



Truman VA BULLETIN

Take Note:

- Monday, Sept. 7 (Labor Day) is an observed Federal Holiday.
- Has the H1N1 flu risk been exaggerated by the news media? For the most current and accurate information go to <http://flu.gov>
- All Employee Town Hall meetings are scheduled at 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10 in the auditorium.

Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Volume 2009, Issue 18

FEDERAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Congratulations to **Jayna Hofstetter**, Program Support Assistant in Specialty Care, and **Kathy Lee, RN**, Nurse Coordinator in Primary Care! They were named as recipients of the 2009 Federal Woman of the Year awards at the annual Women's Equality Day program on Thursday, Aug. 27.

Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women full voting rights in 1920.



Congratulations to the following nominees for this annual recognition: **Karen Knipp** (FIN), **Lea Foster** (Learning Organization) and **Denise Simmons, PA** (SC). All of these employees exemplify the requisite devotion, professionalism and dedication for this recognition.



Pictured: Mary Wideman, MSN and Jayna Hofstetter



Pictured: Mary Wideman, MSN and Kathy Lee, RN

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM (EMRT)

Did you know that Truman VA has a new team of volunteers that form the Emergency Medical Response Team referred to as EMRT? During a mass casualty incident, this team would be activated to provide mass decontamination or mass casualty assistance. The EMRT meets and trains after normal business hours on the first Wednesday of each month.

- ◆ Emergency Program Coordinator/Instructor: **Richard Poelling**
- ◆ Team Leaders/Instructors: **David Bellamy, Homer Williams**
- ◆ Team Instructors / Members: **Marsha Leigh, Matt Stewart**
- ◆ Team Members: **Ed Allen, Marie Hulett, Tommy Johnston, Jo LaFoy, Joe Matheny, Linda McGuire, Shannon Miller, Kevin Sample, Denise Schehl-Geiger**

If or when a disaster occurs at this medical center or in the community, the EMRT will be better prepared to provide needed assistance. If you are interested in joining this team, check out Hospital Policy Memorandum (HPM) 589A4-394, "Emergency Medical Response Team" or contact one of the current team members. There is a need for medical and non-medical personnel.

HEALTH BENEFITS OPTIONS IN A NON-PAY STATUS

Each pay period that you are enrolled in the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, you are responsible for payment of the employee share of the premium. When you enter a non-pay status or your pay is insufficient to cover the premium, you must (1) terminate the enrollment or (2) continue the enrollment and agree to incur a debt to be paid upon your return to a pay status. If you elect to terminate your enrollment, the termination will take effect at the end of the last pay period in which premiums were with-

held from your pay. If you elect to continue your coverage, you must elect to pay the premiums and incur a debt in the amount of the unpaid premiums. The system will generate any owed FEHB premium bills when you return to a pay status and will automatically deduct one regular premium and one back-pay premium (two premium payments per pay period). By electing to continue coverage, you agree to pay the resulting debt in full and to allow the debt to be collected by withholdings from salary or any

other payment due you from the Federal Government. If the amount due exceeds available monies, it will be recovered from any of the following Government payments that may be due you: lump sum payment for accrued leave, income tax refunds, amounts payable under the Federal retirement programs or any other source normally available for the recovery of debt due to the U.S. Government. For more information, contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56397.

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK

In recognition of Suicide Prevention Awareness Week, Sept. 6-12, several activities are planned at Truman VA.



- ◆ There will be daily information exhibits in the main lobby.
- ◆ Brown bag lunch presentations are scheduled at 12:15 p.m. in room B240A, Behavioral Health classroom, on Tuesday (**Martha Brownlee-Duffeck, PhD**), Wednesday (**Daniel Strode, MD**) and Thursday (**Pamela Gulley, MD**).
- ◆ A Grand Rounds presentation by **Cheryl Hemme, MD** is scheduled on Friday at 12:15 p.m. in room B240A.

O. I. & T. CORNER: CALL FORWARDING

There are three types of call forwarding: Forward All Calls, Forward Busy and Forward No Answer.

