



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2016 - 2017

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Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - Fall Visits

Doris Jackson, Department VA & R Chairman, mrsj@grm.net or 515-468-1274

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Donations - Please send your donations to the Department office earmarked with the facilities name. The needs list for each facility is on the ALA website. Christmas is coming, remember our Veterans!

Sioux Falls VA Visit

Members of the American Legion Family, on October 30, 2016 toured the Sioux Falls VAMC with Brenda Stevens, Voluntary Service Chief, providing the tour. Prior to the tour, the group met with Director Darwin Goodspeed. He stated the new CBOC will be in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, just across I-29 from Sioux City, due to the value of the

care addition will be opening soon with the OT/PT open within a year. The OT/PT will have all new equipment for the veterans use. Last will be the new Oncology Unit and the Specialty clinic and they will open together. This cost for this renovation is \$15 million, which also includes the construction of the new ER. Sioux Falls VAMC has 300,000 outpatients a year with 1,400 seen every day. Vietnam veterans are the majority of patients seen at this time. The National Guard is included in care given at the VAMC. They are proud that if a patient has an acute illness they have same day treatment, there is no waiting. A well utilized women's clinic is located on the 2nd floor. Their PTSD program has three psychologists, which is an increase over the last year, with excellent care given to the veterans & military. Director Goodspeed stated "Get the veteran in the system so if ever an emergency they are already registered". This will save on time, when time is of the essence. Last is volunteers, they never have enough. The Chapel and Recreation rely completely on donations at this time. The ALA gave over \$29,000.00 last year in donations to help where needed throughout the VAMC with 9th District getting praise for their efforts in helping the Sioux Falls VAMC.

Des Moines VA Visit

VA Central Iowa Health System
3600 - 30th St. - Des Moines

Angie Sage
515-699-5999
Ext. #5818

ALA Rep
Mary Sebben
515-978-6339

The American Legion Family met with Bart Quick, Voluntary Services Director, on October 7, 2016 for a tour of the Des Moines VAMC facility. Bart spoke of the CLC providing nursing, behavioral and rehabilitation services. Building 7M contains clinical offices as well as administrative offices and that the facility provides a 60 bed domiciliary.

Dr. Jerry Blow is the Chief of Staff and they are currently in the process of hiring a Nursing Executive.

The new ER was opened in July and is setup like a wagon wheel. The nurse's station is located in the center of the room with all the individual ER rooms circling around it. There is a total of 8 emergency rooms. Two rooms being decontamination (decon) rooms. These two rooms have direct access to the ambulance with a hose-off shower. One room has been designed for the mental health patients. The remaining rooms are open to all veterans for emergency treatment.

Med-Surg is located on 3B and consists of 26 single occupancy rooms. The hallways have been widened for easier access. Each room has a 1000 pound lift which can transport the patient to the bathroom and shower.

A new 3-D mammography has been installed in the Imaging Department. This is a major step up for the women veterans. Also services provided are MRI, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, PET/CT scan, x-ray, and Stress lab.

The building of a new cottage near the CLC for 140 beds to house 14 veterans with dementia/going through difficult times (palliative care) is anticipated to start construction early 2018. They also have plans for a Mental Health Building as well as a parking ramp adjacent to the Building 1. It will have 250 parking spots.

www.iowaala.org

Omaha VA Visit

On Friday, October 16, Pam Clark, Iowa Dept. VA&R Service to Veterans Representative, and Ann Crawford, NEC and Past Department President, drove to Omaha to take a tour of the Omaha Veteran's Hospital. We joined Department President Sharon Anderson and her husband, Rich, and Department Commander Kenneth Rochholz.

We were greeted by Omaha Auxiliary Hospital Representative Jean Brown, Anna Morelock, Acting Public Affairs Officer and Julie Rickert, Acting Associate Director. Anna and Julie led the tour.

The first thing we noticed was the new monument in the lobby honoring all branches of the service. Each bronze statue is fashioned after a real-life person. There is also a new "Welcome Home" mural on the wall behind the information desk. It adds a lot to the warmth and friendliness of the lobby.

We visited the Same-Day Access Clinic, which is a new service at the VA. Here they are able to provide same day access to clinicians for non-emergent issues. We next visited a patient room, which was

Iowa City VA Visit

Department Commander Ken Rochholz, Auxiliary President Sharon Anderson, Detachment Commander Gary Bonesteel and members of the Legion family joined together on October 28, 2016, for the Iowa City VA tour. This was a special day for the Iowa City VA with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony at 1:00 for the new surgical unit.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new surgical unit was held in the hallway just outside of the new surgical rooms. VA Director Judy Johnson thanked the designers, finance committee and the Doctors, nurses and anesthesiologists for making this day become a reality. They have six new surgical rooms: 1 hybrid (state of the art), surgeries are minimally invasive, and designed for the vascular system. 1 Unit is set up for eye surgeries with the first microscopic surgery beginning the first week of November. Another unit is for orthopedic surgeries, with all tools being battery operated. The last is for neurosurgery which shows microscopic images on a screen while the surgery is in progress. The remaining Units are for general surgeries.

