



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Happy New Year

By Commander Jarrod McReynolds



Comrades

Happy New Years.

As we start a new year, I hope that everyone is being safe. While it is great news that front line workers are already receiving the Vaccine I urge everyone to hand in there and stay safe till we are past this pandemic.

For those that are getting cabin fever already for the year, there is information on the Post Activities page for this years ice fishing extravaganza.

It sounds like the Governor is lifting the all out ban on Bars, and we will be able to open on Monday the 11th of January. While it will be great getting back to a little semblance of normal, I ask everyone to first be courteous to the staff, and follow all of the rules that are posted, and be patient as the

staff figures out new procedures that have to be followed to keep everyone safe.

Both the Post and Auxiliary will Continue to use Zoom for meetings.

Commander 3915 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Membership Meeting

Time: Jan 13, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 895 6318 4205

Passcode: PLVFW

Dial in by Phone

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 895 6318 4205

Passcode: 705340

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/knGTC74a9>

Stay Safe

Commander McReynolds, Jarrod

PALMER LAKE VFW POST #3915



www.palmerlakevfw.org

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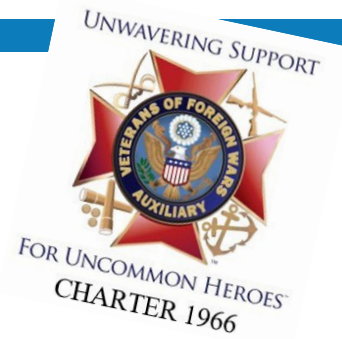
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Auxiliary News

By President Tracy McReynolds



We have all had challenging events in the past few months but somehow we always seem to persevere and move forward. With the impending vaccine being rolled out more and more each day, it seems like we will have our sense of normalcy back very soon.

Due to the safety of our Auxiliary members until further notice we will be meeting via zoom.

I have attached the information below.

Our mid Winter convention in Downtown Minneapolis has been canceled this year.

Topic: Auxiliary Meeting

Time: Jan 12, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 852 7320 9602

Passcode: 056403

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 852 7320 9602

Passcode: 056403

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85273209602>

"Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help." – **Heather French Henry**

Thank you all for your continued support in helping our veterans and their families.

Hope to see you all soon.

Thank you for your support,

Tracy McReynolds, Auxiliary President

Palmer Lake VFW Post #3915 Auxiliary

Email: Auxiliary.vfw3915@gmail.com

Disabled Veterans Property Value Exclusion for surviving spouses.

Assessment:

Classification

Short-term Rental Property Classification

Fifth Special Session 2020, Chapter 3, Article 8, Section 2

Amends Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 273.13, subdivision 25.

This section expands the definition of the 4b(1) classification to include short-term rental property rented for more than 14 days in the preceding year. Short-term rental properties under this provision are defined as non-homestead residential real estate that both:

Rents for periods of less than 30 consecutive days·

Contains fewer than four units·

Homestead properties are not considered short-term rental properties. The 4b(1) classification has a class rate of 1.25%.

History:

Prior to this change, properties determined to have a primary use as a short-term rental were classified as commercial.

Effective Date: Effective beginning with assessment year 2021, taxes payable in 2022, and thereafter.

Special Programs:

Market Value Exclusion on the Homestead of a Veteran with a Disability – Allowing a Surviving
Spouse to Move

Fifth Special Session 2020, Chapter 3, Article 8, Section 3

Amends Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 273.13, subdivision 34.

This section expands the market value exclusion for the homestead of a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran by allowing the spouse to transfer their benefit to a different property if they move. The property must have an estimated market value less than or equal to the value of the original property at the time of sale of the original property. A surviving spouse is limited to one transfer under this new provision.

To qualify for the continuation of the exclusion on a new property, the surviving spouse must:

Make a new application·

Hold legal or beneficial title and permanently reside there·

Not have already received the exclusion on more than one property·

Not have remarried·

History:

Previously, once a surviving spouse sells, transfers or otherwise disposes of the property they owned with the qualifying veteran, they no longer were eligible for the exclusion.

Effective Date: Effective for applications in 2020, taxes payable in 2021, and thereafter.

Prayer Corner

By Chaplin Nate Gehl



Palmer Lake VFW is not only a Veteran's organization, but also a family. We grow, work, laugh and morn together.

Bob Whitcraft, continues to win his fight with cancer, please continue to send prayers and well wishes to him and his family.



Community Service

Senior Vice Janet Schaak



Greetings from your Community Service Chair.

HOW CAN I HELP?

