycling Employees Recognized

David Chin and James Parker, workers in the EMS Service, have received Bravo Awards from the Green Environmental Management Systems (GEMS) Committee for their activities collecting and recycling office paper. You may have seen David and Jim collecting paper from the confidential papers recycling bins. Their efforts have been so successful that during 2012 VAIHCS has actually recycled more paper than it has purchased.

If you see David and Jim making their rounds of the recycling bins, please be sure to congratulate them.

Daniel Kraybill, P.E.
GEMS Coordinator/IH



Pictured left to right: James Parker and David Chin.

June Unit Peer Leader (UPL) of the Month

Robert Wilson is our June UPL of the Month! Robert has taken his role as a UPL to the next level by encouraging staff participation, modeling safe patient handling (SPH) practices, and incorporating SPH within monthly unit meetings. As a UPL, Robert has worked as a liaison with the SPH coordinator in solving equipment storage issues and concerns on his unit. He is a promoter of the program, while protecting his co-workers from injury and leading them into safe patient handling, through positive reinforcement.

Thank you for all of your hard work and congratulations!

Amanda Stevens, RN, BSN, MSN
Safe Patient Handling Coordinator



Robert Wilson
June UPL

Proposal for the Annual Controlled Substance Inspection (CSI) Award Program

The Annual CSI Award Program year begins on July 1 of the current year and ends on June 30 of the succeeding year. Since 2012 will be the first year of the award program, the criterion requiring the CSI is active for more than six months is waived for 2012 only. Also, all retired CSI's whose appointments expired six months prior to July 1 are eligible for the award. All other criterion remains applicable.



Front row, L to R: Yvonna Orwig, Jimmie Evans, Katie Ashby, Janet Palmer, Karen Omark, Marti Fries, and Tina Kraemer.
Back row, L to R: Kathleen Bailey, Latosha Mayes, Rebecca Diskin, Ron Ponto, Sherrie Kuzian, Julie Crouch, and Latish Bell.

A combined award and CSI conference will take place in July. The conference portion of the program will include educational presentations and a question & answer session. Speakers will be invited to participate by discussing the controlled substance program from the viewpoint of their area of expertise.

Award Amount:

The 2012 Annual CSI Award Amount will be \$250.00. The amount for succeeding years will vary, depending upon the availability of funds. However, there will always be an annual award for qualifying CSI inspectors.

Qualifying Criteria:

- Must have been an active CSI more than six months of the award program year.
- Must have satisfactorily completed at least 4 inspections.
- Must have completed the annual TMS "Controlled Substance Inspection Certification" module in a timely manner, and provided a copy of the "Certificate of Completion" to the Controlled Substance Coordinator.
- Must have received a satisfactory Annual and/or Initial Competency Assessment.
- Must have addressed all inspections in a timely and accurate manner.

Disqualifying Criteria:

- If the inspector resigns his/her position prior to the end of the current award program year, the inspector no longer qualifies for the monetary award. Expired appointments are not considered resignations.
- If the inspector's Annual Competency Assessment is less than satisfactory, he/she does not qualify for the award.
- If the inspector fails any of the other qualifying criteria, he/she does not qualify for the "Annual CSI Award Program".

Wesley Grimes
Compliance Officer

Taste of Diversity 2012

VA Illiana Health Care System was rich in diverse activities the weeks of June 11 and June 18. Taste of Diversity carry-ins were held at the CBOCs and included food, music and stories from native lands. The Taste of Diversity event at Danville was held in the SAR on June 20th and was attended by 242 employees. Fifteen displays from around the globe and musical entertainment by Veteran, Mel Hoaks, met rave reviews. Finally, the Canteen offered daily menu specials from various nationalities from June 18-22. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee hopes to build on this year's events and include even more diversity to the menu in 2013!

Jill DeBord, LCSW



Staff had the opportunity to sample food from around the world.



Veteran Mel Hoaks provided musical entertainment.



Dr. Par explains the red dot placed on the forehead between the eyebrows is called "Bindi". The place between the eyebrows is considered the "sixth chakra" meaning "command center" that is considered as the outlet for flow of energy from the body. In ancient times in India a red dot made out of special powder placed between the eyebrows is believed to retain the energy and strengthen concentration. It is also used by women as an auspicious sign of marriage. In modern times Bindi is used more as a decoration and comes in various sizes, shapes and colors.

