

Truman VA Bulletin



Department of
Veteran Affairs

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VA's Web-based Advertising

VA has started to use Web-based advertising to encourage Veterans to enroll in VA health care. This initiative allows VA to leverage information technology to increase our outreach efforts and better serve Veterans. Other key points include:

This is part of our efforts to transform VA into a 21st century organization that is people-centric, results-driven and forward thinking.

The ads direct Veterans to a checklist that identifies their likelihood of eligibility for VA health care and links them to the online application form.

Information about qualifying for VA health care benefits can be found online at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.



Employee Recognition Awards

Patricia Matthews-Sarkar, RN –
Customer Service Star of the Month
(October)

Bernadita O. Hatfield, RN –
Employee of the Month (December)

Ann M. Spears, RN and Christine J. Warden – Good Catch Safety Award
(October)



Farewell

Michelle Anderson,
Medical Support Assistant
(SC)

Sherman Fox, Air Condi-
tioning Equipment Opera-
tor (FM)

Victoria Knoll, Physical
Therapist (CS)

Jennifer Wade, Physical
Therapy Trainee (CS)

Publishing Holiday

This will be the last issue of
this publication in 2009. The
next issue will be published
on Friday, January 8, 2010.

Inside this issue:

New Employees	2
EEO Policy	2
December Holidays	3
Service Pins	4
OI&T Corner	4



New Employees December 11, 2009

Front Row:

Yash Sethi, MD * Jennifer King *
Natalie Gough, LCSW *
Tamara Overbeck *
Kevin Williams

Back Row:

Leroy Leal * Adam Davis *
Robert McCann *
Christopher DeVors

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement

It is the policy of this facility to provide equal opportunity in employment for all employees and applicants for employment regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or status as a parent and to maintain a work environment that is free of any form of unlawful discrimination, including all forms of workplace harassment (both sexual and non-sexual). All employees will have the freedom to compete on a fair and level playing field with equal opportunity for competition and will be provided prompt, fair and impartial review and adjudication of complaints involving issues of employment discrimination. Equal opportunity covers all personnel/employment programs, management practices and decisions including, but not limited to, recruitment/hiring, merit promotion, transfer, reassignments, training and career development, benefits and separations. Discrimination against employees

based on protected genetic information, or on information about a request for or the receipt of genetic services is prohibited. No individual on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation or status as a parent shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in a Federally-conducted education and training program or activity. Any Federally-conducted programs or activities operated with VA funds will comply with established Limited English Proficiency (LEP) guidance.

Complaints of discrimination must be brought to the attention of an EEO Counselor within 45 calendar days of the date of the occurrence of the event or act alleged to be discriminatory. Procedures for initiating and processing individual complaints of discrimination may be discussed with an ORM EEO Counselor or the EEO Program Manager.

This facility will promote a positive, continuing affirmative program designed to eradicate barriers to employment and to achieve a representative work force, with special emphasis on minorities, women, handicapped individuals and disabled Veterans. Reprisal against one who engages in protected activity will not be tolerated and this facility supports the rights of all employees to exercise their rights under the civil rights statutes.

As Director of this facility, I have stressed the importance of remaining mindful of our EEO responsibilities to our supervisors and managers. Not only has this responsibility been incorporated into our performance appraisal system, but is reemphasized through administrative staff meetings and supervisory training programs.

SALLIE HOUSER-HANFELDER, FACHE

December Holidays

CHRISTMAS

(December 25)

Christmas is the annual Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God. The story of Christmas can be found in two Gospels of the New Testament, the books of Matthew and Luke. It is from these accounts that many of the symbols and traditions of the holiday have grown. It is traditionally observed on December 25. Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate it on January 7, which corresponds to December 25 of the Julian calendar. These dates are merely traditional. The precise chronology of Jesus' birth and death is still debated. Christmas has many aspects, both religious and secular, including the exchange of gifts, Santa Claus, decorations and display of the Christmas tree as well as religious ceremonies. The popularity of Christmas can be traced in part to its status as a winter festival of celebration and gift giving. Many cultures historically celebrated their most important holiday in winter because there was less agricultural work to do. Various local and regional Christmas traditions are still practiced, despite the widespread influence of American, Australian, and British Christmas motifs disseminated by film, popular literature, television and other media.



