



Serving Those Who Served

Shiawassee County Veteran News

Welcome...

Introducing the 1st Monthly Veteran Newsletter by Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs & Services.

Each month look for information and current events to keep you updated. All monthly newsletters will be available online and in our office. Sign up at vetaffairs@shiawassee.net to receive monthly newsletter via email.



Rotating Shelter

Now Open & Need Volunteers

Walls of Warmth (WOW) is a rotating homeless shelter in Shiawassee County and provides immediate, temporary housing to homeless individuals and families of all social and cultural identities.

If you would like to be our guest, registration begins every day from 4:30-5:45pm at the WOW Welcome Center located at 121 W. Exchange St. in Owosso (next to Owosso Books & More). Or you can call the Shelter Manager at (989)494-6910. Guests will then be transported to the host site for a night filled with warmth, food and activities.

- 4:30-5:45pm Check in at WOW Welcome Center (Transportation Provided)
- 6:00-10:00pm Given: Dinner, Bed with Linens, Toiletries
Social Hour: games, movie, etc.
Lights Out 10pm
- 7:00am Given: Breakfast
- 7:45am Depart Rotating Shelter Location (Transportation Provided)
- 8:00am Arrive at Salvation Army Warming Center (302 E. Exchange St., Owosso)



Following a background check for serious violent crimes, guests will be transported to that week's host church. Each will receive a tote bag containing a pillow, blanket and hygiene products. After dinner, guests can participate in organized activities or watch movies. They will sleep in separate rooms - for men, women and children - on mattresses donated by one of the churches. A continental breakfast will be served in the morning. The Salvation Army is providing a place to go after 8am, as well as lunch. A voucher from the Shiawassee Family YMCA is good for three showers per week. If guests need a place to stay that night, they can check in with Walls of Warmth again. Guests must be accompanied by an adult if they are under 18. They will not be required to attend church services, and don't have to be Christian.

Calendar of Events:

- March 12 & 13 Expo 2016 (Home & Garden show)
- March 16 Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Meeting/10am
- March 16 Baker College Job Fair/1pm
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 23 Veterans Affairs Relief Fund Meeting/3pm
- March 25 Good Friday/Office Closed

Contact Us:

201 N. Shiawassee St.
3rd floor, Surbeck Building
Corunna, MI 48817
Phone: (989)743-2231
Fax: (989)743-2393
vetaffairs@shiawassee.net

Veterans Job Fair!!!

Baker College is partnering with the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership, and Genesee-Shiawassee Thumb Michigan Works to bring you the upcoming 2016 Spring Job Fair taking place on March 16th! This year it will run from 10:00am-3:00pm. Armed Service Veterans will have early access to the Job Fair from 10:00am - 10:30am, with the General Public to follow. We expect to have 60 employers participating from the area who are actively hiring. The participating employers represent many different types of employment opportunities including Civil Service, Customer Service, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Transportation, Sales & Marketing, and much more.

This event is *free* to the public, so come prepared, bring your resume, dress for success, and be ready for possible on site interviews! MI Works representatives have been working with local employers experiencing growth in their businesses, and they need qualified applicants to fill open positions. Please consider this to be your personal invitation to check it out!

If you have any questions please call Baker and Corporate Services at (989)729-3310.



Free counseling for war time veterans VetCenter

The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach and referral services to eligible Service Members to assist them in making a positive post deployment readjustment to life. 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

www.vetcenter.va.gov
Saginaw Vet Center
5360 Hampton Place, Suite 200
Saginaw, MI 48604
(989)321-4650

call to find out additional locations

Funding Needs for Federal Budget

www.govtrack.us/congress/bills

Congress and the President recently acted on the funding needs of the entire federal budget. The national legislative staff wanted to provide you a synopsis of the funding levels approved for veterans benefits and health care in the omnibus act.

On December 18, Congress passed and the President signed into law H.R. 2029, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. This legislation provides the FY 2016 funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and includes advance appropriations for FY 2017 for most VA health care and mandatory spending programs.

The bill includes almost \$163 billion in total discretionary and mandatory funding for VA for fiscal year 2016. This includes \$91 billion in mandatory funding and \$71 billion in discretionary funding.

Advance Appropriations: The bill includes \$63 billion (\$3 billion less than recommended by the *Independent Budget (IB)*) in fiscal year 2017 advance funding for VA medical care and \$103 billion in fiscal year 2017 advance funding for VA's mandatory programs for compensation and pension.

Medical Programs for FY 2016: The Veterans Health Administration, including its research programs, is funded at \$62 billion (\$2 billion less than recommended by the IB), \$1 billion more than the Administration's requested level and \$5 billion more than fiscal year 2015.

