
VETERANS ADVOCATE

January 2017

Olmsted County Veteran Services had a great year in 2016!

The Olmsted County Veteran Services Office served more clients in 2016 than any previous year. We had over **2,866** walk-in visits of veterans, dependents, and survivors inquiring about benefits to which they were entitled. Annually our county veterans' population is receiving over \$40 million in monetary benefits and healthcare needs. This number continues to rise each year primarily due to increasing healthcare costs and compensation and pension expenditures. Olmsted County has a veteran's population of over 10,646 veterans and several of them remain unaware of the benefits that they may have earned. Please refer anyone with recognizable prior military service to our office for benefit screening and information.



Veterans Health Identification Card



The VHIC is issued only to Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system.

Veterans ID Cards Available Through Community Based Clinics

Rochester VA CBOC-3900 55th Street NW

Veterans must schedule an appointment through the VA Call Center at 612-467-1100. Clinics start at 8:30am and the last appointment is at 3:15pm. **DATES, Wednesday's: Jan 25, March 22, May 24, July 26, Sept 27, Nov 29**

Veterans need to bring two forms of identification:

Primary Identification	Secondary Identification
Must present ONE form of Primary Identification	And ONE form of Secondary Identification
State-Issued Driver's License	Social Security Card
United States (U.S.) Passport (unexpired)	Original or certified Birth Certificate
Foreign passport with Form I-94 or Form I-94A (unexpired)	Certificate issued by US Consular Offices documenting the birth of a child on foreign soil to a US citizen. (Form FS-545, Form DS-1350, DS Form
U.S. Military card	Certification of Report of Birth issued by the Department of State (Form DS-1350)
Military ID Card	Voter's Registration Card
Military dependent's ID card	Native American Tribal Document
Foreign Passport with temporary I-551 stamp	U.S. Citizen ID Card (Form I-197)
Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I- 551)	Identification Card for Use of Resident Citizen in the United States (Form I-179)
Federal , State or local issued photo ID	Employment Authorization document issued by the Department of Homeland Security
Employment Authorization Document that contains a photograph (Form I- 766)	Canadian Driver's License
Passport from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) or the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with Form I-94 or Form I-94A	
School ID with photograph	
VA Identification Card (VIC) or VHIC*	

This document explains what the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can do for you if you ever need emergency care. When it is not possible for you to go to a VA Medical Center (VAMC), you should go to the nearest hospital that has an emergency room (ER). If you are in an ambulance, the paramedics will usually take you to the closest emergency room.

What is an emergency?

A medical emergency is an injury or illness so severe that without immediate treatment, it threatens your life or health. Your situation is an emergency if you believe your life or health is in danger. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest ER right away. You *do not* need to call the VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency room.

When should I contact the VA regarding an ER visit?

You, your family, friends or hospital staff should contact the nearest VAMC as soon as possible, preferably within 72 hours of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover. Provide VA with information about your emergency and what services are being provided to you. Ask VA for guidance on what emergency charges are covered, so you can plan accordingly.

If the doctor then wants to admit me to the hospital, must I obtain advance approval from the VA?

If the admission is an emergency, advance approval is not required although prompt notification to the VA is necessary (within 72 hours). If the admission is *not* an emergency, then you must obtain advance approval from the VA.

Will I have to pay for transportation to a VA facility?

VA will assist with transportation arrangements and may be able to pay for such expenses. Contact the nearest VA Medical Center for guidelines.

If a VA bed is available and I can be safely transferred, do I have to move to the VA hospital?

Yes, if you want VA to continue to pay for your care. If you refuse to be transferred, VA will not pay for any further care.

If I am admitted to the hospital as a result of an emergency, how much will VA pay?

Depending on your VA eligibility, VA may pay all, some or none of the charges. Some highlights are listed in the next column, and you may ask your local VA Medical Center's VA Community Care Office for further eligibility guidance.

For service-connected conditions, some of the criteria that must be met are:

- Care or services were provided in a medical emergency, *AND*
- VA or another federal facility were not feasibly available, *AND*
- VA was notified within 72 hours of the admission.

For nonservice-connected conditions, some of the criteria that must be met are:

- Veteran is enrolled in the VA health care system, *AND*
- Veteran has received health care services from VA within the previous 24 months, *AND*
- Veteran has no other health insurance coverage.

How do I know if I have a service-connected condition?

A service-connected condition refers to an illness or injury that was incurred during or aggravated by military service, and has a rating assigned by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

How long do I have to file a claim for reimbursement for emergency medical care?