PMDB Master Trainer

Congratulations and a sincere thank you to Angella Kotcher, Nursing Educator! Angie recently received her "recalibration" as a PMDB Master Trainer. During that conference, she also participated as a trainer for others. She received an official

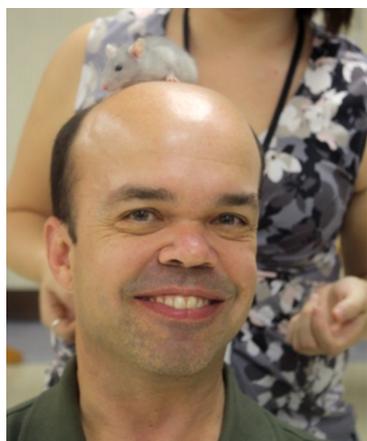


thank you for her efforts in preparing, conducting, and positive evaluations from others across the VA system who participated in her breakout session.

Way to go, Angie! And, thank you from all of us for your continued excellence as a PMDB Master Trainer and your dedication to the PMDB Program!

Robin R. Gordon, RN, BSN, MBA, FACHE
Chief Nurse, Operations/CBOCs/HBPC

1st Annual Pest Fair Held at VAIHCS



Last month the Integrated Pest Control Committee hosted the First Annual Pest Awareness Fair and it was a huge success! I personally want to thank everyone that attended and especially those that participated in the Fear Fact Bug Edition games -- you all were great sports! I also would like to thank the committee members for all of your hard work in making this fair such a hit; and a special thanks goes out to Suzi Robinson, David Sevilla, Jeff Scott, and

Dwight Marxman, without you this fair never would have happened.

I truly hope that everyone who attended had a lot of fun and learned a few things about pests and how to keep them out of our facility and away from our Veterans.

Patrick Runyan
Administrative Officer/EMS



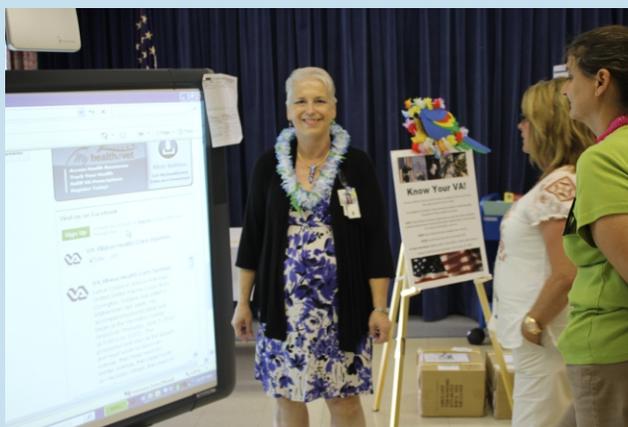
Education Fair Held at VAIHCS



If there's anything you want to know about the library -- just ask Nancy Vaglica!



Randi Talkowski, Clinical Educator, demonstrated the ability of our remote controlled medium fidelity simulation manikin to mimic human symptoms that require clinical action, such as moaning, vomiting and coughing.



Lynn Brown, Education Specialist, demonstrated the use a Promethean Board -- technology used for interactive teaching.

Education and Research held an Education Fair on June 18, 2012. Staff members shared information on the activities and services they provide to the facility. Highlights included the Veteran/Medical library, SimLearn simulation program, Promethean white board, teaching kitchen, SharePoint, VA Nursing Academy, Valor Nursing Student Program, the Coach Mentor Program, the facility LEAD program: Shaping My Future, New Employee Orientation, TMS and SWANK education opportunities, and VALU classes. Our medical media staff assisted with posters and displays that were a prominent feature throughout the fair.

Diane Buss
Supervisor/Education and Research



Darcie Finley, Patient Education Coordinator, demonstrated healthy cooking using the Teaching Kitchens.



Ann Wagle, Academic Partnership Faculty, displays information on the VALOR Nursing Student Program and the Green House Project.

What's Been Happening at VAIHCS?



Hymnal Donation

Hymnals were donated by the Department of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A BIG THANK YOU to Ray Nassar for doing all the legwork to make this donation happen.

Beauty Queen Visits with Veterans

Dee Lane of Watseka spent the afternoon visiting with our Veterans. What made her visit extra special to the Veterans is she holds the title of ***"Beauty of America Pageant Representative of Illinois for Women in their 50's."***

Pictured with Dee is Veteran Charles Sturies.



Balloons Launched for Veterans

Veterans from Freedom and Liberty Houses had a balloon launch on 4th of July in memory of three Veterans who have passed away who were living in the houses.

Human Resources Open House

What jobs are available? How will this affect my benefits? What is FMLA? These are the types of questions and many more that Human Resources (HR) is always available to answer. VAIHCS staff members were invited to the HR Open House, held July 10, 2012. HR wanted to show our appreciation of the staff members we serve, so an all American meal of hot dogs, chips, and lemonade was made available to those stopping by the Open House. HR staff was there to answer questions to better help our customers understand the daily operations of HR. Guests were also treated with baked goodies to include snicker doodles and other yummy items as they wandered through the offices. HR is always ready to assist with your needs, so stop by anytime!

