



NWV Messenger

For the week of May 3, 2010

Public Service Recognition Week, May 3-9

Each year the president and congress designate the first full week of May to honor the men and women who serve America as federal, state, county and local government employees.

May 3 to 9 is this year's Public Service Recognition Week. This year's theme is "Government Innovation and Opportunity." VA employees have made and continue to make outstanding contributions. Did you know a VA researcher first developed the connection between smoking and disease?

Here are a just few contributions made by public servants:

- Half of all U.S. medical doctors in practice today received training by government employees working for VA.
- The CAT scan, which helps physicians diagnose cancer brain disorders and other diseases, was invented by a public servant.
- The National Institutes of Health began in a single attic room with one doctor searching for a way to prevent the spread of cholera.
- The "Do Not Call" list was created and implemented by a team of government employees.

- Government employees developed both radar and sonar.
- More than 2 million public employees protect our nation through service in our armed forces.
- Ninety-five percent of America's children are protected against major disease through use of vaccines administered by public employees when they enter school. Thanks to the government, polio and measles have been all but wiped out. The vaccine for meningitis and drugs for malaria were developed by federal government employees.
- Government employees developed instrument landing systems used by all commercial and military aircraft, as well as the basic design of most aircrafts.
- NASA space technology launched tens of thousands of products, including cordless construction tools, heat cradles for premature infants, smoke detectors, low-cost waste water treatment, radiology and an underwater device used to locate the "black box" from airplane crashes.
- The Department of Defense developed global position satellite technology.

National Compliance and Ethics Week

National Compliance and Ethics Week, May 2 to 8, is an annual industry tradition that is celebrated by health care systems across the country.

Within VHA, Compliance and Ethics Week is sponsored by the Compliance and Business Integrity (CBI) program

and Integrated Ethics (IE) initiative in partnership with the VHA Chief Business Office, Office of Finance and Office of Health Information. Together, these organizations work to promote business compliance and excellence while strengthening ethics quality across all

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CALENDAR

May

Asian-Pacific American Month

Older Americans Month

Mental Health Month

National Arthritis Month

6 Nurses Day

6-12 Nurses Week

9-15 National Police Week

9-15 National Hospital Week

15 Peace Officer Memorial Day

15 Armed Forces Day

16-22 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week

31 Memorial Day

June

Fireworks Safety Month

National Safety Month

6 National Cancer Survivors Day

10-17 Nursing Assistant Week

14 Flag Day

14-20 National Men's Health Week

20 Father's Day

21 Summer Begins

July

UV Safety Month

Fireworks Safety Month

4 Independence Day

4-9 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

6-12 Alzheimer's Awareness Week

21 VA Created

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VHA programs and practices.

This year's theme is "Leading by Example." As the VA serves Veterans who have served us, its employees should lead by example by actively promoting the highest standard in ethics quality to ensure employees achieve compliance excellence in routine business operations.

Because business compliance is dependent upon an organizational culture of ethics and values, the IE and CBI programs work together to improve overall ethics quality and business compliance. At the same time, these programs partner with organizations involved in business operations to achieve business compliance and ethics improvement in VHA.

For more information, contact **Thom Sinnette**, Compliance and Business Integrity Officer for VA NWIHCS, at Thomas.Sinnette@va.gov.

Omaha Fitness Center Reopens May 4

The VA NWIHCS, Omaha fitness center (located in Modular Building A) is closed through May 3 due to construction of the

front entrance ramp and modification to the flooring. It will re-open May 4 to employees who have prox cards.

Training Sessions for New ID Card System

A new identification card system is coming to VA NWIHCS. Equipment was installed at VA NWIHCS, Grand Island last week and was installed at VA NWIHCS, Omaha this week.

This is a national program. All employees, contractors, providers, volunteers and affiliates will be required to either have a new employee ID card or flash pass. A flash pass is typically provided to vendors and contractors who do not require security clearances or access to our computers.

This is going to be implemented in two steps. The first step is issuing ID cards to new employees beginning May 10 for Grand Island and June 10 for employees in Omaha and Lincoln.

The second step is for existing employees. This is anticipated to take about 13 to 14 months to complete. Information on how the new cards will be issued will be provided soon.

There are specific roles for each department, they are:

Sponsor (at least one per department): The sponsor initiates the ID process and determines what access the individual needs and that they're in good standing. The sponsor completes and submits an electronic Form 0711, schedules the individual for an appointment to get the ID card and is responsible for re-initiating the process if a card is lost, stolen or no longer functioning. Sponsors will have software downloaded onto their computer to allow them access to the form.

Registrar (Police and HR): The registrar is the second stop in the process. The registrar, using two forms of personal identification, verifies employees are who they report to be. If a security clearance is required, they verify that the Special Access Check has been completed and the NACI has been initiated (if required as a condition of employment).

At this point, the registrar will take the individual's photo and fingerprints from two fingers. Upon completion, the registrar finalizes their portion of the electronic Form 0711 and sends it to the issuer.

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Title 38 Employee Optional Annual Health Screening

Title 38 employees are entitled to an annual physical and health screening. Title 38 employees include physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, chiropractors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and expanded functional dental assistants. The goal is to offer this service annually in the month of your birthday.

The optional screening lab work, ordered through Occupational Health, is based on the Preventative Task Force Guidelines. This includes a BMI measurement, blood pressure check, fasting blood sugar, and based upon your age or certain risk factors, checking your lipid profile. If the Health Risk Appraisal (completed online with Wellness Is Now) identifies other risk factors, Occupational Health will order individualized lab work specific to your risk factors.