- Forward All Calls (Set) – Press *77 plus 5-digit extension.
- Forward All Calls (Cancel) – Press #77.
- Forward Busy (Set) – Press *88 plus 5-digit extension.
- Forward Busy (Cancel) – Press #88.
- Forward No Answer (Set) – Press *99 plus 5-digit extension.
- Forward No Answer (Cancel) – Press #99.



SEPTEMBER SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

45-Years

Linda F. McGary,
Health Systems Specialist /
PI Manager (PI)

20-Years

Mary D. Grant, LPN (PS)
Mary A. Loftus,
Medical Technologist (CS)

10-Years

Kenneth N. Polson,
Carpenter (FM)

35-Years

Phyllis I. Ward,
Medical Support Assistant (PS)

15-Years

Denise A. Convery,
Medical Support Assistant (PC)

5-Years

Shelby L. Hall, RN,
Staff Nurse (PS)
Anil K. Malhotra, MD,
Physician (CS)
Barry L. Mitchell,
Housekeeping Aid (FM)
Desirae M. White, RN,
Staff Nurse (PC)

25-Years

T. Kim Dickey, RN,
Staff Nurse (PS)

Debra K. Neate, RN,
NSQIP Reviewer (PI)

Frank G. Rieger III, MD,
Physician (SC)

VETERANS CANTEEN SERVICE ARTISTIC OPPORTUNITY

The Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) is acquiring several 24 foot customized mobile food trailers to support VA response teams under emergency conditions. These units will be strategically located around the country and available to emergency areas to provide food support and other food services to staff and patients. VCS is partner-

ing with the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival to offer an opportunity to Veterans and VA staff to submit original art images into a unique competition. The artistic submissions will be considered for selection as the image that will be placed on the outside of the trailers. A panel of judges will review the art submissions for artistic, patriotic,

promotional and skill / technical value. The artist with the winning entry will receive \$1,000. The VA medical facility associated with the artist will receive \$1,000, to be placed in its VCS promotional account. Criteria, rules and instructions for submission are available by contacting **Stephen Gaither** (PAO) at extension 56308.

TIPS FROM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

- ◆ The alarm on your vehicle provides a security system that requires no installation or regular fees.
- ◆ Keep your keys close by and press the panic button if you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house. The alarm will sound the horn until you

turn it off or the car battery dies. You may want to test the range from multiple locations inside your house.

- ◆ Always carry your keys while walking to your vehicle in a parking lot so you can trigger the alarm if needed.





Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

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FAREWELL

- Jennifer Buckman, LPN (PS)
Minh-Tri Dang, MD, Staff Physician (CS)
Charles Gough, Police Officer (Police)
Maureen Gray, RN, Staff Nurse (PC)
Michael Lewis, PhD, Research Health Scientist (Research)
Catherine Rinne, RNP, Nurse Practitioner (PS)
Carl Smith, Telephone Operator (HAS)

VA REGIONAL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE
Ronnie Hickman, Customer Service Representative from the St. Louis VA Regional Office, will maintain office hours every other week on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in room 536A.

NEW EMPLOYEES



- Richard Burch, MD, Staff Psychiatrist (BH)
Jenifer Cotyk, Medical Technician (CS)
Tawauna Dabney-Scott, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
Kathleen Darchuk, PhD, Psychologist (BH)
Andrea Fischer, MD, Staff Radiologist (CS)
Laura Gambone, PhD, Post-doctoral Psychology Fellow (BH)
Samantha Genochio, Office Automation Clerk (FIN)
Marcia Muskrat, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
Stephen Richardson, DSS Liaison (DIR)
Alexandra Roark, Occupational Therapist (CS)
Seth Sanders, Food Service Worker (PS)
Jeanne Sjostrand, LPN (PS)
Leslie Slade, Medical Support Assistant (SC)
Donna Todd, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
William Trumbower, IT Specialist (OI&T)
Richard Zimbalist, OD, Optometrist (SC)

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!