




Department of



South Carolina
The American Legion
P.O. Box 3309, Irmo, SC 29063
Tel: (803) 612-1171
E-mail: dept.adjutant@sc.twcbc.com
Website: www.scarolinalegion.org



May 15, 2014

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS LINE

Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon and the truth.

More VA News

Two employees at a VA hospital in North Carolina have been placed on administrative leave for allegedly engaging in “inappropriate scheduling practices” after an employee in Wyoming was suspended over similar charges last week.

The Department of Veterans Affairs said in a statement the alleged misconduct at the Durham VA Medical Center came to light after Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki ordered an audit of scheduling practices. The employees in question engaged in the alleged misconduct at some point between 2009 and 2012, the statement said. The VA said it will further investigate to determine if the allegations are true.

“VA takes any allegations about patient care or employee misconduct very seriously,” the statement read. “If the allegations are true, the inappropriate behavior is unacceptable and employees will be held accountable.”

The statement comes less than a week after the department announced an employee at a VA medical center in Cheyenne had been suspended also for allegedly engaging in improper scheduling practices.

An email obtained by Fox News Friday revealed the employee instructed his workers to manipulate records to make it seem like patients were being seen within the agency’s required 14-day window, which he described as “gaming the system.”

The falsification of records is only one of the scandals engulfing the VA. The American Legion and some in Congress have called for Shinseki’s ouster following allegations of 40 patient deaths at the Phoenix VA hospital due to delays in care, and of a secret list the hospital kept of patients waiting for appointments to hide the delays.

The White House has voiced support for Shinseki and he has brushed off calls to resign.

Flags at Half-Staff

Flags are to be flown at half-staff in observance of Police Officer's Memorial Day Thursday, May 15, 2014.

Pro Bono Info

Lawyers4Vets - Monthly Pro Bono Veterans Legal Clinic

Introduction: As a service to area Veterans, the South Carolina Applesseed Legal Justice Center has partnered with the Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center and members of the private bar to establish Lawyers 4 Vets, a Pro Bono Veterans Legal Clinic.

Purpose:

Lawyers 4 Vets connects low income and homeless Veterans with attorneys who provide legal advice and representation on certain issues.

Legal Issues and Services: The clinic will ONLY address the following topics:

- Obtaining identification (Social Security, South Carolina State ID, birth certificates)
- Child support and visitation issues (in South Carolina)
- Expungements and pardons (for convictions from South Carolina courts)
- Consumer protection
- Simple wills and healthcare power of attorney

Eligibility:

Veterans will be screened for eligibility, and if eligible will be given an appointment at the clinic. Lawyers 4 Vets will assist eligible Veterans regardless of military discharge status.

Appointments: Veterans who would like to be screened for eligibility should call the number listed below and leave a message including their name, phone number, and legal issue. The Veteran will be contacted within 2 business days by an intake volunteer who will ask the veteran a number of questions to determine if they are eligible. If the Veteran is eligible and has a qualifying legal issue, they will be given the next available appointment at the legal clinic. Appointments are required for a Veteran to receive a face-to-face meeting with a lawyer. Walk-ins will not be seen and will be directed to contact the telephone intake.

Number to call: Toll Free 1-877-289-6000

Clinic Dates: The Clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The 2014 Clinic dates are:

- * May 15, 2014
- * June 19, 2014
- * July 17, 2014
- * August 21, 2014
- * September 18, 2014
- * October 16, 2014
- * November 20, 2014
- * December 18, 2014

Where: (BY APPROVED APPOINTMENT ONLY AND SPECIFIC LOCATION PROVIDED UPON CONFIRMATION): Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center, 6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia SC 29209.

Holiday Closing

Just a reminder that the department office will be closed for the Memorial Day weekend from 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 23 to 8:30 Tuesday May 27.

Equipment Request

Post 20 is investigating starting a bingo operation. The price for equipment is pretty steep. In your next newsletter, can you ask if any Post has any equipment they're willing to sell or donate to us? If they have any questions, they can contact Post 20 at (864) 223-3142 Monday - Fridays between 0800 - Noon.

