



Truman VA BULLETIN

Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Volume 2009, Issue 3

Take Note:

- Deployment of Lynx Duress (**Code Orange**), which provides a Code Orange desktop icon on your personal computer (PC), has been completed. This includes the LynxKey (keyboard shortcut, pressing ALT/ALT, which activates Code Orange) and LynxMessenger (pop-up messaging service). CTRL+FI will no longer initiate a Code Orange.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERANS, FEB. 8-14

The annual VA National Salute to Veterans, scheduled during the week of Valentine's Day, provides another opportunity to honor Veterans for their military service. VA Voluntary Service staff plan and execute events and activities at all VA medical centers to increase community awareness of VA's role in providing comprehensive health care to the nation's Veterans and to encourage Americans to visit hospitalized Veterans and work as VA volunteers. The annual Salute began in 1978 when VA took

over sponsorship of a program started in 1974 by the humanitarian organization No Greater Love, Inc. For the 17th consecutive year, the nationally syndicated column started by Ann Landers, now called Ask Annie, devoted a column to the National Salute, asking readers to send Valentine cards and letters to hospitalized Veterans at VA medical centers. More than a million Valentines are sent to VA patients each year during the Salute.

Truman VA's Voluntary Service has lined up a full schedule of visits from local celebrities and organizations as well as several special performances during the week. For more information, contact Voluntary Service at extension 52538 or 56405.



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PRIORITY GROUP 8 RESTRICTIONS RELAXED

Public Law 110-329 provided VA additional funding to allow expanded enrollment opportunity into the VA health care system for certain Priority Group 8 Veterans whose household income exceeded means test thresholds. Proposed regulations will allow Veterans whose incomes do not exceed means test thresholds by more than 10 percent to enroll. The new provision is expected to take effect in June and will be applied retroactively to all enrollment applications received on or after Jan. 1, 2009.

A Veteran that applies for enrollment after the effective date of the new provision, that does not qualify for a higher

priority group and whose income exceeds the means test threshold or geographic means test threshold by 10 percent or less will be placed in Priority Group 8b (if the Veteran is 0 percent service-connected, non-compensable) or 8d (if the Veteran is non service-connected) and enrolled in the VA health care system. Veterans that applied for enrollment on or after Jan. 1 and were denied enrollment because their income exceeded means test thresholds will be automatically reconsidered by the VA Health Eligibility Center once the regulations are in place. They will not need to reapply. A Veteran whose application for enrollment was rejected due to exceeding a means test threshold prior to

Jan. 1, 2009 will need to submit a new application for enrollment in 2009 to take advantage of the relaxed income restrictions.

VA facilities are expected to conduct an aggressive campaign to inform Veterans and VA stakeholders of this opportunity for enrollment. As such, all employees are encouraged to share this information with family members, friends and neighbors. For more information, contact **Linda Benny (HAS)** at extension 56437 or visit the VA health eligibility Web site at

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

NEW LEARNING ORGANIZATION SERVICE

Congratulations to **Kathryn Burks, PhD**, for her selection as Designated Learning Officer at Truman VA. In that capacity, she will supervise the new Learning Organization Service for the hospital. This new organization consists of three major components – an Employee Education Team (including Nursing Education), a Learning Resources Team (Library and Medical Media) and Affiliations Support. In the revised medical center organization, the Learning Organization Service answers to the Chief of Staff.

The service is a consolidation of all of the previously dispersed education-related units of the hospital and will bring greater focus and more concentrated effort to the hospital's educational goals.

Under Dr. Burk's leadership, the service will utilize state of the art technologies and an innovative teaching technique called *accelerated learning* to facilitate Truman VA employees in becoming among the most creative in the VA at smoothing out day-to-day

processes which can hamper delivery of the highest quality of care to our Veterans.

Construction will begin, this year, on the new Learning X-Change, an area designed to encourage and accommodate the learning process.

These initiatives reflect our hospital's support of the value of lifelong learning and the contribution of learning to a fulfilling and rewarding career with the VA.

MINORITY VETERANS COORDINATOR NAMED

Congratulations to **Paula Williams, RN**, Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Case Manager, for her appointment as the Minority Veterans Coordinator for Truman VA. In that role, which is a collateral duty, she will be responsible for en-

couraging enrollment of minority veterans, overseeing services to minority veterans and assuring that our staff is sensitive to the needs of minority veterans. In addition, she will be a member of the hospital's Equal Employment

Opportunity (EEO) Committee.

TRUMAN VA CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL, MARCH 10

All veterans currently receiving health care services from Truman VA or at one of our six CBOCs are encouraged to enter an original work of art, dance, creative writing, music or drama for the local Creative Arts Festival, which is scheduled March 10. Entries must be created after April 1, 2008. Winning entries in the local competition will be submitted for consideration in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival to be held Oct. 5-11 in San Antonio, Texas. For more

information, contact Truman VA recreation staff at extension 53646, extension 53637 or extension 53645.





