



Serving Those Who Served

Lancaster County veteran News

Issue 56

August 2016

VA Expands Health Care

For Camp Lejeune Veterans

VA issued a final rule to expand VA health care eligibility for veterans affected by contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. Starting this week, veterans who served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987, are eligible to receive no-cost health care for 15 medical conditions that have been linked to the contaminated water. Previously, only veterans who served at Camp Lejeune from January 1, 1957 were covered. Veterans who have been diagnosed with any of the 15 medical conditions may receive reimbursement for the



cost of treatment if the care was provided on or after December 16, 2014, when the law expanding eligibility was signed. However, veterans must submit a request for reimbursement no later than July 18, 2018. For more information on benefits and services for Camp Lejeune veterans, visit: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune>.

This rule does not impact disability compensation benefits. VA is still in the process of finalizing a rule to grant Camp Lejeune veterans presumptive disability compensation for 8 of the 15 medical conditions found to be associated with exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. However, veterans who have been diagnosed with any of the 15 conditions should file a claim when possible to preserve the effective date.

goodbye July, hello
AUGUST

Calendar of Events:

- Aug 2 — Fort Lawn Veteran Service Grp
- Aug 8 — DAV meeting @ 7:00pm
- Aug 27 — IL VFW meeting @ 9:30am
- Aug 27 — Desert Shield/Storm Ceremonies
- Aug 30 — MCL meeting
- Sept 5 — Labor Day, office closed
- Sept 5 — AL Post 31 meeting @ 7:00pm
- Sept 6 — Fort Lawn Veterans Service Grp
- Sept 12 — DAV meeting @ 7:00pm

We have on site every Wednesday a VetCenter Counselor and every Thursday a SCWorks representative.

Contact Us:

Lancaster County VA
1033 West Meeting St
PO Box 1809
Lancaster SC 29721
Phone: 803-283-2469
Phone: 803-416-9497
VAOffice@lancastercountysc.net

Lawyers 4 Vets

For low income veterans

Lawyers 4 Vets connects lower-income Veterans living at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines with local attorneys who provide one-on-one pro bono legal advice or representation. Beginning May 15, 2014, Lawyers 4 Vets will assist Veterans by appointment only with:

- ◆ Obtaining identification (Social Security, South Carolina ID, birth certificates)
- ◆ Child support and visitation issues in South Carolina
- ◆ Expungements and pardons in South Carolina
- ◆ Consumer protection
- ◆ Simple wills and healthcare power of attorney

Veterans seeking information about the clinic should call 1-877-289-6000.

Free counseling for war time veterans

VetCenter

A counselor from the Vet Center is available twice a month in Lancaster for war time veterans and their dependents. The Vet Center offers a wide range of services to help you make a successful transition from military to civilian life. You have earned these benefits and there is no cost to you or your family members.

- Individual & group Counseling
- Family Counseling for military related
- Bereavement counseling for families
- Military sexual trauma
- Outreach & education
- Substance abuse assessment & referral
- Employment assessment & referral
- VBA benefits explanation & referral
- Screening & referral for medical issues



Military Career & Resource Fair

Tuesday September 20, 2016



MILITARY CAREER & RESOURCE FAIR

**Tuesday,
September 20th**
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Rock Hill Armory
126 Museum Rd, 29732

ALL BRANCHES WELCOME

- Also open to the General Public
- Recruiters available

Veterans, Active/Retired Service Members, Family Members
and civilians are invited to connect with local employers, state agencies,
and organizations that provide military and veteran services.