There are many different way to help make a difference.

Regardless of how you choose to volunteer your time, always remember to log your community services hours in our community service log on our website.

[Click Here](#)

If you have questions or have an idea on a Community Service activity, feel free to send an email to the Commander (see link on the contact page).

Thank you everyone for your continued community service contributions.

Share the Veterans Crisis Line Number to Save a Life

Crisis Line. This confidential, toll-free, 24-hour-a-day hot line serves Veterans and their loved ones year-round. Reach qualified, caring Responders:

by phone at 800-273-8255,
via on-line chat on their website, or
by text message at 838255.

[Minneapolis VA COVID Vaccine Information](#)

Membership

Junior Vice Elizabeth Nelson



This has been a slow year for membership we have not been able to go out and spread the word. We are calling out to the

members to reach out to friends and families to find veterans that qualify, so we can reach 100% membership by getting 17 more members. We need members to step by coming to and participating in meetings, attending events, and spreading the word of the VFW.

Youth Activities

Program Chair Janet Schaak



We were able to submit entries to district for Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy, stay tuned for updates in the coming months. Thank you all for your assistance with this program.



Honor Guard

Honor Guard Commander Robert Hystad

Palmer
Lake VFW
Honor
Guard at
Social
Distance
Formation



Veteran and Military Support

By Post Commander Jarrod McReynolds

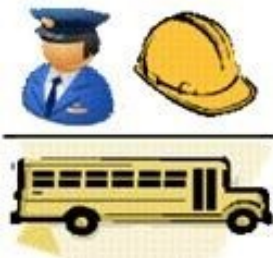
Some of you may or may not know that our own Past Commander and Past District Commander Scott Hanson has been the Department Veterans and Military Support chairman for many years.

The Veterans and Military Support program has many sub programs that are great for Veterans and the military.

During the fall conference in Saint Cloud Scott gave a great presentation, and while I would love to put the whole presentation into this newsletter there just is not enough room for it. However I have loaded it up to our website where it can be view in all it's glory.

<https://vfw3915.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=84370>

Safety



Have you entered into the
Community service report
your safety Volunteer
work?

If you have participated, or assisted in any work that deals with Pedestrian Safety, Drug Awareness, Recreational Safety, Highway Safety, Home and Fire Safety or other Safety projects please submit this on the [Community Service and Volunteer form](#).

Don't forget to also include Time spent donating blood anything that you do for the betterment of others has a place on the Community service and Volunteer form.

The Cooties Corner

By CCDB Terry Wagner



CCDB PT (Stickities) #66
Terry E. Wagner
Or phone at 612-581-2719
wagnerterry@comcast.net
E-mail at

To contact me:

CCDB Pup tent 66

Terry E. Wagner

As these trying times continue the Cooties will stand firm in our pledge of "Keep them smiling in beds of white".

With this pandemic still going on and with all the hospitals and long term care facilities on lock down we have been unable to make our monthly visits. We recently lost a long time member of nearly 21 years when Joseph Witt passed away, our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Veterans' Issues

By Post Service Officer Jeff Jarosz

If any member has questions about their earned VA benefits, Minnesota Veteran's benefits or questions about filing a VA claim, I can be reached at jajarosz@q.com or 763-434-9708

Jeff

3 New Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions On The Way

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2021 has included legislation to expand the Agent Orange presumptive conditions list. Page 3,429 of House Resolution 6395 amended 38 U.S.C 1116(a)(2) to include the following conditions: Parkinsonism, Bladder Cancer, and Hypothyroidism. The effective date for when VA will begin accepting and processing claims for the new presumptive conditions has not been determined, but is expected to be sometime in mid-to-late 2021.

VA Plans to Outsource Compensation & Pension Exams

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to outsource all compensation and pension examinations, eliminating its in-house C&P exam program. Any Veteran who has applied for disability compensation has likely underwent a compensation and pension examination, and the new plan would completely erase the VA's in-house examinations. In an effort to reduce the large backlog of disability claims, the VA would contract with the private sector for all exams moving forward.

Why is the VA Making the Change?

The main purpose of the proposed change would be to reduce the large VA claim backlog currently at the VA. Typically, VA exams are the first experience a Veteran has with the VA. The move to private doctors could help Veterans schedule appointments quicker.

The department has noted that the move could make it easier for Veterans who live in remote areas to be seen, which is a big problem in lower population places like Nebraska, which only has 3 VA health care centers throughout the state. The VA also believes the change could speed up payouts for Veterans.

