

Knox County



Veterans Service Office

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Our Mission

The mission of the Knox County Veterans Service Office is to provide eligible veterans and their families with those benefits to which they may be entitled under federal, state, and local law, in accordance with established policies and procedures.

The Knox County Veterans Service Office shall take those steps necessary to ensure a well trained and professional staff that is available to advise and assist veterans, their dependents, and the widows and orphans of those veterans who, by virtue of their service in the military of the United States of America. They may be entitled to benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or any other benefit available under federal, state, or local law.

The Knox County Veterans Service shall provide temporary financial assistance to those veterans or their dependents who have demonstrated a financial need due to illness, injury, lack of employment, or an unexpected hardship. Determination of financial need shall be made by the Veterans Service Commission in accordance with the guidelines it alone shall establish and oversee, in accordance with Title 59 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Knox County Veterans Service Commission shall promulgate programs as required by Title 59 of the Ohio revised Code for services not listed above, such as outreach and the transportation of veterans to and from VA medical facilities.

2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Radio Show 10A	6 Commissioners Meeting - 3 PM - Public Welcome	7	8	9
10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Vet Center on Location 9am—4pm. Call for an appointment Happy Valentine's Day! 	15	16
17	18 OFFICE CLOSED - Presidents' Day	19	20 Commissioners Meeting - 3 PM - Public Welcome	21 JVC Meeting 7:30p	22 Washington's Birthday	23
24	25	26	27	28 Vet Center on Location 9am—4pm. Call for an appointment		

KNOX COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK - KEVIN L. HENTHORN

Hello Knox County !

I can't believe its February already. With this month being the host of Presidents Day, and Valentines day it's a great time to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for and those whom we love.

Your Veterans Office is hard at work this month in pursuing new and creative ways to educate our community on all that could be available to them in 2016. If you have a group, organization or company that you would like our office to visit or do a short presentation or simply answer questions about VA Benefits, please contact me as we would love the opportunity to come and address you.

I would like to thank all of our veteran population and other county residents for your overwhelming support of our office. It seems as though everywhere I go I am always confronted by someone stating how proud they are of what we're doing and if we ever need anything to let them know, and "Knox County veterans are lucky to have us in their corner". These comments are heart warming and very much appreciated.

But we as an office cannot do it alone, it takes a dedicated team effort by all our Veteran Service Commissioners, my wonderful staff and van drivers to make it all work. And even that isn't enough. There are countless volunteers by our local organizations like AMVETS, VFW, American Legion, and the Joint Veterans Counsel that help make the difference. We just simply want to be apart of this calling to serve veterans and their families.

As our part in this service, we will never be satisfied with the "status quo" when serving our Veterans. We will always strive to find new ways to serve and fulfill needs as never before and always be reevaluating what we're doing to improve and evolve for a better tomorrow.

Thank You for all YOU do and all you have done. It truly is a privilege to serve Knox County veterans and their families.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Feb. 5th — *Veteran's Office Radio Program, WMVO 1300, 10am*
- *Veterans Service Office Commissioners first & third Wed. at 3 p.m. Public Welcome*
- *Vet Center Counseling on location Feb. 14th & 28th, call for an appointment.*
- *Feb. 18th OFFICE CLOSED, Presidents' Day*



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MELISSA SHANK

The Veterans Service Commission and office staff are proud to help our area veterans with their financial hardships and to help get them back on their feet. Each application for financial assistance is evaluated on a case by case basis. The Veterans Service Commissioners primary concern is to help the veteran and their dependents that are in need of immediate financial assistance. The financial assistance grants provided are not intended to be on a long term, on going basis. They are designed to provide assistance to those who encounter situations usually of emergent need that threatens their health or safety. An applicant for assistance must utilize all available income and resources. All applicants must provide proof on household income and proof of all bills paid and due for the past 30 days. There are no minimum or maximum levels established for financial assistance. All applicants who are physically capable of work must be actively seeking employment. The financial assistance is for temporary situations and not for month-to-month relief. If you are in need of financial assistance please call our office and set up an appointment. We are open Monday-Friday from 8a-4p

Secretary Wilkie: Revolutionizing VA Health Care

The past two years have been an exciting time for Veterans and for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Under President Trump's leadership, VA has enacted more reforms across the organization than at any other time since the 1990s, with key advances in the areas of transparency, accountability and customer service.

VA will soon build on this progress by rolling out a plan that will revolutionize VA health care as we know it.

This week, as part of VA's implementation of the MISSION Act, the department will introduce long-awaited access standards on community care and urgent care that will take effect in June and guide when Veterans can seek care to meet their needs – be it with VA or with community providers.

