MEDINA COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

FALL 2013

Medina County Veterans' Newsletter

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Veterans Day at the Fair Huge Success

Opening day at the Medina County Fair has been marked as Veterans Day at the fair for as long as most can remember. For the past five years we have really tried to focus on getting the various veterans organizations throughout the county involved. We went from having a few of the organizations tag along with us in the community center where we have our booth, said Ed Zackery, Director of the Medina County veterans Service Office, to virtually having every one of the eighteen organizations present with their own table out in the pavilion. It really has blossomed into something the Veterans look forward to.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) 1953 U.S. Army Powerwagon on display at the Medina County Fair.

Continued on Page 4

Find us at

ID Cards are now available for eligible Veterans at the Medina County Recorders Office. You must bring an original DD 214 or Discharge and record it to receive your free ID card.

The Recorders Office is located at in the County Administration Building at. 144 N Broadway St #117 Medina, OH

VA Insurance's ABO Helps Terminally Ill Insured's with Needed Funds

Do you know about the Accelerated Benefit Option (ABO) that is available to those covered under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Family SGLI (FSGLI), or Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)?

ABO allows terminally ill SGLI, FSGLI, and VGLI members to receive a maximum of 50% of the face value of their insurance coverage prior to death if they have a prognosis from a physician of nine months or less to live. Amounts less than the maximum are also available in increments of $5,000. These tax -free funds can be used for any purpose like paying off a mortgage, setting up a college fund for a loved one, traveling, or paying medical expenses. The amount of coverage remaining after the ABO benefit is paid will be distributed to the member's beneficiaries upon his or her death.

Bryan Fazio, a 24-year old Navy Veteran with a terminal diagnosis after a long battle with

Continued on Page 2

Happy Birthday!

US Marine Corp 238h

US Navy 238th

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
The Veteran's Voice on The Hill

GOT FREEDOM?

THANK A VET!

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-8255

NATIONAL CALL CENTER for Homeless Veterans
1-877-4AID-VET
1-877-424-3838

Vet Center
Keeping the Promise

Appointments will be available on Tuesdays at the Professional Building on 120 W. Washington St, Room 3-C on the third floor.
To schedule an appointment call (440) 845-5023.

Medina County Veterans' Services
210 Northland Dr. Medina, OH 44256 (330) 722-9368

We Want to Help You Receive the Medals You Earned!

Medina's veterans made invaluable contributions to our fight for worldwide peace and democracy. "We want to encourage any veteran who thinks he or She may be entitled to overdue or replacement medals to contact our office.

Continued from front cover

cancer, took advantage of ABO. He was reluctant to make the call at first, but is now glad he did.

"When I finally got up the nerve to dial, Robert [the counselor] answered the phone and explained the benefit. He was supportive, caring, and efficient," says Fazio. "He worked with me, and the Navy, to gather the information I needed so I could focus on feeling better, rather than filling out paperwork."

Fazio continues, "And, as soon as I get past the chemo side effects, my Mom and I are heading to Maui using the accelerated benefits funds."

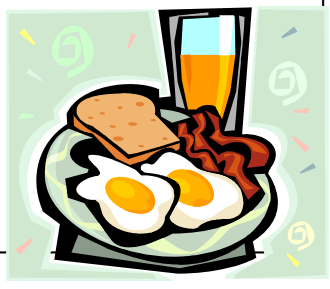
To learn more about the Accelerated Benefits Option or to obtain a claim form, please call the Office of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance at 800-419-1473 or visit www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/abo.asp. SGLI and VGLI members should use form SGLV 8284, Family SGLI members should use form SGLV 8284A.

Veterans Day Breakfast
Lodi American Legion Post
523 120 Bank St. Lodi Oh. 44254
Ph: 330-948-1523

9 November 2013 8:00am to 10:30am

This Breakfast is open to all Veterans and is 100 % FREE.
Bring a guest and have Breakfast on us.

Breakfast Menu:
Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Pancakes,
Coffee, OJ. , Milk, Ice Water,
Donuts, toast, Biscuits and Gravy.



A Message From the County Veterans' Service Officer

November is upon us and the leaves are falling along with the temperatures. We have had a long and busy summer here at the Medina County Veterans Service Office.

I want to thank all of the folks that made this years Veterans Day at the Fair our best ever. Every year it seems that we are able to improve upon the last and it keeps getting bigger and bigger.