An official at the VA, Beth Murphy, also believes the switch could prove beneficial due to the expected increase in the number of exams Veterans request. Murphy believes the number of exams could go up more next year, increasing from about 1.5 million in 2015 to an expected 1.9 million in 2021.

Potential Problems with the Change

Many Veterans and individuals working with the VA foresee problems associated with the change. First off, employees at the VA would lose their jobs due to outsourcing. More importantly, the reorganization could lead to a reduction in quality at the exams.

According to Rep. Elaine Luria, D-VA, the plan was developed without noticing congress. She goes on to explain, "For many veterans, thorough and accurate C&P examinations are crucial to

Veterans' Issues

By Post Service Officer Jeff Jarosz

securing service-connected benefits." She continued, "(The) VA's quiet decision to carry out a major reorganization of its C&P program without a plan to make key improvements, reduce backlog, or retain employees is unlikely to deliver the high-quality results we expect."

What Does this Mean for Veterans?

Although the change will be significant, Veterans should always pursue private medical opinions. In fact, I always recommend our that Veterans get a private medical opinion for their claim. This will strengthen your claim. However, we do not know all the potential problems that will accompany the change until it is implemented. Beware and BE CAREFUL. Never ever file a claim on your own.

New Air Force findings.

Who knew? Air Force facts you never heard of?

The Department of the Air Force issued orders today to Chief Master Sergeant S. Claus, recalling him to active duty, with a RNLTD of 24 Dec 2020.

Chief Claus, known to use the alias "Saint Nicholas", "Kris Kringle", "Father Christmas", or simply "Santa", is a reservist, with 1,743 years of service. He specializes as a tactical operator of the next generation DEC-25B, Cargo Airborne Delivery (CAnDY) Carrier.

The DEC-25B is contractor-modified and fully equipped with Cargo Antlered Navigation Equipment Sensors (CANES). It has also been retrofitted with eight high-powered, air-cooled Rangifer Tarandus carrot-fed generators. As a single seat cargo delivery platform, it is capable of vertical delivery of high-value items, take-off and landing without pilot controlled lighting (PCL).

These unique specifications, coupled with the additional Public Affairs skill sets possessed by Chief Claus, classify the entire deployable package as a low-density, high-demand (LD/HD) asset.

Also recalled, were MSgts Dasher and Dancer, TSgts Prancer and Vixen, SSgts Comet and Cupid, SrA Donner, and A1C Blitzen (recently selected for SrA BTZ). Airman Rudolph is also authorized to report for duty; however, he must first successfully complete his Phase II SERE Training, which he has failed three times due to a medical condition related to his nose.

Although the above Airmen are on orders for only 24 hours, it is anticipated that they will submit a travel claim for 24,901 miles at .56/mile, using a POV. Suitable Government transportation is not available. As a special operations unit, each member is granted a high level of uniform flexibility, as well as relaxed grooming standards.

Per diem has been modified to include large quantities of hot cocoa and cookies. Gov't travel card use has been authorized.

[Minneapolis VA COVID Vaccine Information](#)

Legislation

By Program Chair Larry Fonder

Greetings Palmer Lake Comrades, Friends, & Family,

I'd like to expound on a piece of seemingly administrative legislation, that could easily go overlooked.

Legislation Introduced to Include DBQs on VA Website: Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Mike Rounds (R-SD) recently introduced VFW-supported S. 4412, *to improve the ability of veterans to access and submit disability benefit questionnaire forms*. This important legislation would require VA to publish Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) on a public website.

The excerpt above is from the August 7, 2020 VFW Action Corps. Which was most probably glossed over as it sounds pretty administrative and the least exciting bill next to tax code adjustments – but this law has a very profound and direct impact on a Veteran's ability to obtain service connection for a disability or a rating for pension.

DBQs are formatted forms filled out by examining medical professionals in order to verify a diagnosis and assess the severity/chronicity of a claimed disability – they are an extremely efficient tool and institutionally intrinsic to rating a disability claim. Now, they are no longer available to the public, thus your private physician - who may have intimate historic knowledge of your condition cannot complete one on your behalf.

The VA has taken away the Veteran's choice to have a private medical provider complete a DBQ and thereby disadvantaged the Veteran. While the Veteran can still submit evidence from his/her medical provider, *it is as least as likely as not*, the DBQ completed by a VA examiner will carry more weight because it has the advantage of institutional familiarity, clarity, format, and literally mirrors the required terminology contained in the law (Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations) used to rate disabilities.

One cannot blame the doers at the VA; they are under enormous time pressure to produce rating

decisions, but shame on the VA's senior leadership for taking this advantageous tool away from Veterans and their medical providers.