Veterans can meet with **Service Member & Family Care** representatives
in the following areas:
Employment | VA Benefits | Behavioral Health | ID Cards | ESGR
Family Assistance | Health & Wellness | Financial & Legal Guidance | Education



Hosted by **SC National Guard Service Member & Family Care Directorate**
For more information, call 803.288.2635 or 803.487.5757 | SCGuard.com

SC Run for the Fallen

Honor and Remember

On November 5-6, 2016 a team of 140 volunteers will begin the journey to honor and remember the 103 lives lost due to military operations from Sept 11, 2001. Each mile will be run for a South Carolina Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, or Marine Killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Nomad Shadow, New Dawn, Inherent Resolve, Resolute Support and freedoms Sentinel. For two days, team members will mark each mile with an American flag and bio sign cad in a reflection of remembrance of each service member. The runners will be comprised of active duty and reserve Airmen, Marines, Soldiers, State Troopers and local Fireman from the state of South Carolina. We are asking your support for this second year by notifying your respective city so they can be a part of this amazing remembrance event.

For more information please visit SCRunForTheFallen.org or find them on Facebook.





LARS Program

Now available for Local Veterans

Our office has partnered with the following Veterans Service Organizations; The American Legion Post 31 and the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 14, to provide free transportation to veterans in need.

At this time these organizations have purchased prepaid tickets that can be used for local trips only (grocery store, bank, local private doctor, etc.).

You will need to contact our office at 803.283.2469 to obtain a ticket or two depending on if you need a round trip. These tickets do not expire. You will then have to call LARS at 803.285.6956 to schedule your reservation on their vehicle.

We do have a limited quantity of tickets and they will be issued on a first come first serve basis.

Charlotte VA Health Care Clinic

Now Open

3506 W. Tyvola Rd, Charlotte NC 28208

If you are interested in transferring or starting your care at the new Health Care Clinic, you can contact them by phone or make a visit. To call 1-704-357-3500 option 3 for enrollment. If you are enrolled please call 1-704-329-1300 ext. 81550 to get scheduled for your first time appointment. If you want to make a visit please go to the enrollment section with your DD214. They will get you set up that day with a health care appointment!

Meet a Local Veteran

Highlighting Veterans—One at a time

Hopefully you have enjoyed reading about some of our local veterans. If you are interested in being featured please contact us at 803-283-2469 to set up an interview.

Lancaster DAV Van Schedule for August 2016:

Columbia:	Rock Hill:
Wednesday, Aug 3	
Thursday, Aug 4	Friday, Aug 5
Wednesday, Aug 10	
Thursday, Aug 11	Friday, Aug 12
Wednesday, Aug 17	
Thursday, Aug 18	Friday, Aug 19
Wednesday, Aug 24	
Thursday, Aug 25	Friday, Aug 26
Wednesday, Aug 31	

Please note that these dates may be subject to change due to volunteer driver availability.

SC Works - Veterans Services

Do you fall in one of the following categories?

- A veteran with a service connected disability (have a percentage from VA)
- A veteran that is homeless or feel that you may be homeless
- A veteran lacking a high school diploma or GED
- A veteran who has been released from incarceration within the last 12 months
- A recently separated service member who has been unemployed for 27 weeks or more in the last 12 months or 18 to 24 years old

One on One Case Management and Individual Employment Plan

- Career/job counseling, local labor market information on jobs and employers in the area
- One on one assistance in tailoring resumes for area jobs
- Help with expanding your job search area and how to search
- Providing referral for jobs, family support, social service, and other community programs

If you would like to make an appointment to meet with a member of the SC Works Staff just call 803-313-7385 or come into a SC Works Office.

Michael E O'Donnell

Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Representative
SC Department of Employment and Workforce—Veteran Services SC Works
803-313-7385—Lancaster
803-328-3881 Ext 110 — Rock Hill
modonnell@dew.sc.gov

SC Works

Are you work ready? Contact Lynda!

Lynda Burke

Veterans Coordinator Catawba/LVER
SCDEW/SCWORKS
705 North White Street
Lancaster SC 29720
803-313-7388 (work)
803-287-5930 (cell)
lburke@dew.sc.gov

SC National Guard

Service Member and Family Care

Brad M. Ware is the Employment Advisor with the SC National Guard.