File your claim with the nearest VAMC quickly because time limits usually apply. For nonservice-connected care, the time limit is 90 days. Again, consult your local VA Medical Center for more information.

Will VA pay for emergency care received outside the United States?

VA will only pay for emergency care outside the U.S. if your emergency is related to a service-connected condition. For more information about care provided outside the U.S., contact the Foreign Medical Program at 1-877-345-8179, or visit the website at <http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/>

How do I get more information?

Visit the VHA Office of Community Care website at <http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/> for more information on emergency care for Veterans.

6th Annual DAV/Olmsted County/Chester Woods Deer Hunt

Another year of a successful and safe hunt! This hunt is a collaborative effort led and organized by: MN Chapter 28 Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Olmsted County Veterans' Service Office, and Olmsted County Parks – Olmsted County Public Works. This year twenty-seven disabled veterans and 10 dependents participated. Two Action Track chairs were purchased with support trailers, to support this hunt, as well as stay at the Olmsted County Parks permanently for use by veterans in need, in the future. Seventeen deer were harvested. Five adult bucks, eleven adult does, and one fawn doe, which is a 46% success rate! The hunt was supported by forty-five sponsors, eight meat cutters, and three photographers. Out of the sixty-nine volunteers, over 611 hours were allocated. A huge Thank You goes out to all of the participants, staff, donators, and volunteers for this awesome event!



Olmsted County
Veteran Services





PTSD Support Group for Veterans, Friends, and Family Members

SEMCIL, and Olmsted County Veteran Services is offering a support group for Veterans that have been diagnosed with PTSD, or those who have signs and symptoms of PTSD, and their family members. Maybe you need to talk or just be in the company of your extended Veteran family. The support group will be a place for Veterans to share, heal and talk about their experiences in dealing with PTSD. We will be there for each other.

We are our brothers and sisters keepers because the oath we took to never leave a fallen comrade has no expiration date. For many of us, combat veterans, there are daily reminders of combat stress.

The group will be facilitated by Jennifer Shumaker, Veteran and Olmsted County Veterans Service Officer.

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

6:30pm-8:30 pm

**American Legion
315 1st Ave NW,
Rochester, MN, 55901**

Jennifer at 507-328-6324 or shumaker.jennifer@co.olmsted.mn.us



Project Community Connect

When: Friday, January 27, 2017

10am-2pm

Where: Mayo High School

1420-11th Ave SE, Rochester, MN

Questions??: Call (507) 732-7391

Services:

Free lunch

Free haircuts

Medical Services

Free flu shots

Free HIV testing

MNSure Navigators

Legal Services

Employment Services

Veterans Services

Photo Id's generated

Mortgage foreclosure assistance, and resources

Tax appointment information

Interpreters available!

Free Rochester city bus to and from Mayo. Tell the driver you are going to Project Community Connect!

Rochester American Legion Post 92

3rd Tuesday of each month

315 First Ave NW

Rochester, MN 55901

7pm

Legion Riders

2nd Thursday of each month

7pm

Forty et eight at the American Legion

2nd Tuesday of each month

7pm

Rochester VFW Post Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each Month VFW Post 1215

16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

7pm

Byron American Legion Post 119

1st Monday of the month

8pm

505 Frontage Road NW, Byron, MN

Vietnam Veterans of America

Meets 4th Monday each month

at 7:00pm, at the Rochester American Legion

315 First Ave NW

Rochester, MN 55901

MOPH

3rd Thursday of the month 6pm

VFW Post 1215

16 6th St SW

Rochester, MN 55902

DAV Meeting

2nd Monday, of each Month Rochester's Elks Lodge

1652 Hwy 52 N, Rochester, MN 55901

5:30pm dinner, meeting at 6:00pm

Korean War Veterans

Every Monday at Grandmas Kitchen

1514 N Broadway, Rochester, MN 55906

(Silver lake plaza)

8 AM

Marine Corp League Meeting

4th Tuesday of the month, 7pm, VFW Post 1215

16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

Kasson American Legion Post 333

Third Thursday of the month

March 19 , 7pm

212 West Main Street , Kasson, MN 55944

Chatfield VFW Post 6913

2nd Tuesday of the month

9- 2nd St SW, Chatfield, MN

Gulf War Veterans of America

1st Monday of each month

7pm, at the Rochester American Legion

315 First Ave NW

Rochester, MN 55901



“To promote the interests and welfare of veterans, their dependents and survivors and to enhance their quality of life through counseling, claims assistance, education, advocacy and special projects.”

