

February 2026



Tomah VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)

500 East Veterans Street (135), Tomah, WI 54660

608-372-1727

VHATOMVoluntaryService@va.gov

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 0600-1430, Closed Holidays

Greetings Volunteers,

Reminder that VAVS Meetings are scheduled for February.

VAVS Executive Committee Meeting; Wednesday, April 4, 2026; 9:30, Bldg. 407, room 1724

VAVS Quarterly Meeting; Wednesday, February 11, 2026; 10:00am, Bldg 407, room 1724 or

Join via Microsoft TEAMS by calling 1-872-701-0185 Conference ID: 389 506 511#

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proudly observes the **National Salute to Veteran Patients** annually during the week of Valentine's Day, a special time dedicated to honoring and appreciating both inpatient and outpatient Veterans. This year, the National Salute to Veteran Patients will take place from February 8-14, 2026.

We invite you to join us in celebrating our Veterans by taking advantage of the numerous volunteer opportunities available during this observance. Activities include assisting with the Bowling Tournament, helping at the Valentine Dance, or serving as a special greeter at the main entrance of building 400.

We look forward to celebrating with you and showing our Veterans the appreciation they truly deserve. Full schedule can be reviewed on Page 6

Additional Volunteers are needed for Upcoming Special Events!

scan QR Code for SignUpGenius link

2/5/2026—LIVE Music with "4 Strings is Enough;" 1:30pm-2:30pm, Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall

2/11/2026 –Valentine's Day Dance; 1:30pm-3:00pm; Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall.

Music by Grumpy Old Men Big Band. Sponsored by DAV.



Please see calendar on page 4 for more information to include times and location.

Warm Blessings,
Jen, Deb, Cindy & Heath



SAVE THE DATE

Tomah VA Volunteer Appreciation Week

VOLUNTEERS: LIGHTING THE WAY TO THOSE WHO SERVED



Brunch & Bingo

Monday, April 20, 2026

9:30am Brunch

10:00am Bingo

Tomah VA, Building 455, Veterans Hall

Volunteer Recognition Banquet

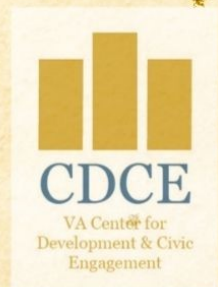
Thursday, April 23, 2026

10:00 Registration

10:30 Awards

Lunch to Follow

Tomah American Legion Hall



Current Volunteer Needs

- **Volunteer In-Home Visitor Program**—Veterans are matched with Volunteers, who live in the same community as the Veteran. Volunteers provide friendly social home visits—provide conversation, support, engage in simple activities (crafts, puzzles, games, reading, short walks, etc). Volunteers are not trained health care professional and will not provide any hands-on or medical care. Volunteers visit once per week for 2 – 4 hours, no more than eight hours per week.
- **Loving Spoonfuls**—specifically in building 409 during breakfast (7:00am) and dinner (4:30pm).
- **Evening Recreation activities** (1:1 or group) on 402b Rehab
- **Wausau Vet Center Outstation**—assist with phones, greeting visitors 0800-1630 M, W, Th, F; 11am--1930pm Tuesdays *volunteers can select hours based on their availability in these timeframes
- **Chapel Volunteers**—escort inpatient Veterans to Chapel as scheduled:
 - Sundays at 1:00pm - Protestant
 - Wednesdays at 2:45pm - Catholic Mass
- **Compassionate Contact Corps (CCC)**— Requesting more male Veteran volunteers virtual volunteers to call Veterans who struggle with loneliness and social isolation (average 15 minute commitment / week)
- **Coffee Cart Volunteers** - Outpatient Clinic locations



Current Donation Needs List

- **NEW!** Wheelchair Accessible Garden Beds (406)
- **NEW!** Pre-Paid VISA Cards (\$50 or \$100)
- iTunes Gift cards—used by Music and Memory program
- Create Sorting and Reminiscing boxes—fill small boxes with textured fabrics, old photos, household items to sort through.

ATTENTION CLC VOLUNTEERS:

Wearing a Surgical Mask for staff and volunteers working with CLC Veterans is now required.

This includes our various CLC volunteer assignments – including, but not limited to: Chapel, recreation, project healing waters, Pet Therapy, Loving Spoonfuls, No Veteran Dies Alone, Bowling, Library, appointment Escorts (402b), Special Event Escorts

*if you have occasional volunteers assisting with your events, please make sure they are informed of this change.

Effective Immediately:

As we continue to prioritize patient and staff safety, we are implementing **universal masking** in all patient care areas due to **high levels of circulating influenza in the community and the inpatient setting.**

Why This Matters:

- **Protecting Patients:** Many of our patients are at increased risk for severe complications from influenza.
 - **Reducing Transmission:** Masks help prevent the spread of respiratory droplets, especially from individuals who may be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic.
 - **Maintaining Operations:** Influenza outbreaks can lead to staff shortages and impact care delivery. Masking helps keep our workforce healthy and available.
- Added Protection:** While vaccination remains our best defense, masking provides an additional layer of protection during peak community transmission.