In September The Medina County recorder rolled out the new Veterans ID Cards. A veteran can get an ID card as long as they record their discharge at the recorders office. This shows where your copy is recorded and is proof of veterans status for the veteran. There has been some confusion as far as what commercial business will accept the ID. That is entirely up to those establishments. We had more than 200 Veterans come out on the first day to receive their free ID card.

By the time you are reading this the first ever Median County Veterans Ball hopefully has gone off without a hitch. Dave Taylor and the entire Medina County Veterans Coalition have taken on an enormous endeavor in planning the ball. I am sure that in our next edition I will be writing about what a great success it was.

Veterans Benefits are always something I love to talk about. There is always much confusion as to where certain benefits come from (i.e. federal, state, county governments). Our financial assistance program and my office are run with Medina County tax dollars. We are mandated by law to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to help veterans file claims with them. However the money paid for those claims to the Veteran comes from the federal government, NOT Medina County. Likewise the "Backlog" that everyone refers to is with the federal government (VA) and not with the county offices. We have no control over the backlog, however filing a claim with us does help the VA in that they receive a much better claim than if the average person submits it themselves.

If at anytime someone would like me to clarify the differences in Veterans Benefits funding please feel free to contact me.

Again I want to thank all the Veterans of Medina County and the veterans Organizations for their continued support of this office. Without your support we simply could not be as effective as we are in helping those that deserve it most. Our veterans.

Sincerely
Veterans Service Officer
Medina County, Ohio

VA Medical Centers

Inpatient and Outpatient Care is Available at the Following Hospitals

Wade Park Center
10701 East Boulevard—Cleveland, OH 44106
Phone: (216) 791-3800—Fax: (216) 421-3217
For appointments or medication:
(800) 379-8387

Parma Community Based Clinic
8787 Brookpark Rd.—Parma, OH 44134
Phone: (216) 739-7000

Akron Community Based Clinic
55 W. Waterloo—Akron, OH 44319-1116
Phone: (330) 724-7715

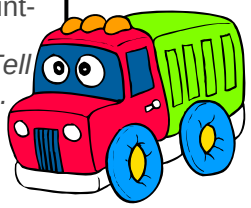
EMERGENCY ROOM CARE IS AVAILABLE AT WADE PARK 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

If you have an emergency you may want to consider going to the local hospital

Our office can provide transportation for veterans to the following VA Healthcare facilities

Wade Park Hospital
Monday through Friday
Parma CBOC
Monday through Friday
Akron CBOC
Monday through Thursday

We ask that you make your appointments between the hours of 9:00 am and 12 noon.
Our vans go to the Akron Clinic, Monday through Thursday and you should ask for an appointment between the hours of 9:00 am and 12 noon. *(Tell them you are a van rider).*



SENIOR SECTION

"PARADE REST"

Veterans and Their Benefits

Edward Zackery

Reprinted from the

October 2013, Helping Hands

Over the past several months, many Veterans have requested a veteran ID card from our office. The Medina County Veterans Service cannot issue an ID card. Nonetheless, we have worked with Medina County Recorder, Collen Swedyk and she has agreed to issue identification cards for veterans through her office.

Starting last month the Medina County Recorder's Office began issuing Veteran Identification Cards to those Veterans who have recorded or brought in an original copy of their discharge to be recorded. The County Recorder's Office has the authority to issue an ID card because they are the verifying authority for Military Discharges. For those Veterans that do not have an original copy of their discharge the Medina County Veterans Service Office can assist them in ordering one from the appropriate agency.

For those wishing to obtain a Veteran Identification Card stop by the Medina County Recorder's Office during regular business hours. They are located in the County Administration Building, Room 117, 144 N. Broadway, Medina, OH 44256 or call them at (330) 725-9782.

If you wish to order a copy of your discharge please contact the Medina County Veterans Service Office.

If you have, any questions about veteran's benefits contact the Medina County Veterans' Service Office at 330-722-9368 or email us at veterans@medinacountyveterans.org or catch us on the web at http://www.medinacountyveteransserviceoffice.org/

This program is designed to educate disabled veterans and their families on specific veterans' benefits and services. This outreach program generates considerable claims work on behalf of veterans and their families. NSOs, often aided by Department and Chapter Service Officers, travel to communities across the country to counsel and assist veterans with development of evidence, completion of required applications and prosecution of claims for veterans benefits administered under federal, state and

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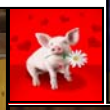
Veterans Day at the Fair

In clockwise order:

Veterans Service Commissioner Randy Schmidt in our booth, Medina County Auditor Mike Kovack with VFW member John Rocha, Country Western Singer Bob Roberts, Medina High School acapella group "The Sirens", County Veterans Service Officer Ed Zackery, Mr. Ralph Waite and Mr. Ralph Carter.



