



**Tomah VA Medical Center
VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (135)
500 East Veterans Street
Tomah, WI 54660
608-372-1727
VHATOMVoluntaryService@va.gov
Office Hours: 0600-1430 Monday-Friday, Closed Holidays**



Greetings!

One month of events back in 455 and many thanks to all the volunteers who came in to help inpatient Veterans get to 455. We can't have these events without all of you! Please refer to Page 2 for February scheduled activities.

Announcements:

1. **Annual Review** is included in this newsletter. New this year, there is an additional training now required for all volunteers— Annual Integrity and Compliance and Awareness Training for Volunteers. Please READ through it, reach out if you have any questions, double sided signature pages with updated information and return it.
2. Heath Riniker, Voluntary Services Specialist is now coordinating the **Compassionate Contact Corps** Program. Please connect with Heath to sign up to volunteer or those currently in program with questions or concerns. Heath.Riniker@va.gov or 608-372-3971 ext 66931
3. When is the last time you turned in hours? If you'd like to learn how to log your own hours from personal device (same day only), please reach out! Please turn in your volunteer hours on a regular basis.

Upcoming VAVS Executive & Quarterly Committee Meetings:

CDCE Executive Committee Meeting—Wednesday, February 14, 2024 @ 10:00am 407/1724

CDCE Quarterly Committee Meeting—Wednesday, February 21, 2024 @ 10:00am 407/1724 OR
via Microsoft Teams — Virtual Teams call 1-872-701-0185 Phone Conference ID: 580 713 121#

Current Volunteer Needs

- **NEW!** Volunteers who help with/lead Pokeno (similar to BINGO) on 401a. Mondays 10:15am weekly
- **NEW!** Vet-to-Vet Peer Facilitators (Veteran volunteer who lives with chronic pain, communicates effectively, willing to participate in facilitation trainings, able and willing to participate in regular trainings/meetings, has knowledge of whole health pathways (training provided))
- **NEW!** 402b (rehab) escorts—to take Veterans to/from appointments (Monday-Friday 0830-1600)
- **NEW!** Volunteers to assist inpatients to scheduled 455 activities (see page 2) *especially evening and weekends
- Volunteers to help with bene-travel claims (using VA issue iPads)
- Compassionate Contact Corps—virtual volunteers to call Veterans from comfort of your own home
- Coffee Cart Volunteers - Outpatient Clinic locations (Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, La Crosse)

Thanks for all you do,

♥ Tomah CDCE Staff

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 1:00-2:30pm Archery Clinic Bldg. 15 *Need medical clearance and apt.	3 1:30 Bingo (ALA State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall
4	5	6 1:30 Bingo (AL Post 508 Wilton) Bldg. 455 Veterans Hall	7 1:00-2:30pm Pickleball Clinic Bldg. 15 *Need medical clearance and apt.	8	9	10
11	12 1:30 Day at the Races (ALA and AL State Dept) 455; Veterans Hall	13 12:30-2:30pm Air Rifle Clinic Bldg. 15 *Need medical clearance and apt.	14 1:30-3:00 Valentine's Day Dance Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall 1:00-2:30pm Nat'l Events Clinic; Bldg. 15 *Need medical clearance and apt.	15	16 1:30 Bingo/Trivia (ALA Elroy) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall 1:00-2:30pm Archery Clinic Bldg. 15 *Need medical clearance and apt.	17
 National Salute to Veteran Patients Week						
18	19 President's Day 1pm Day at the Races (AMVETS) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall	20	21 1:30 BINGO (VFWA state) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall 1:00-2:30pm Pickleball Clinic Bldg. 15 *Need medical clearance and apt.	22	23	24
25	26	27 6pm Bingo (DAV Ch. 27) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall	28	29 Leap Day	**We will need Volunteer Escorts for all 455 Events.	



Mary Boettcher updated our bulletin board! Please stop in with a photo (copy or original which will be returned to you) if you'd like to add a photo of yourself or family member to our board. Thank you Mary for your creative design! We have enjoyed identifying our Veterans in photos already posted!



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Salute to Veteran Patients is observed annually during the week of Valentine's Day, a day of caring and sharing which underscores the Salute's expression of honor and appreciation to inpatient and outpatient Veterans. This year's observance for National Salute to Veteran Patients will be February 11-17, 2024

We have some special events scheduled that week to include:

Monday, 2/12—Day at the Races at 1:30pm sponsored by American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary—State Depts.

Tuesday, 2/13— Veterans will find extra treats at the coffee carts and front entrances to include the outpatient clinics as well

Wednesday, 2/14—Valentines Day Dance at 1:30pm. Two Sisters will be providing music, dancing will be encouraged and refreshments will be served. Join us!

Thursday, 2/15— Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary will be providing special cupcakes for all Veterans at the noon meal

Friday, 2/16—BINGO & Trivia at 1:30pm sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary— Elroy

Want more info? Check us our website at <https://www.tomah.va.gov>, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) (tomah_vamc) and [Twitter](#) (@TomahVAMC)