



VA Heartland Network

Maximum
Veteran
Benefit

Truman VA BULLETIN

April 18, 2008

Welcome

Elizabeth Abdon, Medical Support Assistant (PC)
Richard Audiss, Medical Support Assistant (PC)
Teresa Bommel, Accounts Receivable Technician (BUS)
Jessica Breedlove, Medical Support Assistant (SC)
Sharon Colley, Nursing Assistant (PS)
Andrew Cummins, Pharmacy Technician (Pharmacy)
Michelle Eames, RN (PS)
Kelly Gardiner, RN (PS)
Patrick Griffiths, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
Sandra Headrick, Nurse Practitioner (PC)
Randall Kilgore, Medical Records Administrator (BUS)
Rashonda Lee, Nursing Assistant (PS)
Sheila Leys, Medical Support Assistant (SC)
Darlayna Scott, Medical Support Assistant (SC)
Nia Tate, Medical Support Assistant (PS)
Danetta Turner, RN (PS)
Nancy Underwood, Medical Support Assistant (SC)
Jennifer Vandeloecht, RN (PS)
Emily Viers, Student Nurse Technician (PS)

Farewell

Alan Kidwell, Maintenance Worker (FM)
Mouy Poag, Pharmacist (Pharmacy)
Michael Tolson, Maintenance Supervisor (FM) ♥
Tracey Tyson, RN (PS)

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Erica Keeler (Pharmacy), **George L. Gregory** (CS), and **Wilma Morrow** (PS) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56397 for information.

New Internet Web Address



Truman VA's Internet Web address has changed. The new URL is www.columbiamo.va.gov. For a brief time, if you access the old address, www.va.gov/cmo, you will be directed automatically to the new address.

All Employee Survey, April 21-May 12

The purpose of the annual VHA All Employee Survey is to collect information on your perceptions of the work place and your satisfaction at work. It is part of an ongoing effort to assess employee satisfaction, to eliminate barriers to employee effectiveness and to make VHA an employer of choice. Just prior to the survey administration period (April 21 through May 12), you will receive a seven-digit code from your supervisor. This code is required in order to participate and only identifies your work group. You have the option of completing the survey by using the Internet, telephone or on paper. You are encouraged to take a few moments to complete the survey. Results will be summarized and reported so that no identifiable, individual responses are reported or revealed.

The results of the previous All Employee Surveys in 2004, 2006 and 2007 have been very useful to VHA networks and facilities. Many of you played major roles in the action plans developed as a result of survey results. Your participation this year will make a difference!

National Volunteer Week, April 27-May 3

National Volunteer Week provides an opportunity for all of us to thank the dedicated volunteers that provide service to veterans year round. Truman VA's volunteer program includes more than 500 regularly scheduled volunteers that provided more than 51,000 hours of service last year.



Administrative Professionals Week, April 21-5

Please remember that Administrative Professionals Week is April 21-25 and Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday, April 23.

Office Of Information And Technology Corner

- ✉ VA Outlook e-mail may be received/transmitted only to VA-owned BlackBerry devices.
- ✉ VistA and VA Outlook e-mail may not be forwarded to outside e-mail accounts such as Yahoo/Hotmail. This is a violation of VA Handbook 6500.

The Power Of Performance

VA's Under Secretary of Health, Michael J. Kussman, MD, is challenging VHA employees to establish excellence as a "prevailing attitude" in VHA. Dr. Kussman has outlined this challenge into four goals that are part of a Power of Performance awareness campaign. They include:

- ☪ Put Patient Care First
- ☪ Practice Progressive Leadership
- ☪ Promote Improved Business Processes
- ☪ Produce Meaningful Performance Measures.

Putting the Power of Performance in action at this facility provides us with a way to make a difference in how we plan to achieve excellence in our role in VHA. For more information, visit the following site:
<http://vawww.ush.va.gov>.

April: National Donate A Life Month

Phenomenal medical breakthroughs continue every day within the transplant field due to the dedication of transplant professionals and the generosity of donors and their families. National Donate a Life Month recognizes and applauds all those that help save and enhance the lives of others through donation. Even though hundreds of thousands of people have provided the gift of life through a commitment to organ donation, there is still a tremendous need. More than 84,000 people are on the nation's organ transplant waiting list. On average, 16 patients die each day while awaiting an organ. One of the most important decisions you can make is to become a donor. Your decision will make a difference as one donor can help more than fifty people. The first step, aside from signing a donor card or indicating organ donor on your driver's license, is to express your decision to be an organ donor with your family. To learn more about organ and tissue donation or to receive a donor card, visit www.donatelife.net.

Human Research Protection Accreditation

In mid-March, the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP) announced that it had accredited another 15 organizations including Truman Memorial VA Hospital. To date, 107 organizations representing a total of 445 entities have earned AAHRPP accreditation. Through the rigorous accreditation process, organizations must

demonstrate that they have built extensive safeguards into every level of their research operation and that they adhere to the highest standards for research. The accreditation process typically results in system-wide improvements that enhance protections for research participants and promote high-quality research. Congratulations!

Vacancy Announcements

All employees are reminded that job vacancy announcements are posted on Human Resources bulletin boards located on the first, second and third floors. In addition, they are sent via e-mail to a shared mail group titled CO-VACANCIES. To access shared mail, type "AML" at the Mailman Menu option. At the Read Mail in Basket: IN prompt, type in CO-VACANCIES. There is also a self-enroll mail group in which employees may receive vacancy announcements automatically. To self-enroll, follow these steps:

- ☪ Go to Mailman Menu Option
- ☪ Type P for Personal Preference
- ☪ Type E for Enroll
- ☪ Type CO-COLUMBIA VACANCIES.

Please note that nursing vacancies for RN and LPN positions are sent automatically to their established mail groups. You do not need to enroll in the new mail group to receive those announcements. Contact **Gail Capps** (HR) at extension 56404 for more information.

VA Employees Assist Chamber Career Days

The Education Committee of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce sponsored "Career Days" in February and March for 7th graders at all three middle schools in the Columbia Public School District. Truman VA employees that participated included **Tiffany Colvin, Angela Connell, Josey Erickson, Stephen Gaither, Mary Gaub, Kim Hickey, Laura Jacobs, Debbie Keisker, Vickie Knoll, Marcia Muskrat, Deb Overby, Veronica Ramnarine, Robert Van Arsdale** and **Melissa Vansteenburgh**.

Note Of Gratitude

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the many acts of kindness and compassion shown at the time of Al's death. My family and I appreciate everything that was done for us.

Carol Malloy