Medical Care Highlights:

Hepatitis C Treatments. - \$1.5 billion for new Hepatitis C treatments. *Women Veterans.* \$5 billion in total health care for women veterans who use the VA health system. This includes \$446 million for genderspecific health care.

Caregivers. - for the family caregivers program, \$605 million (\$50 million more than requested by the Administration). *Vet Centers.* - \$258 million to fund readjustment counseling.

Homeless Programs. - \$1.4 billion. *Mental Health.* - \$7.5 billion, including \$381 million for PostTraumatic Stress Disorder, \$612 million for substance abuse treatment and \$144 million for suicide prevention outreach.

Rural Health. - \$270 million for programs of the Office of Rural Health.

Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans. - The bill includes funding of \$4.9 billion to treat almost 845,000 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.

Traumatic Brain Injury. - \$232 million in care for veterans suffering traumatic brain injury or other poly-traumatic injuries.

Long-Term Care. - \$7.5 billion for institutional and non-institutional longterm services.

Medical and Prosthetic Research. - The bill includes almost \$631 million, \$42 million more than fiscal year 2015 and \$9 million more than requested by the Administration.

Other:

Claims Processing: The bill includes \$2.7 billion (\$89 million less than recommended by the IB) for claims processing, \$173 million more than last year's level of \$2.53 billion and \$10 million more than the request.

Construction: Major Construction, \$1.24 billion (\$686 million less than recommended by the IB) for major construction projects; for minor construction, \$406 million (\$169 million less than recommended by the IB).

Grants for the Construction of State Veterans Homes: \$120 million (\$80 million less than recommended by the IB).

Information Technology (IT): The bill provides \$4.1 billion (\$158 million more than recommended by the IB) to modernize and sustain VA's information technology systems.





DAV VAN

Available for Local Veterans
989-743-2346

Free transportation to VA medical appointments

Monday - Friday

The DAV van will pick up and drop off veteran(s) at the following locations when driving for your VA medical appointments.

Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs & Services
201 N. Shiawassee S.t
Corunna, MI 48867

Vg's Food Store
1341 N. M-52
Owosso, MI 48867

Owosso Cinema/Theater
Parking Lot(next to the river)
Owosso

AMVETS 8425
E. M-71
Durand, MI 48429

Perry Burger King
2994 W. Lansing Rd.
Perry, MI 48872

Byron United
Methodist Church
101 S. Ann St.
Byron, MI 48418



**Call Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs & Services
to sign up today! (989)-743-2346**

MI 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 MI Works Staff just call (989) 729-7685 or come into a MI Works Office.



Veterans Employment Representative
Phone: (810)235-8903
Owosso Phone: (989)729-7685
blabad@michigan.gov

**Shiawassee
HOME * GARDEN * BUSINESS**

March 12th & 13th

**Come out and see
our booth!!!**



**Location: Owosso High School
765 E. North St.
Owosso, MI 48867** **Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday 11am-4:30pm**



Volunteers of America
405 S. Grand Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Phone: (517)574-7913

Shiawassee County

Employment Manager &
Homeless Veterans Program
(517)574-7913

Employment Specialist
(810)412-8824



Critical Home Repair Program

Habitat for Humanity of Shiawassee 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 (989)753-5200 to speak to someone with Habitat for Humanity of Shiawassee County. There are certain eligibility criteria that will need to be met.



Dog Tags

There are 3 easy ways to order your dog tags:

1. TREA Store—www.trea.org
2. Phone in—1-800-338-9337
3. Pick Up—TREA HQ

They are \$5.00 plus tax and shipping per set. The set includes a chain and silencer. You can add a Red Med Alert Tag for \$1.00.



Direct Deposit



What is the fastest way to enroll or make a change to Direct Deposit? The fastest way is to call 1-877-838-2778. 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.

Free Tax Preparation

For qualified taxpayers

Tax Season is here! And we've got great news--you may be able to get your state and federal taxes prepared and filed for free.

Please call 211 to find out what agencies in your area are offering this free service.

Here are a few that we know about:

Shiawassee United Way
123 S. Washington St.
Owosso, MI 48867
Phone: (989)723-4987

Capital Area Community Services
1845 Corunna Ave.
Owosso, MI 48867
Phone: (989)723-3115

Shiawassee Council on Aging
300 N. Washington St.
Owosso, MI 48867
Phone: (989)723-8875



- Please contact agencies for appointments. Be prepared, you may have to bring the following to your appointments:
- Proof of identification (photo I.D.)
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents
- An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter may be substituted for you, your spouse and your dependents if you do not have a Social Security number
- Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statements (Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc) from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099) All Forms 1095, Health Insurance Statements
- Health Insurance Exemption Certificate, if receive
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Proof of bank account routing and account numbers for direct deposit such as a blank check
- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number such as their Social Security number for business Employer Identification Number
- Forms 1095-A, B or C, Affordable Health Care Statements Copies of income transcripts from IRS and state, if applicable

The American Legion Owosso Post #57

The American Legion meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00pm.

