



The Veteran's Voice

Newsletter

September 2024

Edition

THE VETERANS VOICE

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RUMOR MILLS

Rumor mills are permanent fixtures in schools, offices and wherever people congregate, and most of the time they're pretty innocuous. But myths and rumors that deal with health—in this case Veterans health—are a serious matter that can prevent qualified Vets from seeking the care they both need and deserve.

Five Myths About VA Health Care Eligibility

Myth Number One

I wasn't injured in the service, so I'm not eligible for VA health care.

Status: False

One of the most common myths revolves around eligibility for health care at VA. Many think that you have to first establish a disability rating before you can start to make appointments, see doctors and receive medication. That is not the case. If you served in the military, even during peace time, and were honorably discharged, [you likely qualify for VA care](#). Even if you don't meet those requirements, special circumstances might apply, like Vietnam service, exposure to Agent Orange and household income. The best way to find out if you qualify is to submit an application for health benefits. [You can fill one out online](#) or at a VA Medical Center. If you are an Iraq or Afghanistan Veteran, [there are special combat Veteran benefits](#) from VA, like temporary access to dental care and guaranteed access to Priority 6 for five years (unless you are eligible for a higher priority group). [See the priority enrollment groups here](#). Also, if new regulations are established regarding health benefits, VA will automatically reassess your case if it's on file

Myth Number Two

I can only receive care for service connected injuries.

Status: False

You can receive VA hospital and outpatient care for any ailment, service connected or not if you are enrolled in the VA healthcare system, but you may have to pay a co payment. For example, if a Veteran is service-connected for a bad knee, any VA hospital and outpatient care and medication for the knee is free of charge. However, if the same Vet goes into surgery to remove an appendix and it's not service connected, he may be subject to a co-pay depending on the amount of his disability rating and other factors. Familiarize yourself with [co-pay guidelines](#) and [rates](#).

A small number of Veterans, such as those with [bad conduct discharges](#) that VA has determined were issued under conditions other than honorable and who are not subject to certain statutory bars to benefits, can only be treated for their service connected disabilities and nothing else. If one of those Vets is

Myth Number Three

I make too much money to qualify for VA health care.

Status: It depends

If you do not have a service connected disability, you may want to use VA's financial calculator to see if you qualify for free-VA care, medication and travel benefits. If your income is too high (over a maximum income level set every year), you may have to pick up the tab for traveling and receive your care and medication by paying a co-pay. Recently, the rules have been changed for Priority 8 Veterans to permit more of them to enroll for VA health care. [Go here for more information](#) and an income calculator to see if you qualify under the new rules.

Myth Number Four

h care if I have private health insurance.

Status: False

From VA's [Health Eligibility Center](#) Director Tony Guagliardo:

"We strongly encourage Veterans to receive all your health care through VA. However, if you choose to receive treatment from private doctors, VA will work with them to meet your health care needs and coordinate effective treatment. We call this Co-managed Care or [Dual Care](#) — which means that your VA and private doctors will work together to provide safe, appropriate, and ethical medical care."

Myth Number Five

If I'm 100 percent disabled, that means I'm permanently disabled

Status: False

You could have a 100 percent disability rating as a temporary status while you undergo surgery, and have it reduced to its previous rating after you heal. 100 percent doesn't necessarily stay with you.

Conrad Letellier
Veterans Service Officer

service connected for their left foot, they can only use VA health care for their left foot and nothing else else.

Myth Number Three

I make too much money to qualify for VA health care.

Status: It depends

If you do not have a service connected disability, you may want to use VA's financial calculator to see if you qualify for free VA care, medication and travel benefits. If your income is too high (over a maximum income level set every year), you



President's Corner

Hello Everyone

WOW! where did the summer go? I hope that you all had a very enjoyable and safe summer.

Trying to put together a newsletter each month with interesting articles is hard to do but I try. I have now come to realize that no matter what we do or say many of you (our members) still refuse to attend our monthly meetings for what ever reasons and that is fine.

What I would like to ask of you is to consider helping us out with the chapter newsletter by sending us something of interest. It can be just a short story that you remember and would like to share or an article that you came across and feel it would be of interest to your fellow members. It only takes a few minutes to do this but it will or could benefit our members.

The saying goes we talk the talk now lets walk the walk and get back involved with our chapter by contributing an article each month or as often as you would like.