FEBRUARY SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

35-Years

Kim S. Sipe, Diagnostic Radiologic Technologist (CS)

30-Years

Virginia L. Foster, Food Service Worker (PS)

Brenda N. Hayes, Program Specialist (PI)

25-Years

Barbara A. Critchfield, Patient Services Assistant (HAS)

Tracey L. Hurd, Accounts Receivable Technician (FIN)

Ronald J. Williams, Health Technician (PS)

20-Years

Bernadita O. Hatfield, RN, Nursing Educator (PS)

Robert A. Kuda, Air Conditioning Mechanic (FM)

Charles S. Leeling, Pipefitter (FM)

Karen L. Stevens, Claims Assistant (FIN)

15-Years

Daniel M. Ponder, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)

10-Years

Jeffrey D. Brooks, Registered Respiratory Therapist (SC)

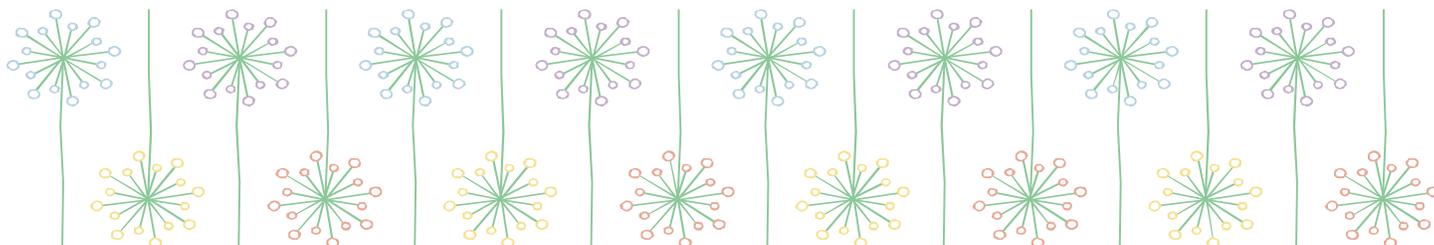
Sarah B. Fehling, Information Technology Specialist (OI&T)

Matthew P. Novak, PhD, Psychologist (BH)

5-Years

Paul S. Jones, DO, Staff Physician (CS)

Kathleen A. Kormann, RN, Infection Control Practitioner (PI)





Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

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WELCOME

- Joy Cook, Operations Clerk (Canteen)
Terrance Cross, Food Service Worker (PS)
Darren Denney, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
Danielle Easter, LCSW, Social Worker (BH)
James Heady, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
Jessica Libla, Biological Science Aid (Research)
Conor Malloy, Sales Associate (Canteen)
Mary Meckes, Food Service Worker (Canteen)
Martha Neal, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
John Payne, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
George Sinko, Labor/Employee Relations Specialist (HR)
Keisha Sontag, Nursing Assistant (PS)
Sarah Tilley, Claims Assistant (FIN)
Michael Tooker, Housekeeping Aid

FAREWELL

- Amy Bassett, Food Service Worker (Canteen)
Carmen Bushnell, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
Ruth Douglas, Patient Services Assistant (BH)
Linda Hudson, Patient Services Assistant (HAS)
Tyler Grindstaff, Sales Clerk (Canteen)
Randy Neeson, Food Service Worker (PS)
Kim Schrag, Assistant Canteen Officer (Canteen)
Lisa Snowden, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Michelle Stone, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Dana Thomas, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Arianna Todd, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)

Odds and Ends

BAR CODES ON TRUMAN VA ID BADGES
You should be aware that the bar code on your VA identification badge has your social security number embedded in the strip. If you choose to leave the bar code on your badge, please assure that you protect the badge from loss or theft. If you wish to remove the bar code, you may do so by using light-grade sandpaper. Human Resources staff is available if you need assistance or have questions.
[Barcode]

WRITTEN DOCUMENT GUIDANCE: USE OF THE WORD "VETERAN"
VA Central Office has issued guidance on the use of the word "Veteran." Any time the word is used as a noun in a written document, the V is to be capitalized.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
In recognition of Black History Month, Truman VA's EEO Committee will sponsor a celebration event on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Watch for more details.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
Truman VA will host an American Red Cross blood drive on Monday, Feb. 9 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 10 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the auditorium. The "gift of life" is needed and very much appreciated by the hundreds of recipients in the mid-Missouri area. Potential blood donors should register and schedule an appointment at the following Web site: www.givelife.org. The sponsor code for our facility is TMVH. For information or assistance with scheduling an appointment, contact Larry Propp at extension 56553.