Passing of this boring sounding administrative legislation will help to re-level the compensation & pension playing field for our Veterans. It will also help keep the evidence review process streamlined for VA raters, reduce costs by reducing the number of required VA compensation and pension exams, and it can shorten the wait for a rating decision.

Best regards,

Comrade Larry Fonder

VFW3915legislativechair@gmail.com



The VFW Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill. Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory.

Regular VFW "Action Alerts" on how to get involved when our nation's veterans, service members and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

To view this week's edition: [Click here](#)



Buddy Poppies

Program Chair Past Dep. Commander Lee C. Arts

Poppy Distribution weekend has been postponed. Perhaps it will be rescheduled for June. Watch this column for further information.

What we are asking for you to do at this point is to send an email to Chairman Ulferts at lrulferts@gmail.com with your name and phone number if you are willing to join us in our efforts. When we find out details we will contact you. PLEASE.....PLEASE be willing to help.

Veteran and Post Activities

By Program Chair Blair Sorvari



3rd ANNUAL PALMER LAKE VFW FISHING EXTRAVAGANZA!

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20th 2021

10AM till 2PM!

Vet's Camp on Big Marine Lake



**Pot Luck!
Prizes!
Fun!**



\$30/Team registration advance
\$40 if after 13 February 2021

3RD ANNUAL FISHING EXTRAVAGANZA

Palmer Lake VFW is hosting its 3rd Annual Fishing Extravaganza, Saturday February 20, 2021, 1000 hrs – 1400 hrs (10am-2pm) at Big Marine Lake at the Veterans Rest Camp!

Due to COVID restrictions, there are changes to the Fishing Extravaganza. Registration is limited to 50 two person teams for a total of 100 participants. The potluck that has been a staple of the last two years has been cancelled. Additional information for COVID safety and compliance which will allow us to continue with the 3rd Annual Extravaganza will be posted in the next newsletter.

We are trying to get more amazing door prizes for this year. Due to the impact COVID restrictions have had on many of our past donors, it is requested that registration and payment be done quickly, so we can help our local businesses by purchasing the door prizes, where in years past, many of these were donated.

To register, contact Dave "Booya" Thompson in person if you see him at a post or canteen event, or by mail at:

Dave Thompson

4242 5th ST. NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

612-240-5282

If registering by mail, please send a check made out to Dave Thompson, and include a note of who is on your team, so we can make sure your spot and the spot of your fishing partner in the 3rd Annual Fishing Extravaganza is secure.

Americanism and Citizenship

Program Chair Jarrod McReynolds

Upcoming Holidays Dates

Date Holiday

Jan 1	Fridav	New Year's Dav
Jan 7	Thursdav	Orthodox Christmas Day
Jan 14	Thursday	Orthodox New Year
Jan 18	Mondav	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 18	Mondav	Civil Rights Dav
Jan 20	Wednesday	Inauguration Dav
Jan 28	Thursday	Tu Bishvat/Tu B'Shevat

Dates to Note

Next Aux meeting January 12th at 6:00 PM via Zoom - see Presidents letter on page 2

Next Post meeting January 13th at 1900 via Zoom

Topic: Membership Meeting

Time: Jan 13, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 895 6318 4205

Passcode: PLVFW

Dial in by Phone

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89563184205>

Canteen Calendar

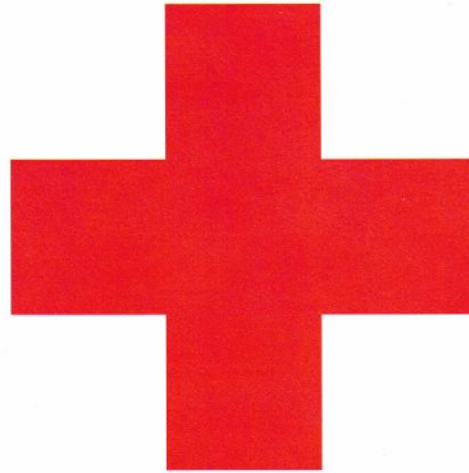
Club Manager Andrea Moy

BAR IS REOPENING MONDAY January 11th!!!

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive **VFW Palmer Lake Post 3915**

Banquet Room
2817 N. Brookdale Dr, Brooklyn Park, MN, 55444

Monday, January 11, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: VFWPALMER to schedule an appointment.



Download the Blood Donor App today. Get your digital donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow your donation on its way to a hospital.



Scan to schedule an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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