

September 2025



## 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

### Happy Fall!

1. The end of the fiscal year, September 30th, will be here soon! Please continue to turn in your **volunteer hours** on a regular basis (i.e. monthly) via email to VHATOMVoluntaryService@va.gov, paper log sheet or enter them into portal. Hours for FY25 (October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025 are due to our office no later than October 6, 2025. **The system is now terminating volunteers who've not logged time in one year.**



### 1. VA Volunteer Screening Changes

- USAccess/PIV volunteer Badge Issuance Standardization
  - 6-month badge – WOC volunteers with <6 month facility assignments (Special Agreement Check (SAC) vetting only – fingerprints: criminal history check)
  - No Badge – Virtual-only volunteers (SAC vetting only-fingerprints: criminal history check)
  - 5-year badge- WOC volunteers with >6 month assignments (Tier 1 background comprehensive investigation: criminal history, employment, education, references and drug review). Renewable every 5 years
- Volunteers who are unable or unwilling to complete VA vetting may be referred to local community partners with more flexible onboarding. There are many ways to support Veterans in the community.
- Reminder that REAL-ID (look for the star) is required for background investigations.

3. **2026 Planning letters were emailed out August 21, 2025.** Please share those with your Veteran, community, church and school organizations about opportunities to sponsor Veteran programming in Building 455, Community Living Center (CLC) or even hosting a special event. Responses are due November 7, 2025.

**We'd love the opportunity to share 2026 opportunities and general volunteer assignments available at one of your upcoming meetings!! Please let us know when and where, and we'll do our best to attend!**

Thanks for all your continued support,  
Jen, Cindy, Heath, Deb

**Assist with Upcoming Special events:**

Utilize link to SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FABAB22A6FEC34-58120759-september> or scan QR Code



**Upcoming Parades**

- 9/28/25—Warrens Cranfest Parade (Brendan)
  - **Looking for Veteran riders, walkers and candy donations!** <https://shorturl.at/clh6z>
- 11/28/25—Tomah Holiday Parade

Please let CDCE staff know if interested in driving the VA Float in any of the upcoming parades. Volunteers need to have driver physical and driver trainings completed. Call us at 608-372-1727. We also need Veterans to RIDE the float, and walkers to hand out candy.

**Youth Volunteers!**

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Youth volunteers who dedicated their summer to helping us at the Tomah VA and La Crosse CBOC. Your commitment and enthusiasm have made a significant impact on our veterans and staff.

Throughout the summer, our Youth volunteers took on various assignments, including assisting in the library, recreation therapy, coffee cart, and assisting occupational therapy in the Project Place. Your hard work and positive attitude have not gone unnoticed, and we are incredibly thankful for the time and effort you have generously given.

Your contributions have enriched the experiences of our veterans and have been a great support to our team. We are proud of your dedication and willingness to serve, and we look forward to working with you again soon. Have a great school year!

Thank you for making a difference! (apologies to the youth that we didn't capture a photo of...NEXT VISIT!)



# September 2025

## Tomah VA Free Choice Activities—All Veterans Welcome

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>VA Library Hours</b> Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm Building 401, room 1100</p> 	<p><b>1 Labor Day</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>*1:00-2:30pm Adaptive Golf Clinic; Tomah VA golf Course</p>	<p><b>3</b> *1:00-3:00pm Pickleball Clinic; Bldg. 15</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p>	<p><b>4</b> 1:30pm Music with Ernie &amp; Shawn; Bldg 455, Veterans Hall</p> <p>1:00-2:30pm Project Healing Waters; La Crosse Vet Center</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> 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><b>7</b> 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><b>8</b> *9:30-11:30am Adaptive Cycling Clinic; center courtyard</p>	<p><b>9</b> *12:30-2:30 Air Rifle Clinic Bldg. 15</p> <p>1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p><b>10</b> 1:30 Bingo (ALA Elroy) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p>	<p><b>11</b> 11:00am 9/11 Me- morial Walk; bldg. 400 steps</p> <p>1:00-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>14</b> 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 1:00-2:30pm Project Healing Waters; 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>*1:00-2:30pm Adaptive Golf Clinic; Tomah VA golf Course</p>	<p><b>17</b> *1:00-3:00pm Pickleball Clinic; Bldg. 15</p> <p>1:30 Bingo (VFWA State) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p> <p>2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p>	<p><b>18</b> 1:00-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p>
<p><b>21</b> 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><b>22</b> *9:30-11:30am Adaptive Cycling Clinic; center courtyard</p>	<p><b>23</b> 1:00pm-3:00pm Open Bowling</p> <p>6:00pm Bingo (DAV—Ch. 27) Bldg. 455; Veterans Hall</p>	<p><b>24</b> 2:45pm Catholic Mass, VA Chapel</p>	<p><b>25</b> 1:00-3:00pm Open Bowling</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:30pm-4:00pm Open Bowling</p>
<p><b>28</b> 9:00am-12:00pm VA Library Open</p> <p>1:00 Protestant Service, VA Chapel</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p> <b>*Need medical clearance &amp; appointment for adaptive sports events</b></p>		<p> <b>Bowling Alley is located in Building 406, room 1615</b></p>	



## Current Volunteer Needs

- **BIGGEST NEEDS to help our Community Living Center (CLC) - inpatient Veterans**
  - **Loving Spoonfuls**—specifically in building 409 during breakfast (7:30am) and dinner (4:30pm).
  - **Evening Recreation activities (1:1 or group) on 402b(Rehab)**
  - **403 to assist Veterans to Canteen/library**—Monday and Wednesdays 9am-11am
  - **455 Activities**—Volunteers to assist inpatients to scheduled 455 activities (see page 4) **\*if we don't have a enough volunteers, we may have to move activity to unit instead of hospital wide.**
  - **Chapel Volunteers**—escort inpatient Veterans to Chapel as scheduled:
    - Sundays at 1:00pm - Protestant
    - Wednesdays at 2:45pm - Catholic Mass
- **NEW! Wausau Vet Center Outstation**—assist with phones, greeting visitors 0800-1630 M, W, Th, F; 11am--1930pm Tuesdays
- **Weekend Library Coverage**—library is open Saturdays and Sundays 9:00am-12:00pm WHEN we have a volunteer available.
- **Appointment Reminder calls (prevent no-shows)**- Call Veterans 24-48 hours from appointment to remind them of upcoming appointment(s)
- **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)
- **Bowling Alley Volunteers:** open bowling alley, assist bowlers with getting shoes, ball, electronic scoring.
- **Recreation Volunteers (fishing, games, visiting, music, art)**— to assist with programming and 1:1 visits with inpatient Veterans
- **Coffee Cart Volunteers** - Outpatient Clinic locations (Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, La Crosse)

## Current Needs List

- Walmart Gift Cards—\$25—any use (inpatient or outpatient Veterans)
- **NEW!** Yarn—large scans for craft projects (can be older/partially used)
- Regular & Decaf coffee—large tubs
- Sour hard candy
- 3.0 Reading Glasses
- Deodorant—men's and women's
- 3 in 1 Men's Shampoo/conditioner/bodywash
- Sugar Free Hot Chocolate
- Coffee Filters—Regular and large Bunn
- Instant Coffee—regular and decaf
- iTunes Gift cards—used by Music and Memory program
- Shoes—9-11 (Men's athletic shoes)
- Backpacks
- Veteran Justice Program:
  - Stress balls (ask Jen for link)
  - Motivation & Funny stickers for participation Incentives