Director Judy Johnson spoke on the Quad Cities CBOC and its

Omaha
VA Medical Center
4101 Woolworth Ave.

Kelly Bealer
402-346-8800
Ext. #3238
Room 7F706

ALA Rep
Jean Brown
402-342-2268

very modern and spacious. Jean showed us her office where she works one day per week.

At the conclusion of the tour, we were invited to ask questions or voice concerns. We talked about the fact that Units are not being sent notifications of donations received. There is a back log of these going back about one and half years. We met Kelly Bealer, retired Air Force, who was hired as the new Voluntary Services Director. She promises that she will work very hard to get everything organized and start acknowledging donations from the Auxiliary. She has a large task ahead of her, but we're happy to have someone hired for that position. It will be a big help to Jean, plus Jean will be able to help her, too.

Omaha VA staff is very appreciative of all that the Iowa Auxiliary Units donate to the hospital as well as the housing apartments for the homeless.

VA Medical Center
601 Hwy 6 West - Iowa City

Veronica Jackson-Patrick
319-338-0581
Ext. #6279

ALA Rep
Mary Littrell
319-351-4065

upcoming move to Davenport within the next 18 months. At the new CBOC all needs will be met in one setting. Recent statistics show that the Ottumwa, Galesburg, Waterloo, Quad Cities CBOC's have had an increase in veterans visits of 1,000 making this area the only area that has grown in the region.

The construction of a new ambulance garage, ER and primary care unit will be located in the same area off the parking ramp area. All specialty care will also be located in one area.

A simulation lab was opened in 2009, to train Doctors and nurses on their high fidelity dummies that are so life like they can cry, bleed, talk, etc. They can be given oxygen, IV's, CPR or be defibulated or put on a ventilator. Three different computers operate the most sophisticated, high tech dummy. They are designed to train students on basic and advanced life support.

The Iowa City VA has 146 active American Legion Auxiliary members, totaling 19,165 total hours.

Sioux Falls
VA Medical Center
2501 W. 22nd St.

Brenda Stevens
605-333-6851

ALA Rep
Ann Crawford
712-423-2096

land to high on Iowa side locating in Dakota Dunes was more feasible. The old CBOC will remain open until the new one is finished. They are 6 miles apart. The new CBOC has 25,000 sq. ft. compared to the current one of 8,000 sq. ft. This gives them room to add more specialty clinics. Ophthalmology and Audiology will be added to the new CBOC. It will service 7,000 veterans compared to the current 3,000 with the majority of the veterans being from Iowa. Plans are underway for a new CBOC to open in Spirit Lake this time, next year.

The Sioux Falls VAMC has construction underway for a new primary care addition, OT/PT remodel and addition, Oncology, and Specialty clinic. The primary

Iowa Veterans Home Visit

On October 21, 2016, the Legion family met with Commandant Jodi Tymeson for a brief meeting and a tour by Volunteer Services Director Aimee Deimerly.

Commandant Tymeson stated the budget for the IVH is 85 million dollars with the highest percentage of income being Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance or private pay. 25% comes from VA and 9% from the state. The IVH has over 900 staff and 500 plus residents.

Mallory and Dack have been completely remodeled with a single resident to each room. Admissions, cashier, Commandant's office, Medical clinic and xray are located in Sheeler. Ulery houses 105 residents with memory, dementia or Alzheimer's and they are using music as therapy for some of the residents. Hines is the assisted living quarters with 106 residents. This building will soon be

Iowa Veterans Home
1301 Summit St. - Marshalltown

Aimee Deimerly
641-753-4406

ALA Rep
Stacy Bane
641-750-3443

renovated and operates as its own facility. Cottages are available to rent for \$20.00 a night for family that would like to spent the night and for residents transitioning back to their home can also stay in the cottages.

The Iowa Veterans Home offers a wonderful library with newspapers from across the state so residents can stay in touch with home. In the craft rooms, you will find a loom for rag rugs, leather making, sewing and ceramics. Recreation is a big part of IVH with 2 painted buses they can travel to numerous places which definitely makes the day brighter for the residents. Bingo (which is the favorite), gardening, dancing and parties are a few of the activities at the home.