What You Need to Do:

- Wear a **mask** when within 6 feet of a CLC Veteran (on unit, hallway, 455, chapel, etc)
 - Continue practicing **hand hygiene** and follow all infection prevention protocols.
 - Stay home when sick!
- Staff & Volunteers may receive vaccination by contacting Employee Occupational Health.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping our patients, staff and other volunteers, and community safe. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.



February 2026

Tomah VA Free Choice Activities—All Veterans Welcome

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>1:30pm Bingo (AL Post 508, Wilton) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>4</p> <p>*1:00-3:00pm Pickleball Clinic; Bldg. 15</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00-2:30pm Project Healing Waters; La Crosse Vet Center</p> <p>1:30 Live Music with "4 Strings is Enough; Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>6</p> <p>*1:00-2:30pm Archery Clinic, Bldg. 15</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>1:30 Bingo (ALA State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>12:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00am CLC Resident Council; Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>10</p> <p>*12:30-2:30 Air Rifle Clinic Bldg. 15</p> <p>1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>5:00pm-7:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:30-3:00pm Valentine's Dance, Bldg 455, Veterans Hall</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:30pm Day at the Races (American Legion & Auxiliary—State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p> <p>5:00pm-7:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p>
National Salute to Veteran Patients Week						
<p>15</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Presidents Day</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:00-2:30pm Project Healing Waters; Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p>18</p> <p>*1:00-3:00pm Pickleball Clinic; Bldg. 15</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p> <p>*Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>*1:00-2:30pm Archery Clinic, Bldg. 15</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>12:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00am-2:00pm— Versiti Blood Drive; Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>6:00pm Bingo (DAV—Ch. 27) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:30 Bingo (VFWA State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:00-7:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>5:30pm-7:00pm Project Healing Waters; American Legion Post 336, Onalaska, WI</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:00pm Tabletop games with Necedah N-Gage Academy, Bldg. 455, Veterans Hall</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p>

VA Library Hours
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
Building 401, room 1100



***Need medical clearance & appointment for adaptive sports events**



Bowling Alley is located in Building 406, room 1615



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Tomah VA Medical Center



PROJECT HEALING WATERS

EST. 2005



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Tomah VA Medical Center

Are you interested in learning a new skill?

Have you tried Fly Fishing?

Project Healing Waters and Tomah VAMC welcome you to join us to learn more about fly fishing.

Project Healing Waters is a national non-profit program. The group helps teach fly fishing basics, fly casting, fly tying, and rod building.

First Thursday of each month

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

La Crosse Vet Center
910 2nd Avenue North
Onalaska, WI 54650

Third Tuesday of each month

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Tomah VAMC
500 E. Veterans Street, Building 455
Tomah, WI 54660

Fourth Thursday of each month

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post 336
731 Sand Lake Road
Onalaska, WI 54650

For more information call
608-372-3971 or 1-800-872-8662

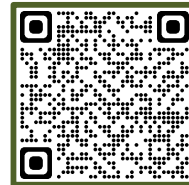
Heath Riniker, Ext. 66931 or
David Meyer, Ext. 67709

Veterans and volunteers must register online before taking part in the group.

Veteran registration:
www.phwffparticipant.org



Volunteer registration:
www.phwffvolunteer.org





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 8-14, 2026.

We have some special events scheduled to include:

- Sunday, 2/8** **Bowling Tournament** from 12:30-4:00pm at VA Bowling Alley in Building 406, room 1615.
- Monday, 2/9** **Resident Council at 10:00am;** Building 455, Veterans Hall.
- Tuesday, 2/10** **Bowling Tournament** from 1:00pm –3:00pm at VA Bowling Alley in Building 406, room 1615.
- Bowling Tournament** from 5:00pm –7:00pm at VA Bowling Alley in Building 406, room 1615.
- Wednesday, 2/11** **Valentines Day Dance** at 1:30pm. Grumpy Old Men Big Band will be providing music, dancing will be encouraged and refreshments will be served. Join us!
Building 455, Veterans Hall
- Bowling Tournament** from 3:00pm-7:0pm at VA Bowling Alley in Building 406, room 1615.
- Thursday, 2/12** Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary will be providing **special cupcakes** for all Veterans at the noon meal
- Day at the Races** at 1:30pm sponsored by American Legion and — State Dept.; Building 455, Veterans Hall
- Bowling Tournament** from 5:00-7:00pm at VA Bowling Alley in Building 406, room 1615.
- Saturday, 2/14** **Bowling Tournament** from 1:30-4:00pm at VA Bowling Alley in Building 406, room 1615.

