



Truman VA BULLETIN

June 29, 2007



WELCOME

Windea Amerson, Graduate Nurse Technician (PS)
Debra Armstrong, LPN (PS)
Sarah Hafner, Medical Support Assistant (PS)
Natalie Russell, RN (PS)
Kitty Samons, RN (PS)
Theresa Sapp, Medical Instrument EEG Tech (SC)
Toiya Staten, LPN (PS)
Marcus Thomas, Medical Supply Tech
Alexis Townsend, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)
Aaron Zuidema, MD, Staff Physician (PC)

FAREWELL

Robert Hopkins, Pharmacy Technician (Pharmacy)
Jennifer Jewell, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Jimmie Kendrick, LPN (PS)
Jeff Komisar, Food Service Worker (BUS)
Margaret Lastrup, RN (PS)
April Mullins, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Christine Pautler, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)
Jack Pestle, Sales Clerk (Canteen)
Barbara Teter, Medical Support Assistant (SC)
Sauna Thomson, RN (PS)
Jennifer Walker, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Sonya Willis, Student Nurse Technician (PS)

VETERANS PRIDE INITIATIVE

In the spring of 2006, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson, attended the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Day ceremonies in Sydney, Australia. One of the things that stood out to him during the daylong ceremonies was that all the veterans wore their medals and campaign ribbons. It focused public pride and attention on those veterans as individuals with personal histories of service and sacrifice for the common good. Last November, the Secretary called on America's veterans to wear their military medals on Veterans Day to demonstrate "Veterans Pride." The same request was made in May for Memorial Day and Secretary Nicholson has reiterated the request for Independence Day. This country's independence was gained through the courage and sacrifice of veterans and our independence continues today thanks to those who have served and those who continue to serve. In his latest message, the Secretary said, "Wearing their medals demonstrates the deep pride our veterans have in their military service and reminds all American citizens of the sacrifices our veterans have made." His message continued, "Veterans, wear your pride on your left side on patriotic holidays! Let America know who you are and what you did for freedom." More information about the initiative is found at the following Web site:

<http://www.va.gov/veteranspride/>.



VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

Steve Hudson (Police) and **Dixie Wyatt** (PS) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56397 for information.

PARKING INFORMATION: JULY 4TH

During this year's July 4th "Fire in the Sky" fireworks celebration, the hospital will limit event parking to Lot A (visitor lot) and Lot D (employee lot) for patients, volunteers, employees, their families and guests only. The general public will not be allowed access to hospital parking areas. In addition, no tailgating or alcoholic beverages will be permitted. At the conclusion of the fireworks program, all traffic will be routed east on the "avenue of flags" to Monk Drive south (right turn only). Service Drive will not be open for either entrance or exit. University of Missouri Police Department staff will be operating the traffic lights on Stadium Boulevard. All staff members scheduled to work the evening or midnight shifts on July 4 are encouraged to plan for expected traffic delays.



JCAHO ACCREDITATION NOTIFICATION

On June 19, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) notified us that Truman Memorial VA Hospital was reaccredited following the unannounced JCAHO accreditation survey visit in May. The Joint Commission's review of the surveyor findings and report is complete and a final report has been generated. Congratulations to all!

VA EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Employees Association invites you to a Family Fun Day at Twin Lakes on Saturday, July 14. The Employees Association will provide all the meat, some beverages, prizes and exclusive use of the Twin Lakes shelter and "Pirates Landing" for Truman VA employees and their families. Please join in the fun – and bring a side dish.

• Where	Twin Lakes / Pirates Landing, 2500 Chapel Hill Road, Columbia
• When	Saturday, July 14 from 12:00 noon to 8:15 p.m.
• Cost	\$2 per adult and \$1 per child

The barbecue will take place around 2:00 p.m. We have exclusive use of the shelter all day and "Pirates Landing" from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. Tickets are on sale already, so buy yours today. The ticket deadline is Wednesday, July 11. Contact **Erica Keeler** at pager 5526 or **Lula Johnson** at pager 5723 for tickets.



VISN 15 ESSAY CONTEST ON DIVERSITY

The VA Heartland Network (VISN 15) Executive Leadership Board has approved an essay contest for all full-time and part-time VISN 15 employees. The specific topic is *Why Diversity in the Workplace is Important*. The purpose of this contest is to seek opinions and ideas on implementing diversity throughout the Network. Essays may be submitted as an individual or group effort. However, group efforts must clearly identify all group members. The essay should indicate why you or your group believes diversity in the workplace is important with recommendations on how best to implement, foster and encourage diversity in the workplace.

Prizes for winning essays will be awarded in accordance with contest ground rules. First place will be \$750. Second place will be \$500 and third place will be \$300. Essays must be between 1,000 and 2,500 words. They should be submitted no later than Tuesday, July 31. Electronic submissions should be sent to Bernice.Thomas2@va.gov. Mailed responses must be postmarked no later than July 31 and submitted to the following address:

Eastern Kansas Healthcare System
Dwight D. Eisenhower VAMC
Attn: Bernice Thomas (SWS 122-L)
4101 S. 4th St.
Leavenworth, KS 66048.

For additional information, contact **Lyn Patterson**, Truman VA EEO Program Manager, at extension 56316.

NURSING NOTE

Congratulations to **Paul Compney, RNP (BH)**, for successfully completing his doctorate in Psychology, Health/Medicine Specialization from Capella University in May!

VHA KICKS OFF NEW "INTEGRATED ETHICS"

Every day, in every one of the 1,400 locations where VHA provides health care, VA patients and employees face difficult and potentially life-altering decisions. That is the nature of health care professions, where uncertainty or conflicts about values – ethical concerns – inevitably arise. On May 21, the VA's National Center for Ethics in Health Care kicked off an initiative designed to improve the quality of ethical behavior among all of VHA's 198,000 employees. The initiative is called "IntegratedEthics." This new initiative works to improve ethical quality in three ways:

★ By creating a systematic approach, called CASES, to ensure that all VA ethics consultations provide high quality information. This acronym stands for (1) Clarify the consultation request; (2) Assemble the relevant information; (3) Synthesize the information; (3) Explain the synthesis; and (4) Support the consultation process.

★ By creating a step-by-step approach called ISSUES to identify, prioritize and address ethics quality concerns, thereby addressing underlying ethics issues. This acronym stands for (1) Identify an issue; (2) Study the issue; (3) Select a strategy; (4) Undertake a plan; (5) Evaluate and adjust; and (6) Sustain and spread.

★ By calling on VHA leaders to (1) make clear through their words and actions that ethics is a priority for them, (2) communicate clear expectations for ethical practice, (3) practice ethical decision making themselves and (4) support their facility's ethics program.

More information on local implementation will be forthcoming.

VA SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATORS ADDED NATIONWIDE

To strengthen one of the nation's largest mental health programs and continue providing world-class health care to the nation's veterans, VA recently announced plans to hire suicide prevention counselors at each of its 153 medical centers. The new suicide prevention counselors will join the 9,000 mental health professionals already employed by VA. The Department spends nearly \$3 billion a year for mental health services. About 1 million VA patients have a mental health diagnosis. **Kathy Crews, RN**, was selected as Truman VA's new suicide prevention coordinator. Congratulations!

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!