Sherrie Ellis
HR Specialist



Cari Snyder, HR Specialist -- Staff and Recruiting



Stacie Bartlett, HR Specialist -- Staffing and Recruiting



Rick Serrano and Peggy Dreher, HR Assistant



Deborah Lewis and Janis Colby, HR Specialist --
Staffing and Recruiting



HR Angels - Valli Haines, Administrative
Assistant and Sherrie Ellis, HR Specialist
-- Staffing and Recruitment

BRAVO Award Recipients



Ambulatory Care Service

Robert Betts

Engineering Service

Sue Auter (2)

Environmental Management Service

Paul Gritton
Ray Hillsman
Donald Calhoun
Mark Sheppard

Imaging Service

Donald Burton

Logistics Service

Joel Ferren

Medical Administration Service

Jan Smith (2)
Sharon Lynn
Sara Vernia
Verna Caho

Nutrition & Food Service

Laura Carlson
Magdalene Ilich
Terry Forman

PCS/Nursing

Diana Keller
Donette Gray
Karie Drollinger
Sheila Allen
Robert Spencer
Angela Schamberger

Voluntary Servic

Jeanna LeCount

Falls Prevention

CONGRATULATION 58-2! Two months in a row without a fall (82 days - almost 3 months)! How did they change the culture from an average of 3 falls a month to none? When asked staff said that they have embraced the concept of fall prevention. The poster with the number of days without a fall is posted in the hallway so everyone, including family and visitors, can see it as they get off the elevator. Hourly rounding and reminding the patients to call for help have helped to decrease the number of falls that occur as well. But Dot Morris says that the fact that all the staff are aware of fall prevention has been the most important factor in preventing patient falls. Again, congratulations 58-2!

Joyce DeBoer, RN
Extended Care Clinical Educator



(Left to right): Dot Morris, Tina Duprey, Barb McKee, Julie Towe and Brittany Counce.

VAIHCS was well represented at the Veterans Hiring Fair & Open House in Detroit



Gains

Kathy Atwood - RN - Nursing Service
Jane L. Choi - Optometry Resident - Surgical Service
Anita J. Coon - RN - Nursing Service
Stephanie A. Green - RN-MRSA Coordinator - QM - Director's Office
Clint Hudson - Painter - Engineering Service
Tereasa L. Krout - Nursing Aid - Nursing Service
John C. Lehman - Painter - Engineering Service
Salvatore V. Marino - Medical Support Asst. - Ambulatory Care
Lisa M. McGinty - Health Technician - Mental Health Service
Tamara L. Reynolds - Vocational Rehab Counselor - Social Work Service
Delmar Rhodes - Vocational Rehab Counselor - Social Work Service
Timothy J. Robison - Carpenter - Engineering Service
Maria J. Shade - Nursing Assistant - Nursing Service
Lori A. Stroud - Registered Nurse - Nursing Service
Melkie A. Tega - General Engineer/Energy Manager

Losses

Jonathan R. Bradley - Optometry Resident - Surgical Service
Vicki Goblirsch - Administrative Officer - ADPCS
Richard N. Jones - Physician Assistant - Medical Service
William H. Kyger - Motor Vehicle Operator - Logistics
Paul M. Pasquale - Pharmacist - Pharmacy Service
David M. Reed - Social Worker - Social Work Service
Marshall C. Stone, Jr. - Housekeeping Aid - EMS

Service Pins



35 Years

Janet M. Greenleaf
Pharmacy Service

30 Years

Dianne Grimes
Chief of Staff

Thomas H. Mills
Chaplain Service

Clark C. Sprague
Social Work Service

25 Years

Gail E. Collins
Nursing Service

Diana D. Cottle
Nursing Service

20 Years

Gail A. Chrisman
Nursing Service

Paul Gritten
Environmental
Management Service

Kamala D. Hinkle
Nursing Service

15 Years

Melody L. Brigham-Shaw
Nursing Service

Lara K. Pedretti
Surgical Service

Gail L. Robinson
Nursing Service

Denise A. Somers
Pathology & Lab Service

10 Years

Carolyn S. Garrison
Nursing Service

Arlene M. Gustin
Nursing Service

Misty L. Hillard
Ambulatory Care

Walter D. Huyck, Jr.
Engineering Service

Robert L. Magers
Engineering Service

Tamara L. Moore
Nursing Service

Satyanarayana G. Raju
PM&RS

Judy Walag
Education and Training