Title 38 employees can contact Occupational Health to schedule an appointment for following optional lab work:

- Health screening lab work according to the U.S. Preventative Task Force Guidelines,
- Health screening lab work according to the U.S. Preventative Task Force Guidelines and physical

Omaha:

Lois Johnson, LPN, ext. 5823

Shanna Freeman, APRN, ext. 5994

Lincoln:

Cay Tiernan, RN, ext. 6634

Grand Island:

Tom Stearley, ext. 2358

Wellness Is Now (WIN VA) is a VA-sponsored program to help all

employees improve their health. The program offers free, confidential personal assistance on the Intranet and through individual and/or group coaching sessions. WIN VA is designed for all VA employees who want to find a healthy balance at home and work. The WIN Program is for anyone who would like to exercise more, lose weight, improve their diet, manage stress or stop smoking.

Your WIN Coach is **Quin Kelly** RN, BSN. Contact her at 8865-7902 or e-mail quin.kelly@va.gov. If you are interested in completing a Health Risk Appraisal, go to these websites: http://va.21dayclub.com/mapping_center or <http://vawww.portal.va.gov/sites/EmpWell/default.aspx>.

Quin will then review the confidential results with you.

Issuer (Police and HR): This is the last stop for the applicant. The issuer will bring up the electronic form and electronic version of the individual's ID. The issuer will verify the individual matches the electronic photograph the registrar took. The issuer will then fingerprint the same two fingers the registrar used. Once the verification process has been completed, the issuer will then print the new ID card.

All sponsors, registrars and issuers are required to attend training to familiarize themselves with the new system and in preparation for issuing new ID cards.

Training is scheduled for:

May 4-(Omaha, Education Conference Room)-9 to 10:30 a.m., make-up sponsor training; 12:30 to 2 p.m., make-up sponsor training (if needed).

Lincoln and other CBOC designees should attend an Omaha training session.

Information Security and Privacy Protection

Remember these simple steps you can take daily to protect patient and employee information.

- Lock your computer—every time you step away
- Secure patient information—never leave it unattended
- Use encryption when sending patient information through Microsoft Outlook email. Do not place patient information in the subject line.
- Do not place sensitive information on Outlook calendars. Patient scheduling should be done using the approved VistA scheduling package.
- Use the locking shred bins to dispose of sensitive information and empty temporary receptacles daily into a locking bin.
- Know who to contact to report a security or privacy breach (report within one hour of the event).

Contacts: Information Security Officer **Joe Elbaum**, at Omaha ext. 3558, or **Stephen Quinn**, at Omaha ext. 3858; and Privacy Officer, **Janice Sandquist**, at Omaha ext. 3427 or **Karyn Stodden**, at (402) 599-2108.

Omaha Construction Updates

The VA NWIHCS, Omaha Medical Library is being renovated and is expected to be completed June 1.

Electronic media is still available but the print collection has been removed for the duration of the project. Space for studying and reading materials may be limited. The librarian and regular library services such as interlibrary loan will still be available. No significant impact to pictel site 2 is expected. During this time, the library will not accept donated books or magazines. If you have materials to donate, contact Voluntary Services.

The Positron Emission Tomography (PET-CT) site prep project started last week. This accommodates a new and updated piece of equipment for the Radiology Department. The project is expected to last 270 days.

Remodeling of Building 6 continues with inside work in progress.

The new south stairway to the Center Street sidewalk can now be used. One handrail is in place and the second is on order. Use the sidewalk to access the crosswalk at 42nd Street.

The replacement of the kitchen coolers and freezers is expected to start in May.

The sound proofing project in the Clinical Research Unit, in C Wing, on the first floor, is expected to start in late May or early June.

If you have questions, contact **Roy Mockelstrom** at Omaha ext. 4449.

News Roundup

Forum in Lincoln explores Enhanced Use Lease opportunity

The VA Central Office Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) Project Manager, VA NWIHCS Associate Director and the Maintenance and Operations Supervisor for the Lincoln CBOC hosted an Industry Day meeting and a Town Hall meeting at the Lincoln, CBOC April 28.

About 60 people attended the morning industry day session, which provided potential developers information about the EUL process and construction requirements for a new outpatient clinic

for Veterans in exchange for a 75-year lease of the current VA campus. The Town Hall meeting attracted employees, patients and community members.

Employees will continue to be updated as this project reaches significant milestones. Employees may see information in the news from various forums and possible VA engineering interviews, but should always feel free to contact the VA NWIHCS Public Affairs Office or Engineering Office in Lincoln for accurate information.

Grand Island CBOC volunteers recognized, honored

VA NWIHCS Voluntary Service held its annual volunteer recognition awards and luncheon April 29 in Grand Island. Volunteers were honored for their contributions to helping VA enhance health care services for Veterans. Many volunteers have donated a significant amount of time volunteering for VA.

Research Day highlights Research Service at VA NWIHCS, Omaha

VA NWIHCS, Omaha Research Service hosted a special Research Day Program April 30 to commemorate National VA Research Week and to recognize the 85th Anniversary of the VA Research Service. Community members were invited to learn about VA's cutting-edge research program.

The Research Service team offered tours of the Research Department. More than 130 research studies are currently being performed at VA NWIHCS, Omaha in areas including rheumatoid arthritis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder.

This newsletter is for VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System (Grand Island, Lincoln, Omaha, Norfolk, Holdrege, North Platte, Bellevue, Nebraska and Shenandoah, Iowa). It is published weekly to provide employees, patients and visitors with information about VA programs and activities. This newsletter may be found on the Intranet at <http://vawww.visn23.med.va.gov/nwi/index.asp>. Submit news items through e-mail to G. POSTINGS in Vista or to VHANWI MESSENGER in Outlook by close of business each Tuesday.

For further information, call **Maggie Oldham** at (402) 995-5547.