



To ensure that Arizona’s veteran community is kept “up to date” on what is happening with the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services (ADVS), we offer this monthly update sent out to our veteran contacts throughout the State of Arizona. Please visit our website at azdvs.gov

Please forward and share with any interested veterans.



ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-PHOENIX (ASVH-Phoenix)

Thanks to Kristin Fray

With the hot summer months upon us, the Arizona State Veteran Home – Phoenix has started doing weekly breakfast outings. A troop of volunteers assists a group of veterans as they attend “Breakfast Club” at the VA Canteen every Wednesday morning. Veterans have an opportunity to visit and shop while they are there. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Therapeutic Programs Department at 602-248-1575.

Special thanks to the Sun City Elks who sponsored a “Swing Memories” Concert on June 28. Veterans enjoyed classic tunes performed by an 18 piece swing band. Veterans also enjoyed an educational and informative presentation by the Hall of Flame Fire Museum, as well as a classical piano concert by Keith Wells.

Our garden is flourishing with tomatoes, pepper, squash, and corn, and our veterans are proud of the produce they have grown.

In upcoming news, the Phoenix Veterans Home is also preparing for our 14th Annual Variety Show! Veterans and staff are rehearsing comedy skits, solo tunes, and practicing with the Glee Club. The Variety Show will take place on July 9 and all are invited to attend!

Please ‘like’ us on Facebook to keep updated on current events!
<https://www.facebook.com/asvhphx>



ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-TUCSON (ASVH-Tucson)

Submitted by Kat Kime & Ellen Bittman

The Elks Lodge hosted a presentation on the “History of the Flags” with the Boy Scouts on Saturday, June 14th. The presentation was well-received, attended by a few of the resident veterans who interacted with the program.

Also on June 14th, the DAVA 2 hosted their monthly Bingo game in Recreation Room 3 with refreshments following. The Knights of Columbus also hosted an ice cream social to celebrate Father’s Day, Flag Day and the Army’s Birthday.

On June 15th, we held a Father’s Day Party with the “Over-the-Hill Vets” providing the entertainment.

Six senior non-commissioned officers and two military wives from Fort Huachuca visited on June 19th to meet with our veterans. In sets of two, they went to each of our four buildings and had lunch with the veterans. The men and women listened to the veterans talk about their time in the military and their lives afterward. The group, from the US Electronic Proving Grounds, walked away with a great appreciation for our veterans and for what they experienced and saw during their time in service. The group plans to return to get to know more of the men and women residing at ASVH-Tucson.

The Christian Motorcycle Association provided church services on Sunday, June 22nd. After the church service, many veterans joined the group outside to look at their motorcycles. Some veterans reminisced about their days riding a motorcycle and shared what kind of bike they had.

Upcoming events for July include:

- To celebrate Independence Day, ASVH-Tucson will be serving a special seafood and Hawaiian-themed meal for lunch on Friday, July 4th. The residents will enjoy: lobster bisque; coconut fried shrimp or Hawaiian pulled pork; Cape Cod mixed vegetables; orange rice; crab puffs; and pineapple upside down cake.**
- On Saturday, July 5th at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Room, there will be a BBQ hosted by the Elks Lodge. Bring your appetite.**
- On Tuesday July 15th, the American Legion Auxiliaries will host a monthly Birthday Party at 1:30 in the Community Room. Bring your sweet tooth. The Memory Care unit will have their Birthday Party hosted by ALA 45 at 10:00 a.m. in the Building 5 activities area.**
- On Thursday, July 24th we are honored to have Dr. Josephine Backus who will be providing a discussion on various topics relating to metaphysics. This forum is open to veterans, family, volunteers, and staff.**

Our “Employee Recognition Program” is revamping and improvements are underway. We’ll keep you posted.

Thanks to all for the much needed and much appreciated donations!!!!



SOUTHERN ARIZONA VETERANS' MEMORIAL CEMETERY-SIERRA VISTA

(SAVMC)



The Veterans Chapel finishing touches are near completion and are expected to be in operation very soon. A special thanks to the Huachuca Artist Association Lester & Mary Stafford for painting a cloud murals above the front windows of the Chapel seen in the photo above.

The Veteran's Cemetery has a new look! All of the cemetery roads have been crack and sealing coated.

We would like to remind visitors and families that nothing is allowed to be glued, affixed, painted or marked on the VA provided headstones or niche covers. These markers are professionally inscribed and painted by VA contractors and the material is very porous. Attempts to darken the lettering bleeds into the granite causing a spider web look. All concerns or questions regarding the headstones and niche markers should be addressed to the cemetery staff.

HOMELESS VETERANS DIVISION

25 Cities Effort:

The 25 Cities Effort is a national effort focused on ending veteran and chronic homelessness in 25 selected cities across the United States. Both Tucson and Phoenix have been selected to be part of this effort.

The main national partners leading the charge are the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). The effort is designed to give VA medical centers and local community leaders the support to build on the progress already achieved in communities through “Rapid Results boot camps” and other federal and local initiatives.

In the last couple of weeks, Tucson and Phoenix held 2-day workshops bringing together key community partners and the VA medical center to focus on how each community will advance their efforts on ending Veteran and chronic homelessness. With the support of Beth Sandor from Community Solutions and the Cities of Tucson and Phoenix both had very successful workshops outlining 100 day goals focusing on ending veteran and chronic homelessness. The following was the focus of each workshop:

Tucson:

To strengthen coordinated outreach, assessment, and intake processes for matching homeless households in Tucson & Pima County with appropriate housing and service interventions.

To better integrate of the work and assets of the Southern Arizona Veterans’ Medical Center & Clinics into Tucson/Pima County's coordinated systems.

Phoenix:

The main focus of the Community Workshop is creating a process/pilot of integrating at-risk/homeless veteran programs into the coordinated assessment system utilizing the VI-SPDAT and Full SPDAT Tools.

Grants:

Last month U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez announced grants totaling \$36,710,368 awarded to 156 organizations nationwide to provide more than 12,000 veterans with training to help them succeed in civilian careers. The grants are being awarded under the department's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP), administered by the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS).

United States Veterans Initiative in Phoenix was awarded a \$300,000 Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) grant. The HVRP grant focuses on employment assistance to homeless veterans, helping these veterans securing employment and re-enter mainstream society as a productive citizen.

Arizona Standdown:

There is one upcoming StandDown being held in the State of Arizona.

The Cochise County Veteran StandDown and Resource Fair will be held on August 22, 2014 from 7:30am to 2:30pm at VFW Post 9972, 549 Veterans Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ.

There will be VA services, mental health services, clothing, meals, veterans benefits services and myriad other services and resources. If you would like to volunteer for the Standdown email ccsdvolunteer@gmail.com and with any other questions email ash.alesia@gmail.com.

Please share this information with interested veterans