

November 2021 Post Newsletter

WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

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The new fiscal year for DoD and VA has started. New Congressional mandates are in effect and, like other fiscal years, the challenges of the old fiscal year have to be met. What is interesting is that there always a few good surprises. Following are a few good ones.

VA News

VBA partnered with Stars and Stripes – a long standing multimedia organization focused on providing the latest news to the U.S. military community – to spread the word about VA benefits and services. A special edition insert was created, the Veterans Benefits Guide, to highlight VA benefits and services available for transitioning service members and their families. The guide is now available online, on military base newsstands worldwide, and limited copies will be provided to all Regional Offices.

You can view the guide at ww2.stripes.com/epaper/special-publications/veterans-benefits-guide

Save the Dates

Nov. 9th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** In person

Nov. 12th – deadline for December newsletter

Dec. 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** In person

The Department of Caregiver Support Program is extending eligibility through Sept. 30, 2022 for veterans who are legacy participants, legacy applicants and their family caregivers, participating in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. This extension applies to veterans who were participating in PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, individuals who applied for PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, and those who were accepted into the program after Oct. 1, 2020.

As of October, the Department of Veterans Affairs will hire and train new staff to ensure veterans' claims are adjudicated quickly and help reduce an expected increase in the backlog of claims pending more than 125 days. VA is taking the following proactive steps to help in the reduction:

- Hire and train 2,000 new employees to assist in claims processing.
- Utilize funds provided via the American Rescue Plan for overtime to ensure timely claims processing.
- Deploy requested fiscal year 2022 budget resources to support Agent Orange presumptive processing, as well as for general Compensation and Pension claims processing.

As of Oct. 11, there were more than 204,000 backlog claims in an inventory of 603,000 total claims. The VA identified more than 70,000 claims to review for additional entitlement stemming from the presumptive relationship between Agent Orange and Parkinsonism, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism. Many of these will enter the backlog in October which is projected to reach 260,000 pending claims.

That's all for now. Until next time.

Stay Safe!

Ad Maiora

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

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Statement of funds as of 10/12/21

Post General Fund	\$6,499.13
Post Relief Fund	9,328.97
TOTAL:	\$15,828.11

Semper Fidelis!

Parade Route

This Thanksgiving marks the return of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. Here's a look back on the parade's history.

1924 – The New York City department store throws the parade to promote its new flagship location on 34th Street.

1927 – Giant balloons appear in the parade for the first time. Handlers used to release the balloons after the parade and offer a prize to anyone who returns the deflated balloon. The practice ends after a plan runs into a partially deflated balloon in 1932.

1945 – The parade resumes after a three-year hiatus during World War II.

1958 – This marks the first year the Rockettes join the parade.

2010 – Hundreds of Macy's workers and volunteers recreate the parade over three blocks a week after the actual event for the movie Tower Heist in which thieves pull off a risky robbery on Thanksgiving.

2016 – Macy's stages its 90th parade the same year Tony Bennett turns 90. To honor the occasion, Tony and Miss Piggy sing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" on a float.

2020 – Due to COVID-19, the parade airs for a TV-only audience and includes pre-taped segments.

Source: Food Network Magazine