VA's current patchwork of seven separate community care programs is a bureaucratic maze that's hard to navigate for Veterans, their families and VA employees.

Our new access standards will form the basis of a federal regulation that will consolidate VA's community care efforts into a single, simple-to-use program that puts Veterans at the center of their VA health care decisions. Strict and confusing qualification criteria like driving distances and proximity to VA facilities that don't offer needed services will be replaced by eligibility guidelines based on what matters most: the convenience of our Veteran customers.

Although these new standards represent an important win for America's Veterans, they will not be without controversy. Some will claim falsely and predictably that they represent a first step toward privatizing the department.

Here are the facts: under President Trump, VA is giving Veterans the power to choose the care they trust, and more Veterans are choosing VA for their health care than ever before.

Since 2014, the number of annual appointments for VA care is up by 3.4 million, with over 58 million appointments in fiscal year 2018. Simply put, more Veterans are choosing to receive their health care at VA. Patients' trust in VA care has skyrocketed – currently at 87.7 percent – and VA wait times are shorter than those in the private sector in primary care and two of three specialty care areas.

In other words, VA is seeing more patients than ever before, more quickly than ever before, and Veterans are more satisfied with their care than they have been previously.

And why should we be surprised?

A 2018 Rand study found that the VA health care system “generally delivers higher-quality care than other health providers.”

A 2018 Dartmouth study found that “Veterans Health Administration hospitals outperform non-Veterans Health Administration hospitals in most health care markets.”

A 2019 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) shows that VA wait times are shorter than those in the private sector in primary care and two of three specialty care areas.

These studies provide verification of the fact that VA has made great strides since 2014, and now compares favorably to the private sector for access and quality of care – and in many cases exceeds it.

And VA employees are noticing improvements as well. VA ranked sixth out of 17 federal government agencies in the Partnership for Public Service's annual “Best Places to Work” tabulation, up from 17th last year.

We know that to keep the trust of our Veterans we must continue to deliver. Our medical services must meet our Veterans' needs and reinforce the trust that forms the basis for every interaction with VA. We will constantly innovate, upgrade, and pursue ways to serve our nation's heroes as best we can.

Our new access standards are a vital part of this effort.

Most Americans can already choose the health care providers that they trust, and President Trump promised that Veterans would be able to do the same.

With VA's new access standards, the future of the VA health care system will lie in the hands of Veterans – exactly where it should be.



VA to implement appeals modernization in February: Act will simplify process for how Veterans make claims appeals

WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) announced that the Federal Register will publish on Jan. 18 regulations accompanying the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (AMA), which will help Veterans experience a more transparent claims decision-review process.

After publication of the regulations, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie will certify the department's readiness to implement appeals modernization, which will transform a complex appeals process into one that is simple, timely and provides greater choice to Veterans who disagree with a VA decision.

Implementation will occur 30 days after the Secretary certifies, as required by law. Accordingly, the AMA will become effective Feb 19.

“VA has been preparing for full implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act over the past 18 months,” Wilkie said. “Our staff has worked diligently, particularly in the last few weeks, to ensure the new, streamlined process is available to Veterans in February.

The AMA was signed into law Aug. 23, 2017. Under the act, Veterans will now have three options for claims and appeals: (1) supplemental claim; (2) higher-level review; or (3) direct appeals to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. All decision reviews submitted after February 2019 will fall under the new system.

Once the Appeals Modernization Act is fully implemented, VA's goal is to complete supplemental claims and higher-level reviews averaging 125 days. Decisions appealed to the Board under its direct docket will average 365 days. Under the legacy process, appeal resolutions averaged three to seven years.

For more information about VA appeals modernization, visit <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp> and <https://www.bva.va.gov/>.



FLAG SALES

NEW FLAG PRICES !!!

<u>Size:</u>	<u>Material:</u>	<u>NEW Price:</u>
3x5	Nylon	\$10.00
3x5	Cotton	\$11.00
4x6	Nylon	\$15.00
5x8	Nylon	\$20.00
5x8	Cotton	\$23.00

Check or Money Order ONLY!! Thank You.



The Knox County Veterans Service Office **CANNOT ACCEPT DONATIONS**. The office appreciates the generosity towards our county veterans, but please NO DONATIONS.

Here are some veteran organizations that can take donations for our veterans:

County American Legion Post 's, Disabled American Veterans Post, AMVETS Post's, V.F.W. Post's and

Knox County Joint Veterans Council (Military Burials)

Thank you!

