FACEBOOK AND TWITTER UNBLOCKED FOR VA EMPLOYEES

The VA Office of Information and Technology recently removed the Internet gateway block of the social networking Websites Facebook and Twitter. Only staff members authorized to speak for their individual program or field facility can create or comment on official VA social networking Websites, though all employees can monitor conversations of Veterans on VA social media Websites. Users are reminded of VA’s policies concerning limited personal use of government office equipment including information technology and national rules of behavior in which VA employees are permitted limited use of such equipment for personal needs if the use does not interfere with official business and involves minimal additional expense to the government. The limited personal use of government equipment should take place during an employee’s non-work time.

FOOD SERVICE STAFF RETURN VALUABLE CAMERAS

On Sunday, Nov. 29, Larry McBride, Truman VA cook, noticed a nice looking suitcase on the side of the road while driving by the MU campus on his way to work. He picked it up, took it to the VA kitchen supervisor’s office and discovered that the suitcase was filled with numerous high performance cameras. Lloyd Wade, Sairell Hinton and Geraldine Rhodes along with others found a telephone number inside the case and contacted the owner.

The owner was shocked as he was unaware the suitcase was not with him. It had been taken out by a co-worker so that a chair could be placed in the van and the co-worker inadvertently left the suitcase on the side of the road as they hurried off to the airport.

The owner, a free lance photographer for the Kansas City Star and Chicago Sun Times, met this group of employees in the Truman VA lobby to reclaim his bag. After taking their picture, he was very appreciative since the cameras were valuable and he had collected some of them since his childhood. Lloyd Wade told the photographer how fortunate it was that Larry McBride, who is a minister, found his suitcase. Here is a salute to Larry and his fellow workers for an outstanding display of doing the right thing!
VA will join the nation in observing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s 81st birthday anniversary. This federal holiday, in Dr. King’s honor, will be celebrated on Monday, Jan. 18. The national theme is “Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On … Not a Day Off!”

The King Holiday honors the timeless values that Dr. King taught us through his example. The values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service in the face of opposition so elegantly defined his character and empowered his leadership. He was a man of faith that dreamed of a meritorious nation with non-violence as a catalyst of change and he led a nationwide community movement that achieved historic reforms to help make this belief a reality. On this observance, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and belief in non-violence that imbued Dr. King’s holistic message of peace.

On a daily basis, VA is in a position to carry on Dr. King’s legacy – his commitment to helping others. Veterans and their families are our top priority and the employees that serve them are the organization’s most valued resource. Therefore, we must all ensure that equal opportunity is carried out in our service to Veterans as well as through hiring, promotion and advancement of our diverse workforce.

ADOPT A SOLDIER EFFORT

Recently, Specialty Care clinic nurses and clerks participated in the Adopt a Soldier program. The group collected five boxes of supplies/snacks for a soldier stationed in the Middle East, which far exceeded the original goal of two boxes. Great job!

VA/MU RESEARCH PROGRAMS LAUDED

The Truman VA-University of Missouri (MU) Radiopharmaceutical Research Program and the Biomolecular Imaging Center were highlighted recently in the *Missouri Medical Review*. The Radiopharmaceutical Research Program was identified as one of MU’s “signature research programs” and the VA Biomolecular Imaging Center was termed “one of the world’s best biomolecular imaging centers.” The MU publication is distributed nationally to all MU medical alumni.
**JANUARY SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS**

**30-Years**
Sammie L. Hinton  
Supervisory Security Specialist (Police)

**25-Years**
Sallie Houser-Hanfelder  
Director (DIR)
Marc A. Magill  
Associate Director (ADIR)
Rhoda J. Ponzer, RN  
Staff Nurse (PS)

**20-Years**
Tamara L. Martin, RN  
Staff Nurse (PC)
Patty H. Martinez, LPN (PS)  
Aileen S. Riley, LPN (PC)  
Theodora A. Sydnor, LPN (PS)

**15-Years**
Brad S. Roby  
Materials Handler (Logistics)

**10-Years**
John R. Dunham, RN  
Staff Nurse (PS)
Patricia A. Egesdal, RN  
Staff Nurse (PS)
Karen D. Iadanza  
Program Support Assistant (Research)
Helen E. Kennedy, LPN (PS)
David W. Muckerheide  
Medical Support Assistant (BH)
Michael W. Pepper  
IT Specialist (OI&T)

**5-Years**
Harriet L. Browning  
Medical Technologist (CS)
Kunai Chaudhary, MD  
Nephrologist (SC)
Ronnie E. Hickem, Jr.  
Medical Supply Technician (PS)
Peggy J. Luke, LPN (PS)
John M. Onofrio, MD  
Pulmonologist (SC)
Scott D. Sandstedt, PhD  
Psychologist (BH)

**OI & T “COMPUTER CORNER”**

**WHAT DO I DO IF MY MONITOR IS BLACK?**

If you haven’t already done so, move the mouse or tap a key on the keyboard to ensure that your PC is not “asleep.” If the monitor remains black, look for the power button located at the lower right corner on the front of Dell flat panel monitors – it is a circle with a vertical line through the top - and should be illuminated with a green light. If there is no light, push the button to ensure the monitor is on. If there is still no light, please call the OI&T Help Desk and report the PC for service. Again, please be sure to provide the CMO and room numbers when reporting the problem.
FAREWELL

Donn Benish, Medical Technologist (CS)
Ashley Brown, Program Support Clerk (Research)
Jane Daniel, Patient Services Assistant (SC)
Adriana Fernandez, Program Support Clerk (FIN)
Megan Flynn, Program Support Clerk (Research)
Linda McGary, Health Systems Specialist (PI)
Ashley Oser, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
George Rahner, DDS, Dentist (SC)
Jacqueline Roberson, VALOR Student Nurse (PS)
Venesha Stewart, Food Service Worker (PS)

2010 L.E.A.D. PARTICIPANTS

Congratulations to the FY 2010 participants in the Facility Leadership Effectiveness and Development (LEAD) Program! The new class began in mid-December and will graduate in June.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul Ambrose (CS)</td>
<td>Tim Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicia Casady (HAS)</td>
<td>Sara Hake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold Cline (HAS)</td>
<td>Cheryle Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Fairchild (FIN)</td>
<td>Laura Jacobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Heet (BH)</td>
<td>Mary Wideman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry McBride (PS)</td>
<td>Veronica Ramnarine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Sandstedt (BH)</td>
<td>Marc Magill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Smith (SC)</td>
<td>Denise Schehl-Geiger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonja Williams (BH)</td>
<td>Jimmy Powell</td>
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</tbody>
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NEW EMPLOYEES

Michelle Bernard, RNP, Nurse Practitioner (PC)
William Coster, Patient Services Assistant (HAS)
Joel Forck, Program Support Clerk (FIN)
Nia Manning, Social Work Intern (PS)
Rajiv Mohan, Health Scientist (Research)
Mary Peterson, Audiology Intern (SC)
Jody Proctor, Social Work Intern (PS)
Lynne Schenk, Audiology Intern (SC)
Timothy Vandegriffe, Telephone Operator (HAS)
Michael Wilson, Administration Trainee (HAS)