



VETS NEWS ND

ND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ISSUE 04 February 2016



Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform readers of local events, community programs, Veteran-related news, and provide information on Veterans' benefits and other resources. This newsletter, in addition to our website and Facebook page, will keep Veterans and their families up-to-date on current events and hopefully serve as an informational guide to various topics, such as education benefits or filing claims.

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Mission Statement

The mission of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is to assist veterans of North Dakota and their dependents in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitled, both federal and state, either by direct contact or through the assistance of the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers.

North Dakota State Approving Agency Mission Statement

The North Dakota State Approving Agency works in cooperation with its partners; (1) to promote and safeguard quality education and training programs for all veterans and other eligible persons; (2) to ensure greater education and training opportunities that meet the changing needs of Veterans; and (3) to advocate and support the GI Bill® resources available for those programs.



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Community Veteran Town Halls

with Lonnie Wangen



Commissioner Wangen has hosted three Town Hall events in Fargo, Bismarck, and Wahpeton at NDSU, UND, and NDSCS to speak directly with local veteran students, community members, and other concerned citizens in hopes to make the department more approachable and to gain knowledge of any issues these individuals are facing.

The Town Halls meeting were well received as veteran students and community members welcomed the ability to speak to the Commissioner in person and to share some of the concerns about different benefits.

Key issues brought up were surrounding recent cuts to the 1607 REAP GI Bill, proposed cuts to the Dependent Post 9/11 GI Bill, future plans of the North Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs, and concerns regarding the Veteran Choice Program within the VA Health Care Administration.

Commissioner Wagnen hopes to host more events such as these Town Halls in the future to continue to promote an dialogue on important veteran issues facing all veterans across North Dakota. Keep an eye on our Website and Facebook page to learn of more events such as these!

For more information on Commissioner Wangen's key talking points, feel free to go to our website at: www.nd.gov/veterans!



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The Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs The ACOVA

The ACOVA met in January, one of the quarterly meetings the organization hosts. This meeting covered a wide variety of information, including important Hardship Grant information. The North Dakota state Veteran Hardship Grants income level was raised \$100 across the board, which means more veterans may qualify for these important services.

The ACOVA also discussed upcoming events such as the June Veterans Golf Tournament, updates to the Lisbon Veteran's Home, and construction of the VA Hospital Peace Gardens. Team Red White and Blue, a veteran organization that unites veterans through fitness and team building events presented about their organizations and upcoming events. It was a very productive meeting!

North Dakota Veteran Hardship Grants

The North Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs offers a hardship grant that offers assistance to ND veterans who are in a financial need. Funding may be available for dental work, dentures, hearing aids, optical needs, deposit funds for housing, transportation for medical reasons, or special medical needs.

For more information, contact Joanne Rivera,
Financial Assistant at
866-634-8387 or at www.nd.gov/veterans

Who Qualifies?

North Dakota veterans, as defined by the Century Code, widows of veterans, or veteran's spouse. Must be below income cap, and be in need of any of the services covered by the grants. Must be a North Dakota resident.

How do I apply?

Talk to your local CVSO or Veteran Advocate. They will help you fill out the application, gather the necessary documents, and submit the application to the ND DVA for review. These grants are approved quickly and can make a significant impact!



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Support our Veterans Fund



February 11th was an important day for the Support our Veterans Fund. Giving Hearts Day is a yearly charitable event sponsored by the Dakota Medical Foundation, Impact Foundation, and the Alex Stern Family Foundation who match citizen's donations to help bolster the work of various local charities. We are fortunate to have a charity of our own, The Support Our Veterans Fund as one of the Impact Funds.

The Support Our Veterans Fund (SOVF) helps North Dakota Veterans with 100% of funds raised. Your kind donations go directly to veterans who are in the most need, but do not fit into the standard donation categories of our state grant program. The SOVF takes donations all year long!

We would like to thank our 100+ private donors who donated this year! We would also like to thank the Jay Thomas Show on WDAY for hosting us the day before, giving us some air time to discuss the amazing work this program does! We would also like to extend our deepest thanks to our corporate sponsors, too!



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Thank You!

Pictured from Left to Right: Jim Verway, Dave Hilleran, Dean Overby, Commissioner Lonnie Wangen, and Hal Wingener

Commissioner Wangen and the North Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs would like to thank the New Town, ND VVA for their amazing framed VVA patch. This will be proudly displayed at NDDVA Headquarters!

Upcoming Veteran Events!

BUYING A HOME?



MILITARY & VETERANS WELCOME!

Attend our **FREE Home Buyer Workshop**
THURSDAY MARCH 3RD
5:30-7PM
DOOR PRIZES!!
 * Light snacks will be provided

LOCATION: Northern Lights Council Boy Scouts of America, 4200 19th Ave South, Fargo.

Review entire lending process **VA**, Conventional, and **FHA**
 Learn to avoid common pitfalls and mistakes
 Understand working with a realtor
 Shopping for a home
 Making an offer

RSVP TO



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R.O.S.S. 13TH ANNUAL EVENT

Remembering Our Serving Soldiers

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016

EVENT SCHEDULE

☺ Barbecues & Chips	11:00AM - 1:30PM	\$3.00	
☺ Silent Auction	11:00AM (Bidding for Final Table Ends at 6:00PM)		
☺ Bingo	2:00PM & 7:00PM		Prizes Include: 55" TV, Smoker, Blu Ray Player w/ Speakers, Beats by Dre Blue Tooth Speaker, Kaurig Kold, and a Nikon DSLR Camera w/ Bag, \$500 Cash & Beverage Cart
☺ Memorial Program	4:00PM		
☺ Meat Raffles & Prizes	5:30PM		
☺ Steak Fry	4:30PM - 7:30PM		
☺ Music by SILVERADO	8:30PM		
	☺ Adults	\$13.00	
	☺ Children 10 & Under	\$6.00	

All Proceeds Benefit the Family Readiness Groups!

If you would like to purchase Steak Fry Tickets or make a monetary donation for this fundraiser, please contact:

Heather Struxness
VFW Auxiliary
Ph: 701-388-2899
Email: heathergnd@hotmail.com

*Steak Fry Tickets Also Available at the Door



Bringing our Community Together to Show Support for our Serving Soldiers



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