FEEDING MEDINA COUNTY

IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

CONTACT THEM: 901 Lafayette Rd.
Medina, OH 44258 330.421.4816

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

will be held at the Community Center at the Medina County Fairgrounds, on the Third Thursday of each month.

October 18 **November 15** **December 20**

Any household or individual under the 200% of Federal Poverty Guideline is eligible! Anyone receiving benefits from Job and Family Services is under 200% of poverty. Food will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. **Please bring your own bags.**

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Marine Corps Ball here in Medina County will kick off the annual "Toys for Tots" Sponsored by Marine Corps League Medina Detachment #569. Last year the Detachment helped more than 1325 children have a memorable Christmas throughout Medina County. Drop off points in Medina County, First Merit Banks and Whiteys on the Square as well as our office. Contact: Call Bob (330) 242-2527 or John (330) 421-4085 for more details.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE SEMPER FIDELIS

Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

News Release

VA, Affordable Care Act and You

The Affordable Care Act, also known as the health care law, was created to expand access to coverage, control health care costs and improve health care quality and care coordination.

The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans' out-of-pocket costs.

Three things you should know:

1. VA wants all Veterans to receive health care that improves their health and well-being.

2. If you are enrolled in VA health care, you don't need to take additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards. The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans' out-of-pocket costs.

3. If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time.

Veterans Enrolled in VA Health Care

The good news is that Veterans enrolled in VA health care programs have health coverage that meets the new health care law's standard. You do not have to take any additional steps to have health coverage.

Veterans Not Enrolled in VA Health Care

Veterans not currently enrolled in VA health care program can apply for enrollment at any time.

Additional Health Care Law Information

We understand you may have questions about the health care law and how it might affect you and your family. We compiled basic information about the health care law to help you make informed decisions about your health care. Let us know if you have questions regarding the health care law and your VA health care at 1-877-222-VETS (8387). After all, ensuring you receive quality health care is not just our obligation, it's also our privilege

Medina County Veterans' Service Office Out-Reach Program - Wadsworth

HAS MOVED!!!

The Wadsworth Senior Center has moved and our outreach office has moved with them.

Their new location is at the

SOPREMA SENIOR CENTER & CAFE!

617 School Drive
Wadsworth, OH 44281
(330) 335-1513 (same number)
Located in the New Community Center

The Medina County Veterans' Service Office provides an outreach center in Wadsworth the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from

1:00 to 3:00 PM, at the Center for Older Adults in Wadsworth

Call 2-1-1
First Call For Help
Connecting people to services
United Way
United Way of Medina County

Join The American Legion
It's as easy as
Today!

VETERANS DAY

World War I – known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations…"

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

"I AM A VETERAN.
Calling the confidential Veterans Crisis Line can help. I know."

Medina County Veterans Organizations Meeting Times and Places

Organization	Post #	Address	City, State	Meeting Times
American Ex-Prisoners of War	Chapter #8	244 West South Street,	Wooster, OH	2:00 PM - 1st Sunday of each month
American Legion	Post #234	Coppertop/Cherokee	Brunswick, OH	7:00 PM - First Thursday of each month
American Legion	Post #523	120 Bank Street, Lodi	Lodi, OH	7:00 PM - Second Thursdays of each month
American Legion	Post #202	620 N. Broadway St.	Medina, OH	7:15 PM - Fourth Monday of each month
American Legion	Post #608	North Main St	Spencer, OH	8:00 PM - First Monday of each month
American Legion	Post #170	129 Main Street	Wadsworth, OH	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
AMVETS	Post #1990	620 N. Broadway Street	Medina, OH	7:30 PM - Third Wednesday of each month
Blue Star Mothers of Medina County		1439 S. Carpenter Road	Brunswick, OH	6:30 PM - Third Tuesday of each month
Disabled American Veterans	Chapter #72	620 N. Broadway Street	Medina, OH	7:00 PM - Second Tuesday of each month
Forty et Eight	Voiture #601	Coppertop 5740 Center	Valley City, OH	9:00 AM - Second Saturday of each month
Korean War Veterans Association	Chapter #69	590 N. Rocky River Dr.	Rocky River, OH	1:00 PM - Fourth Tuesday of each month
MARINE Corps League	DET #569	3916 Pearl Rd	Medina, OH	7:30 PM - Third Tuesday of each month
Medina County Women of the Military		PO Box 1812,	Medina, OH 44258	mcwomilitary.weebly.com or e-mail: mcwomilitary@yahoo.com
Military Order of Purple Heart	#557	620 N BROADWAY ST	MEDINA, OH	Meet quarterly - Call for times
Rolling Thunder	Chapter #8	3916 Pearl Rd.	Medina, OH	2-4:00 PM - Second Sunday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #9520	1439 S. Carpenter Road	Brunswick, OH	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #6892	6299 Avon Lake Rd., Chatham Twp.	Spencer, OH,	8:00 PM - Second Tuesday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #5137	3916 Pearl Rd	Medina, OH	7:00 PM - First Tuesday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #8753	39 F Main St.	Seville, OH	8:30 PM - Third Thursday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #5563	6731 Center Rd.	Valley City, OH	7:00 PM - Second Monday of each month
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Post #1089	121 Main Street	Wadsworth, OH	8:00 PM - First Tuesday of each month
Vietnam Veterans of America	Chapter #385	620 N. Broadway	Medina, Ohio	7:00 PM - First Wednesday of each month (no meeting in July)