I know that I am rushing things but there is approximately 120 days until 2025. We need to Start to plan events for the upcoming year. If you have an idea or suggestion please let us know. You can send your ideas or suggestions to me at president@vva1044maine.org

Remember NO idea or suggestion is crazy, small or silly.

**Respectfully
Joseph Armstrong
President**

From the Desk
Of
Conrad Letellier
1stst Vice-President

As the summer months come to an end we now will enjoy the brisk fall weather. I know a lot of us are avid outdoors men and like to be out in the woods. Remember this fall weather also bring on the hunting season. When your out walking in the woods please be aware of your surroundings, remember there may be hunters sharing the section of woods your are in. Wear the safety orange vests or hats.

See you next meeting

Conrad

Membership Corner

By
Conrad Letellier Membership Chairman

At this point recruiting new members is a little slow but with your help we can resolve this.

Conrad Letellier
Membership Chairman

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Conrad Letellier

Latest information, veterans who served at Karshi-Khanabad Air base in Uzbekistans or K2- after September 11, 2001, will receive expanded access to disability benefits, the Department of veterans Affairs announced.

The Soviet-era K2 base was used by U.S. Soldiers, airmen and Marines as a point into and out of Afghanistan during the war.

Any questions please contact me.

See you next month

**Respectfully
Conrad Letellier
Veterans Service Officer**

POW MIA INFORMATION

Conrad Letellier

Hello Brothers & Sisters

Not much has changed during the past month with POW/MIA accountability here in the State of Maine or anywhere else. There are still 12 from Maine that are still missing, hopefully one day they will be able to come home to their families. I will keep you all informed of any new information that becomes available.

Respectfully

Conrad Letellier

From The Desk of the Events Coordinator

Jim Davis



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2024. MEETING WILL START AT 1:30 PM 13:30 HRS. THERE WILL BE A BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING PRIOR TO OUR REGULAR MEETING.

SEPTEMBERS MEETING DATE CHANGE FROM 01 SEPT. TO 08 SEPT DUE TO LABOR DAY WEEKEND!

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1044

Launches FREE COFFEE FOR VETERANS WEDNESDAYS

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1044 is located at 508 Elm Street Biddeford, Maine (basement of the American Legion Post 26). Our founding principle is "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another".

Meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month. Meetings start at 1:30 pm (13:30).

On Wednesday 17 July 2024 Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1044 will open their doors for the newly established FREE COFFEE FOR VETERANS WEDNESDAY program at their R&R center located at 508 Elm Street Biddeford, Maine 04005 (Downstairs of the American Legion Post 26). The R&R center will be a place where a veteran from ALL eras not just Vietnam can come down and just get away from the daily grind of everyday life.

At the center we will offer to the veterans a place to sit and enjoy a cup of fresh coffee and a pastry or donut, read a book or magazine or just talk with fellow veterans. We also have several tables set up with board games such as chess, checkers.

A veteran's service officer will be available to answer any questions on veterans benefits or to help file a claim for disability thru the VA system.

Also available will be a veterans assistance officer to help those veterans and or families in need of assistance with heating fuel or other issues.

For more information contact our chapter president Joseph Armstrong at (207) 494 – 9287 or visit us at <http://www.vva1044maine.org>

LOCATION: 508 Elm Street Biddeford, Maine 04005

WHEN: Wednesdays

TIME: 09:00 am – 11:00 am

Membership in VVA is the Right Choice

First I want to say "WELCOME HOME "

The goals of Vietnam Veterans of America are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans. To create a new identity for this generation of veterans and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans.

VVA is a "home of our own" - a community of fellowship with people who share our experiences, needs, and hopes for the future.

Be as active as your time, talents, and interests allow. Or, simply be a proud member of VVA, knowing that your membership helps VVA work for you and your fellow Vietnam veterans.

Membership includes a subscription to our award-winning newspaper, The VVA Veteran, bringing you updates on issues and legislation affecting veterans, as well as unique articles on the people, places, and history of the Vietnam experience.

Membership is open to U.S. armed force veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, OR in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Our chapter is working very hard to help our brothers and sisters, their families and veterans of today.

We meet once a month at the American Legion Post 26 located at 508 Elm Street Biddeford. Meetings start at 1:30 (13:30)

If you would like further information on joining our chapter please email me your mailing address at **cwomaine@metrocast.net** I will send the information to you.