You may contact him at:

National Guard Armory
126 Airport Road
Rock Hill, SC 29732
Cell—803-288-2635

Email—Brad.m.ware.ctr@mail.mil

Local Veteran Service Organizations

Highlighting the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

DAV is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than 1 million veterans in positive, life-changing ways each year. The organization provides more than 700,000 rides for veterans attending medical appointments and assists veterans with more than 300,000 benefit claims annually. In 2015, DAV helped attain more than \$4 billion in new and retroactive benefits to care for veterans, their families and survivors.

DAV is also a leader in connecting veterans with meaningful employment, hosting job fairs and providing resources to ensure they have the opportunity to participate in the American Dream their sacrifices have made possible. With almost 1,300 chapters and 1.3 million members across the country,

DAV empowers our nation's heroes and their families by helping to provide the resources they need and ensuring our nation keep the promises made to them.



DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. DAV accomplishes this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to

them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

DAV Chapter 14 is located in Lancaster County. Chapter 14's commander is Wayne "Hoss" Knight. This chapter is currently seeking membership. The meetings are held at the American Legion on the second Monday of every month at 7:00pm. If you are interested in joining, please contact Hoss Knight.

Lancaster County Veteran Affairs office coordinates the DAV transportation service. If you are in need of a ride to your scheduled appointment to Dorn VA Medical Center or Rock Hill VA Clinic please call 803-283-2469.

Desert Shield, Desert Storm Veterans Honor Ceremonies

Hosted by U.S. Senator Tim Scott



All Desert Shield/Desert Storm veterans and their families are invited to attend and be recognized!

When: August 27, 2016, 9AM

Where: TD Convention Center
1 Exposition Drive, Greenville, SC 29607
RSVP or to learn more: call 844-872-7626 or
visit www.scott.senate.gov/veterans

When: August 27, 2016, 3PM

Where: Charleston Area Convention Center
5000 Coliseum Drive, North Charleston, SC 29418
RSVP or to learn more: call 844-872-7626 or
visit www.scott.senate.gov/veterans

Critical Home Repair Program

Habitat for Humanity of Lancaster County has now received a grant for critical home repair for veterans and the elderly. If you are interested in more information or want an application please contact our office.

You can also call 803-283-1203 to speak to someone with Habitat for Humanity of Lancaster County. There are certain eligibility criteria that will need to be met.

Direct Deposit

What is the fastest way to enroll or make a change to Direct Deposit? The fastest way is to call 1-800-827-1000. They will be able to change it over the phone. To enroll you will need to know your routing and account number along with the amount that will be deposited. If you are changing direct deposit you will need to know your old routing and account number along with your new information.

The American Legion

The American Legion Supported Passage of the Veterans Accountability Act as a temporary fix to help veterans get the health care they need. The Legion supports a strong VA that ultimately relies less and less on outside care, rather than move toward vouchers and privatization.

Next Meeting—Sept 5, 2016 @7:00pm.



Disabled American Veterans

We are very active in helping local veterans. Since July 2015 the DAV has spent over \$2200.00 helping veterans ranging from motel rooms for homeless veterans, to picking up and delivering medications. We have donated wheel chairs, walkers, crutches and batteries for electric wheel chairs. We work closely with Lancaster VA office and have supplied LARS tickets for veterans to use that services. Please all members come to the meetings—there is no limit what we can accomplish. Next Meeting August 15 at 7:00pm.

On October 17, 2016 the DAV Mobile Van will be at the American Legion from 9am to 4pm.

Fort Lawn Veteran Service Group

Open to all Veterans who want to attend. We meet at the Fort Lawn Community Center the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. The address is 5554 Main St, Fort Lawn, SC 29714. If you need more information please contact Jim Gladden at 803-320-3537 or Lynda Burke at 803-287-5930.

Marine Corps League

The Lancaster County Leather-necks—Detachment 1169 — Marine Corps League meets the last Tuesday of each month in our building at 347 Brooklyn Ave at 7:00pm. We welcome all Marines and FMF Corpsmen to join with us.