HANUKKAH

(December 12 - 19)

Hanukkah is the annual Jewish festival celebrated on eight successive days beginning on the 25th day of Kislev, the third month of the Jewish calendar, corresponding, approximately, to December in the Gregorian calendar. It is also known as the Festival of Lights, Feast of Dedication and Feast of the Maccabees. In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means dedication. The holiday commemorates the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem after the victory of a Jewish army commanded by Judah Maccabee in 165 BC over a Syrian army led by Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria. After three years of war, the Jewish soldiers reclaimed the temple in Jerusalem, which required significant cleaning and repair. When the job was finished, the Maccabees decided to hold a big dedication ceremony and wanted to light the menorah. After searching everywhere, a small flask of oil that contained only enough oil for one day was found. Miraculously, the oil lasted eight days, which allowed enough time to obtain new oil for the menorah. Today, Jews celebrate Hanukkah by lighting candles in a menorah every night to commemorate the eight-day miracle.



KWANZAA

(December 26 - January 1)

Kwanzaa is a non-religious African-American holiday that celebrates family, community and culture over a seven-day period in late December. Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of Black Studies at Long Beach State University, created the holiday in 1966. After the Watts riots in Los Angeles, Karenga searched for ways to bring African Americans together as a community. He founded a cultural organization, US, and researched African harvest or "first fruit" celebrations, combining aspects of several different harvest celebrations to form the basis of Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means first fruits in Swahili. Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, the family gathers and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder) and one of the seven principles, called "Nguzo Saba" in Swahili, is discussed. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31.



Department of Veterans Affairs

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Enjoy Your Freedom? Thank A Veteran!

OI&T Corner

Who needs instructions to turn off/ log off/ restart your PC?

This is a very common problem and users do not properly turn-off, reboot or log off a PC! If you do not properly restart the PC, there is no physical harm to the PC, but it can wreak havoc on Microsoft Windows XP causing software programs to crash, hard drive file corruption and even stop the PC from starting. When you properly close Windows applications and then your PC, Windows has a chance to “clean house”, close open system files and other house-keeping tasks that are necessary for Windows to run properly.

Similarly, when a PC is locked by another user, properly

unlocking the PC **DOES NOT consist of holding in the power button until the PC turns off.** Doing so may result in file corruption causing software programs to crash. When a PC is locked by another user, it only takes a minute to call the **OI&T Help Desk at 56500** allowing us to remotely unlock the PC with a few keystrokes saving your PC and files from an untimely demise.

If you are experiencing problems with PC applications, a proper reboot/restart usually resolves the issue. When in doubt, close applications and reboot/restart the PC.

Start a new habit! At the end or beginning of the work day, reboot the PC and start the day with a “clean slate”.

A Proper Restart:

- ◆ Exit/Close all programs that are running
- ◆ Click the START button (Bottom left of the screen)
- ◆ Select Shut Down, then select Restart or Log Off for PCs used by multiple staff

After a few moments, Windows power cycles or the PC logs you off

Note: This function usually takes seconds but sometimes longer. Be patient! *Pulling the plug* too soon can corrupt Microsoft Windows!

November Service Pin Recipients

30-Years

Teresa A. Haney,
Assistant Finance Officer (FIN)

Richard A. Schmaltz, MD,
Chief, Surgery Service (SC)

25-Years

Gary J. Parker, MD,
Staff Physician (PC)

20-Years

Wayne S. Collins,
Housekeeping Aid (FM)

Catherine A. Gibbons,
Administrative Support Assistant (FM)

Jay E. Jensen,
Supervisory Air Conditioning Equipment Operator (FM)

Wanda M. LaBore,
Prosthetics Purchasing Agent (CS)

10-Years

Robert E. Leach,
Nursing Assistant (PS)

5-Years

Lynne V. Jerichow, RN,
Staff Nurse (PS)

George S. Sinko,
Employee Relations/Labor Relations Specialist (HR)