



**ADJUTANT'S  
NEWSLETTER**  
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## THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE THE AMERICAN LEGION

### TO MY LEGION FAMILY:



It was brought to my attention that in most cases the newsletter does not get to people until after most of the events mentioned in the monthly issue have expired. We try to get the newsletter out as soon as possible, but our mail is at the mercy of the state as well. That is why the newsletter is also posted on the Departments website the minute it is finished. If you want to look at the months events or news prior to getting a hard copy in the mail go to [www.legionnh.org](http://www.legionnh.org) and you can access the latest edition under newsletters on the front page.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

National Convention is upon us and for those going should be prepared by this time. For those here at home I will be gone from the office from August 14 – 28<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the staff will be in the office and is capable of handling the operations of the department while I am gone. For those going I will see you in two weeks.

Again the following delegates are going to national convention to represent this department.

John Graham  
Tony Rabbia  
Bob Dionne  
Maurice Anderson  
Emil Ouellette  
George West  
Robert Glover  
Joe Caouette  
Bob Bournival  
Ken Maynard  
Bill Roy  
David Meaney  
George McCall  
Bill Firth  
Charlie Arkwell

# Manchester VA Whistleblowers To Hear From Veterans At Town Hall Meeting



As many of you know already there has been quite a lot of attention drawn to the Manchester VA Medical Center. On July 16<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs David J. Shulkin, M.D., announced actions the department is taking immediately to respond to whistleblower concerns at the Manchester, New Hampshire, VA Medical Center (VAMC) detailed in an [article in the Boston Globe](#).

The VA Office of the Medical Inspector and the VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection are being sent in beginning Monday to conduct a top-to-bottom review of the Manchester VAMC, including all allegations in the article.

In addition, effective immediately, the department has removed the director and chief of staff at the facility, pending the outcome of the review.

Alfred Montoya, the director of the VAMC in White River Junction, Vermont, will serve as the new director of the Manchester VAMC and the new chief of staff will be announced shortly.

Dr. Shulkin said, "These are serious allegations, and we want our Veterans and our staff to have confidence in the care we're providing. I have been clear about the importance of transparency, accountability and rapidly fixing any and all problems brought to our attention, and we will do so immediately with these allegations

Manchester VA Medical Center staffers who have alleged substandard care and conditions at New Hampshire's only veteran's hospital held a town hall meeting to discuss the situation.

The event for veterans and others was at the American Legion Sweeney Post in Manchester on Monday afternoon, five days after VA officials held a similar meeting.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin recently removed the hospital's top two leaders and ordered a review after the Boston Globe reported on a whistleblower complaint filed by physicians. He also has ordered the VA's inspector general to launch its own investigation and plans to meet with the state's congressional delegation at the hospital on Friday. Shulkin also plans to meet with the whistleblowers.

The Town Hall gave veterans and VA staff to go over the issues that have plagued the VA facility for some time. The Whistleblowers provided a lot of information in the first hour, and raised more issues than were originally reported. Unfortunately most of the time was used on listening to speaker after speaker and from veterans talk about their personal issues with the VA which were being recorded by Acting Director Montoya who was present at the meeting.

Like anything else in government there will be no quick fix to these issues and in the mean time veterans continue to suffer through the same bureaucratic red tape as they usually do.

Of course Veterans Choice was a constant issue, with many blame the VA of trying to sink the program because they could not get appointments, when in fact the program is rejected by most outside providers because they don't want to accept the Medicare payment rate authorized by Congress, and have no obligation to give Veterans any priority treatment, or the Choice program not paying for medicals bills from outside sources causing outside medical services to drop the program as well.

Either way you look at it the VA still has serious issues while Congress continues to fight among themselves about partisan issues, veterans continue to suffer from the inaction of those elected to serve us.

## **National Headquarters exits guaranteed fundraising**

Effective immediately, your national headquarters will no longer be in the "guaranteed fundraising" business. All current contracts and guarantees will be honored. Those departments that have indicated that they were planning to renew their contracts will have their contracts renewed.

In order to make the transition as painless as possible for all departments, we have engaged Patriotic Fundraising Group (PFG) affiliated) with Moore DM Group. PFG will be in touch with each of you; first those who are currently engaged with national on the guaranteed program, and then all other departments in order to guarantee that your contracts are honored and to invite others to entrust their fundraising to PFG.

Every department is, of course, free to do business with whomever it wishes.

National headquarters will still offer fundraising services for individual campaigns at our standard rates as we have done in the past.

Should you have any questions, please contact either Chuck Krupa (Legion employee) at 317-860-3030 [ckrupa@legion.org](mailto:ckrupa@legion.org) or Bill Moore (PFG) at 918-645-9609 or [bmoore@patrioticfundraisinggroup.com](mailto:bmoore@patrioticfundraisinggroup.com)

Although this change may not directly affect fundraising efforts of your Post, it does affect at least one program this Department has annually to raise funds to supplement our annual budget. This will require us another source to continue on with these programs or look for other ways of raising money. I stress even more that when the Department announces fundraising activities, such as the Fisher Cats baseball game last month, we will need your support to make those events successful. The Department ended up losing money on the Fisher Cat fundraising effort due to the lack of participation.

## **Brief Notes:**

**Spirit of the Eagle POW/MIA 24 Hour Vigil:** September 16-17, 2017, 11am-11am, NH VETERANS HOME, 139 Winter Street, Tilton NH 603-345-6774

**Watch for the Fallen Heroes Moving Wall** appearing at: Tilton VA Home- September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Honor Flight-** Since its inception in 2009 they have HONORED 1669 Veterans from New England at no cost to them. They are now taking Korean Veterans.

**Coast Guard Base Boston to Host "An Evening of CG Retirees' Sea Stories and Scuttlebutt"** Some CG retirees are meeting 04 August 2017 at Base Boston's All Hands Club for "An Evening of CG Retirees' Sea Stories and Scuttlebutt". We invite you to drop by and renew old acquaintances. Tell some stories and spin some yarns. What better way to spend Coast Guard Day than spending time with some old-timers. We welcome you to the first of many, 04 August 2017, 1300 until 1600. Send your contact information to SK1 Bob Pawlowski, USCGR (ret); [cg.pawlowski@comcast.net](mailto:cg.pawlowski@comcast.net) or (617)529-2657

**Charles Michael Province, U.S. Army, wrote this poem: (Thanks to Post 5.)**

It is the Soldier, not the minister  
It is the Soldier, not the reporter  
It is the Soldier, not the poet  
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer  
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer  
It is the Soldier, not the politician  
It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,  
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,

Who has given us freedom of religion.  
Who has given us freedom of the press.  
Who has given us freedom of speech.  
Who has given us freedom to protest.  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.  
Who has given us the right to vote.  
Who serves beneath the flag,  
Who allows the protester to burn the flag



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