Defensive Driving Course

Rehab Services will be offering an eight-hour Defensive Driving course to all eligible veterans on 5/30/14 at the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia. The course may be good for a four-point reduction from one's driver record. The course will last from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and there is **NO CHARGE** for the course. (Similar courses in the community range in cost from \$55-\$85). To be eligible the veteran must be enrolled at the Dorn VA Medical Center. If the enrollment is at the Charleston VA Medical Center, the veteran should contact Alan Simmerson, RKT, at 803-776-4000, ext. 7052. The veterans must also be in possession of a valid South Carolina driver's license. Some car insurance companies allow for a 5-10% decrease in premiums if the insured has completed this course.

Veterans Memorial Day Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament will be held at the Tara Golf Course, 300 Country Club Drive, Savannah Lakes Village, McCormick, South Carolina 5/26/2014. Shotgun start at 10 a.m. Please arrive one hour early so you can be paired with your sponsors. **Thirty-two veterans will be sponsored by community members.** Each foursome will consist of one sponsored veteran and three community sponsors for a total of 32 teams. All veterans will be treated to lunch. All veterans not participating in the Memorial Day tournament may play either at Monticello golf course or after the tournament at Tara for member prices. **Volunteers welcome.** Sponsored by McCormick County Veterans Affairs and SLV. Hold-in-one car sponsored by Quality Nissan. FMI, participants and volunteers please contact one of the following: Bob McIntosh, SLV Golf Director (864)391-4175, Gary Shafer, Coordinator (210) 391-5522 or Tara Clubhouse csmith@slv-sc.com (864) 391-4115.

What's Happening

May 18, Sunday – Post 6, Columbia Low Country Boil & BBQ \$20 per in advance \$25 at the door 4P-7P.
May 30, 31 June 1 – Department Convention, Greenville, Hyatt Regency 220 N. Main Street.

Post Officer Listings

District Commanders Please Note: This means also that even though you may have the same officers in the same positions for the 2013-2014 year, you should also submit a listing to department. Also, for those that have email addresses, please indicate that on the listing. Your assistance and attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. The following is a listing of the posts. If they are in your district, please contact them and request they submit the information as soon as possible. This information is as of today, 12/19/2013.

District #1 – Posts #79, #142, #174, #217

District #13 – Posts #51, #67, #113

District #2 – Posts #136, #145,

District #14 – Post #100

District #3 – Post #231

District #15 – Posts #77, #153, #154, #168, #169, #232

District #6 – Post #126

District #17 – Posts #35, #202

District #8 – Posts #21, #105, #128

District #18 – Posts #47, #118, #266

District #10 – Posts #24, #70

District #19 – Posts #8, #114

District #11 – Post #63

District #20 – Posts #64, #78, #156

District #12 – Posts #60, #74, #80, #92, #213 (The blank form is on the website to be used if needed.)

LIT AD&D FREE

Just a reminder of the free \$1,000 to the Legionnaire AD&D insurance available thru the LIT. Last year the program was expanded to cover up to \$5,000.00 free insurance IF you were travelling on official Legion business and were killed or had a dismemberment as a result of an accident. Official business would be travelling to or from a meeting either at the Post, District or Department (conference or convention). All the Legionnaire has to do is apply for it and is not automatic. I do not know of any family who could not use the additional funds at a time of necessity due to the loss of a loved one. In reviewing just what members of posts that are participating in the program, it is very eye opening that many, many members have not enrolled in this program.

To enroll all that is required is complete the application or call toll free 1-800-235-6943 with your membership number.

Home Depot News

The Home Depot Foundation added \$3.9 million in grants to organizations across the country that address veterans' housing needs. The recent round of grants brings the Foundation's financial contributions to the issue of \$65.7 million since launching its mission in the spring of 2011 of ensuring every veteran has a safe place to call home. To date, donations made by The Home Depot Foundation have impacted more than 10,200 units of veterans' housing. Some of the project funding included:

- \$1.7 million to nonprofits to repair or construct 323 units of permanent supportive housing for veterans, including 225 units that serve veterans with families.
- \$800,000 to nonprofits that will provide transitional housing to 131 homeless veterans.
- \$400,000 to a nonprofit organization that offers 58 women veterans and their families a permanent supportive housing solution.
- \$875,000 to provide critical home repairs and maintenance to 126 single-family homes owned by veterans and their families.

Proud to Serve

Lloyd H. Woods
Department Adjutant