Jerry Holt, Commandant

Veterans of Foreign War

If you are interested in speaking to someone about becoming a member please contact Tim Catoe, Quartermaster for VFW Post 5936, at 803-285-7199 or 803-320-4675. You can also email him at tim.catoe@comporium.com

Veterans of Foreign War

Indian Land Post 12136

Next meeting is 4th Saturday of the month at 9:30am.
Location: 8083 Charlotte Hwy, Indian Land, SC 29707
Additional Information can be found on our following websites:
[Www.indianlandvfw.org](http://www.indianlandvfw.org) or www.facebook.com/indianlandvfw.com
Feel free to contact John Marker—Ph: 704.843.6930



The U.S. Department of Treasury, in partnership with the SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority and SC Housing Corp., has made over \$295 million available to help eligible South Carolina homeowners avoid serious first mortgage delinquency and foreclosures.

Qualifications

SC Help is intended to assist borrowers who are facing first mortgage delinquency or possible foreclosure. There is no household income limit, the property must be an owner-occupied primary residence, applicants must have a minimum 24 months homeownership history and applicants do NOT have to be delinquent.

How to Apply

Applicants are encouraged to apply electronically at: www.schelp.com. Applicants without the internet may call 1-855-435-7472, toll free number for assistance. There is NO FEE required at any point during the SC HELP process. Once you have made an appointment with a representative you can meet at the SC Works office on White St, Lancaster.

Check Your Rep

How can you check if your representative is accredited with the Office of General Counsel? Just follow these simple steps to check to make sure you are working with an accredited representative:

1. Go to <http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp>
2. You choose between attorney, claims agent or VSO representative
3. Enter in Last Name and State
4. Click Search
5. Click on your representatives name
6. A list will display showing all accreditations that person has.

If your representative is not listed then they are not accredited with a veterans service organization

About Our Office

This Office is employed by Lancaster County not the VA. The Lancaster County Veterans Affairs Office is an advocate for veterans and/or their surviving dependents to provide the assistance needed in applying for benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and VA Hospitals. The Veterans Affairs Office assists former and present members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents in preparing claims. Types of benefits include but not limited to: Service-Connected disability and Non-Service Connected pension; death pension benefits; burial; medical care; educational assistance, including vocational rehabilitation; guaranteed home loans; government life insurance and other benefits.

DAV Van

Due to low volunteer drivers we will only go 3 days a week.

If you need to schedule a ride on our DAV van please call 803-283-2469. Currently we are scheduled to go to Columbia on Wednesdays & Thursdays and Rock Hill on Fridays. Please note that we will need a 48 hour notice for you to be scheduled to ride this van. We only pick up veterans if you live on the way to Columbia or Rock Hill. We can only pick up riders that do not have any other way to meet here in the parking lot. We have to coordinate with volunteer drivers.

Want to receive this newsletter by email? Contact
VAOffice@lancastercountysc.net to
be put on the mailing list.



Office Staff

Robin Ghent

- Veteran Affairs Director, Lancaster County
- Immediate Past President, SCACVAO (South Carolina Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers)
- Board member for South Carolina Veteran Advocacy Council
- Board member for South Carolina Veterans Trust Fund
- Legislative Committee member for National Association County Veterans Service Officers

Accredited with:

1. National Association of County Veteran Service Officers
2. South Carolina Division of Veteran Affairs
3. The American Legion
4. Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
5. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
6. Vietnam Veterans of America
7. Retired Enlisted Association

**Received the appropriate training to be accredited and to have access to the Federal VA Claims system

Beth Raffaldt

- Deputy Director Veterans Affairs, Lancaster County
- Public Relations Chairperson, SCACVAO (South Carolina Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers)

Accredited with:

1. National Association of County Veteran Service Officers
2. South Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs
3. The American Legion
4. Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
5. Vietnam Veterans of America
6. Retired Enlisted Association
7. Military Order of the Purple Heart

**Received the appropriate training to be accredited and to have access to the Federal VA Claims system

We would like to announce that we have a new member of our staff. Please be welcoming and patient during this transition!

Amy Harper

- Secretary/DAV Van Coordinator for Veterans Affairs, Lancaster County

