

Detroit Excellence

A Monthly Newsletter for Employees, Volunteers and Patients of the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center



VA
HEALTH
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Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

March 2012

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Detroit Excellence wants to feature the news YOU want to read! If you have a story to contribute, please email:

alyse.mengason@va.gov or lisa.olney@va.gov



Medical Center Thanks Doctors

Always a festive day, the Detroit VA Medical Center staff said 'Thank you' to its staff of clinicians and NPs. On March 30th, hundreds crowded into B1290 to enjoy a luncheon and conversation.

"It's an annual event in which we can thank all of our hard working doctors and NPs for their service to our nation's heroes," said Dr. Scott Gruber, Chief of Staff.

VA Focuses on Planning National Small Business Conference & Expo in Detroit, June 26—19, 2012

VA employees are hard at work, nationwide, planning this June's National Veteran Small Business Conference and Expo, set to take place June 26—29, 2012, at Cobo Center in Detroit.

Many people, both staff and Veterans are asking...what is the conference and how can I get involved?

Attendees will come from all levels of federal, state, and local government agencies, the small business community, research institutions, prime contractors, large businesses, Veterans, entrepreneurs, and many more. As the largest nationwide conference of its kind, this event focuses on helping Veteran-owned businesses maximize opportunities in the federal marketplace. Last summer's conference was held in New Orleans and proved to be incredibly successful. Nearly 6,000 participants are expected this year in Detroit.

This conference will give participants the opportunity to connect with procurement decision makers from other businesses and federal agencies; expand knowledge through over 200 training and business requirement sessions; engage with other attendees and gain visibility in the Expo Hall of nearly 500 booths and use VetGovPartner to facilitate online and onsite networking including face-to-face sessions with senior procurement decision makers. Need more information? Check out the website, <http://www.nationalveteransconference.com>.



Message from the Director



Happy Spring to all of our employees, volunteers and Veterans!

Just as we had a very busy winter, spring will be no different.

By now, I'm hoping most of you know about the National Veterans Small Business Conference and Expo, set to take place in Detroit, June 26—29 at Cobo Center. Not only is this a huge kudos for the John D. Dingell VA

Medical Center, it's a wonderful event for Detroit and I'm so proud that they've chosen this city as host. More than 6,000 attendees are expected, and not only will there be hundreds of informational booths and sessions, VA is planning a hiring fair and an Open House. You can receive constant updates by visiting the website, www.nationalveteransconference.com, or by checking in often on our website, www.detroit.va.gov and in Detroit Excellence. Hundreds of our staff members will be attending at various times throughout the conference, and we hope to see you there!

We are busy preparing for the opening of our Veterans Community Resource and Referral Center, the VCRRC, set to take place on April 17th, with a ribbon cutting event on May 3rd. This is an incredibly important program that we are very passionate about. Detroit is one of several VAMCs in the U.S. to pilot this 'one stop shop' for homeless Veterans in the area.

Along with the continued construction on our blue 'Visitors' parking deck and several other areas of the medical center, it's important to pause and take time to thank some of the great individuals who



work each day to improve the health and wellness of our Veterans. As we do each year, we were able to recognize our doctors and nurse practitioners on 'Doctors Day'. Thank you to each of you for all that you do!

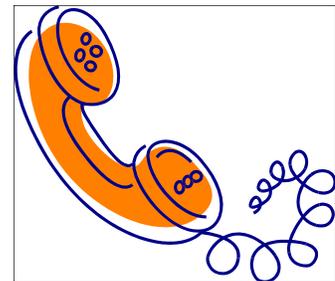
Enjoy April, and as I always say, thank you for your service!

Dr. Pamela Reeves, Medical Center Director

How do I call the Detroit VA?

The Telephone Call Center here at the Detroit VAMC can assist with appointment management, prescription refills and medical questions or concerns.

Members of our call center staff are available Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m., 313-576-1051 or 800-511-8056.



Follow the Detroit VA Medical Center on Facebook and Twitter!

We are reaching out to our Veterans, their families, our volunteers and our staff, providing them with good information on programs and services.

Have you visited our pages?
Make sure you tell friends and family!



Calendar of Events, April 2012

- April 11—World Autism Day
- April 6—Passover begins (sundown)
- April 6—Good Friday
- April 7, 1961—World Health Organization Founded
- April 8—Easter
- April 9— National Former POW Recognition Day
- April 9, 1865—U.S. Civil War Ended
- April 14, 1946—Paralyzed Veterans of America Established
- April 15—21 National Volunteer Week
- April 17, 1961—Bay of Pigs Invasion Launched
- April 19—Holocaust Remembrance Day
- April 22—Earth Day
- April 23—27 VA Research Week
- April 25—Administrative Professionals Day
- April 26—Take our children to work day
- April 30, 1970— Cambodia Invaded by U.S.



2012 Federally Employed Woman of the Year

On March 27, 2012, the Federal Woman’s Program, a subcommittee of the Diversity Committee here at the medical center, paid tribute to 19 outstanding women.

These women, who were nominated by their peers, were nominated as the 2012 Federally Employed Women of the John D. Dingell VAMC. In celebration of their contributions to the four pillars of the strategic plan, the women were treated to a soup and salad luncheon.

The luncheon, held in B1290, included a discussion on Stress Management by Karen Ferrell and the announcement of the 2012 Federally Employed



Woman of the Year, Mrs. Susan Yu (Systems Redesign). Congratulations to all of the nominees!

Nominees: Brenda Nance, Patricia Fox, Karen Farrell, Amber Mason-Dixon, Carolyn Hannah-Ray, Teresza Fields-Montgomery, Barbara Day, Susan Yu, Doris Jackson, Joy Innis-Johnson, Jemica Carter, PhD, RN, Sorojini Chirumilla, MD, Barbara Reyes, Kathleen Wall, RPh, Althea B. Hence, Arlene Burnock, Susan Tyler-Davis, Jeanette Varanelli,

Employee of the Month

Willa Carter is the Detroit VAMC Employee of the Month for March 2012.

Willa is a Secretary in the Radiology Service and has been an employee of the Detroit VAMC since March 1985.

Willa was nominated for employee of the month by one of her fellow employees who would like to acknowledge her commitment to the VA Medical Center. According to one of her coworkers, “Willa approaches her job with great attention to detail. Patient concerns are addressed with the goal of getting tasks accomplished as soon as possible. She has developed a working professional rapport with all personnel. Willa demonstrates a strong commitment to our Core Values. Recently, she was instrumental in coordinating care for a Veteran patient.”

Congratulations, Willa, and thank you for your service to our Veterans!



March 2012 Photo Album



Clockwise from top right: Doctors Day celebration in B1290, March 30th; Irish American Celebration, March 13th; Veteran Art Fair in B1290, March 2nd.