***** If the information above is not correct please contact our office so that we may update it.**

Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
• ***Nov 5—Election Day***	• ***Dec 7—Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (1941)***	• ***Jan 1—New Years Day***
• ***Nov 10—USMC, 238th Birthday***	• ***Dec 15—Bill of Rights Day***	• ***Jan 20—Martin Luther King Day***
• ***Nov 11—Veterans Day***	• ***Dec 16—Battle of the Bulge***	
• ***Nov 11—Medina City, Veterans Day at Saint Francis Xavier Church 7:00 pm***	• ***Dec 20—Invasion of Panama: "Operation Just Cause" (1989)***	
• ***Nov 13—US Navy, 238th Birthday***	• ***Dec 25 Christmas Day***	
• ***Nov 27– Hanukah***	• ***Dec 31—New Years Eve***	
• ***Nov 28—Thanksgiving Day***		
Veterans Service Office Closed on: **Nov 11, Veterans Day** **Nov 28-29 Thanksgiving Day**	**Veterans Service Office Closed on:** **Dec 24, at 1:00pm** **Dec 25, Christmas Day** **Dec 31, at 1:00pm**	**Veterans Service Office Closed on:** **Jan 1, New Years Day** **Jan 20, Martin Luther King Day**

Medina County Veterans' Service Office Out-Reach Program - Wadsworth

The Medina County Veterans' Service Office provides an outreach center in Wadsworth the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, at the Center for Older Adults in Wadsworth

Become a Member Today!

Medina County Veterans' Newsletter

This newsletter is provided as a courtesy only. The Medina County Veterans' Commission does not endorse the content of these newsletters or of other organizations' policies or products.
The information provided here is for your personal use only and is in some cases reprinted for the sole purpose of the Veterans' of Medina County.

Medina County Veterans' Service Office
Our Mission

Our Pledge

When you come into the County Veterans Service Office you will be assisted by one of our knowledgeable associates. The people that work in the Medina County Veterans Service Office have a compassionate understanding of the problems which confront veterans, widows, widowers, and their families.

We provide two basic services:

1. Temporary emergency financial aid and assistance to eligible veterans and family members who have demonstrated a need as set fourth by the commission.
2. 2. Assist veterans, family members and survivors when applying to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for benefits.

Our assistance includes but is not limited to:

Financial Assistance:

a. Rent and mortgage payments
b. Utilities: Gas, Electric and Water
c. Food and personal Hygiene items
d. Medical
e. Transportation to and from VA Medical Centers in Cleveland, Parma and Akron, Ohio
f. Grave markers and flags

Service Assistance:

a. Preparations of forms and paperwork
b. Documentation of claims and pertinent data
c. Proper submission of claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs thru a service organization
d. Submission for awards decorations and medals
e. Notary Public & DD 214 Certification

Our services are **FREE** of charge!

Contact the Medina County Veterans' Service Office

210 Northland Dr. - Medina, Ohio 44256

Call: 330.722.9368 FAX: 330.722.9378
E-mail: veterans@medinacountyveterans.org

Medina County
Veterans' Service Office

210 Northland Dr.
Medina, Ohio 44256

Your Address Could Be Here!

Your Newest Edition of The
Medina County Veterans' Newsletter

Would you rather receive this in you email in-box?
Go to our website at: medinacountyveteransserviceoffice.org and register today!