Poker room every weekend

Monday-Burger's 4pm-8pm
Tuesday-Coney's 4pm-8pm
Friday-Taco's 4pm-8pm

The American Legion
201 E. Mason St.
Owosso, mi 48867
Phone: (989)723-1382

THE AMERICAN LEGION



AMVETS-Durand Post #2273

The AMVETS in Durand meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm.

Riders Sponsoring

March 13th (Sunday)

All You Can Eat Breakfast
\$6.00

AMVETS
8495 E. M-71
Durand, MI 48429



The National Museum of the United States Army

Registry of the American Soldier

The Registry of the American Soldier provides a unique opportunity to recognize and honor Soldiers who are currently serving, and those who have served, in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard. The Registry will be prominently displayed at The National Museum of the United States Army. Any Soldier who has ever worn the Army uniform throughout or nation's history and has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions is eligible to have a special registry page on the Museum website.

To enroll yourself, or to honor a friend or family member, please log on to www.usarmyregistry.org.

The National Museum of the United States Army
PO Box 96281
Washington, DC 20090-6281
(800)506-2672
www.armyhistory.org

Marine Corps League Harold R. Cooley #841

The Marine Corps League meets the second Wednesday of every month at The American Legion Post #57 located at 201 E. Mason St., Owosso, MI 48867. Meetings are held at 7:00pm.

MCL will hold a booth at the Expo 2016 (Home & Garden Show) March 12th & 13th

During the Home & Garden show MCL will have a Flag Fund raiser and will have MCL shirts/hats available to purchase.



Veterans of Foreign War -Corruna Post #4005

The VFW in Corunna meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00pm.

Post Commander/Past President
Dinner
March 12th at 6:00pm
State Officials Visiting
Bingo Thursdays at 6:00pm
Friday Fish Fry 4pm-7:30pm

VFW
416 S. Shiawassee St.
Corunna, MI 48817
Phone: (989)743-5015



Veterans of Foreign War - Owosso Post #9455

The VFW in Owosso meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm.

Past Commanders/Past President Banquet Dinner
March 5th at 5:00pm

Please call post for details!

Breakfast Sundays 8am-12noon

March 15th-Gun Raffle at post (Henry Brand collectors item)

(Tickets are \$5.00)

VFW
519 S. Chipman St. Phone: (989)723-8655
Owosso, MI 48867



THE ORIGINAL HENRY RIFLE
Made in America for the first time in 150 years

A free program for
Military and Veteran
Spouses/Partners

HomeFront STRONG

Building Resilient Military Families

HomeFront Strong is an 8-week program to help military or veteran spouses/partners prepare for, cope with, or rebound from the challenges of deployment and military life.

New groups starting soon!

DINNER PROVIDED

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AVAILABLE

Participants can receive up to \$140 for attending the group and completing a research evaluation of the program

Please call Jodi Bachrach
at (734) 998-5849 or email jbachrac@med.umich.edu
to register or for more information



Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services Office Staff

Jerilyn Strein – Director

Mrs. Strein has been employed with the Veterans Affairs and Services department since 2010. She became director in 2012. Jerilyn is an affiliate member of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers along with the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors. As a national accredited service officer, by law she has the authorization to assist in the preparation, presentation of a claim for VA benefits. (38 U.S.C. 14.629) Additionally, Mrs. Strein has clearance to access the federal VA Claims system.

Accreditations:

National Association of County Veterans Service Officers
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Military of Purple Heart
American Legion
Disabled American Veterans

Carrie Burns – Benefit Counselor (Veterans Service Officer)

Ms. Burns, a marine who served in Iraq, became employed with the Veterans Affairs and Services Department in 2014. She is an affiliate member of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers along with the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors. Carrie has obtained the necessary training to be nationally accredited and have access to the federal VA claim system.

Accreditations:

National Association of County Veterans Service Officers
Disabled American Veterans
Marine Corp League
Military Order of Purple Heart
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America

Casey Wilder – Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Wilder has been employed with the Veterans Affairs and Service Department since 2013. She is an agent for the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and specializes in Emergency Assistance Grants.

Michael Judd – Travel Coordinator

Mr. Judd, a navy seal veteran began his employment with the Veterans Affairs and Services department in 2015. He works closely with the Volunteer Services at the Saginaw VA Medical Center. Mike coordinates transportation for veterans of Shiawassee County to their VA Medical appointments.

Shiawassee Central Dispatch



**We Serve
So Others May Live**

FUNDING PROPOSITION



VOTE MARCH 8TH

For more information visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/SupportShiawasseeCo911>



May the wind at your back
not be the result
of the corned beef and cabbage
you had for lunch.



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Check Your Rep/VSO

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