

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

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:



MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

The Mid-Winter conference this year will be on January 28, 2017, at the Roland E. Patnode Post 7, Rochester N.H. The following is the tentative agenda for this conference and of course may change some.

Joint Session

Saturday, January 30, 2016:

- 8:00 am – Registration opens, coffee and Donuts
- 9:00 am – Opening of morning joint session, introductions
- 9:05 am – ANAVICUS Award Presentation
- 9:10 am – National Award presentation – Peter Olay
- 9:15 am – Partnership Presentation Fisher Cats
- 9:20 am – Tilton Home – Peggy LaBrecque
- 9:25 am – Convention Committee Report – Deb Davis
- 9:30 am – Centennial Committee – Mike Lopez
- 9:35 am – Presentation – Joe Caouette

9:40 am – Boys/Girls State Presentation

9:55 am – Announcements & Raffle

10:00 am – Brief Intermission – break room up and split into respective meetings.

10:05 am – Reports – Membership, Oratorical, Boys State

10:15 am – Training Session – TBD

11:15 am to 12:30 Lunch – Jr Auxiliary

Legion – Afternoon Session

12:30 pm – Legion reconvene – Auxiliary and SAL to respective sessions

12:30 pm – Training Session Cont – TBD

3:00 pm – Any Other business before conference

3:00 pm - Announcements for Office:

Department Commander
National Executive Committeeman
Alt. National Executive Committeeman
Department Vice Commanders – 4
Judge Advocate
Historian
Auditor

2 pm – Department Commander remarks

3:00 pm – Closing

(Times and speakers are tentative and subject to change)

Training is still being worked on and is the reason the subject line has not been announced as of yet. When we do have it I will Post it on the website in the Winter Conference section.

In years past we have had issues with Posts not sending a representative to this conference, which is very important for gathering required information and forms for your Posts. I highly recommend each Post send a representative, if for nothing else but to get the Mid-Winter package that needs to go back to the Post. This will help the department cut down on the cost of mailing them out to Posts that did not attend. This cost has grown in the last few years and not budgeted. As a result we will be phasing out the mailings of these packets and everything will be available on the website. Certainly for any Post that does not have computer access we will try to accommodate you, however in order to illuminate paper use and the cost of copying we are moving forward with a paperless system.

The staff along with the Department Commander have put a lot of time in updating our Winter Packet and making it more user friendly and forms fillable on line. I ask you try to take advantage of this so that when the time comes for us to stop handing out hard copies you will know where to go and what the process is for submitting electronic forms on line.

If there are any changes in the agenda it will be posted on the web-site.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

REGISTRATION:

Please be reminded that our registration period has started for the 2016 season. Our registration deadline is February 15, 2017.

Please be on time and please make sure that all your volunteers do their background checks as soon as they can.

Thanks to all.

Rick Harvey
Baseball Chairmen

VETERAN NEWS

Below I have included some new information for those in the VA system on getting travel for the CHOICE. As well as some news on all veterans being eligible for Property Tax Credit within their communities. Please take the time to look this information over if it in any way affects you.

Additionally I included an article on whoever the next VA Secretary is, that person will have the privilege of deterring the future of the Agent Orange List.



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Manchester Health Care System
718 Smyth Rd
Manchester, NH03104**

Mail Stop: Travel

Instructions for Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement for Care in the Community

Veterans, if you are eligible for Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement, and have been approved for care in the community, please complete and return the attached request form **within 30 days of travel**. This is important as tardy submissions cannot be considered for reimbursement.

Travel Eligibility Criteria:

1. Veterans traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition.
2. Veterans with a service-connected condition rated 30% or more.
3. Veterans in receipt of a VA pension.
4. Veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual pension.
5. Veterans traveling for a scheduled Compensation or Pension (C&P) Examination.

Please follow these steps to expedite the processing of your claim:

1. Complete VA Form 10-3542 to request your travel reimbursement;
2. Ensure your request contains the correct dates of service (when you went to the appointments). Requests without the correct dates of service provided cannot be considered for travel reimbursement and must be returned in accordance with VA Directive;
3. Complete a separate request for each provider even if the appointment happened on the same day; and
4. In addition to your Travel Claim, please send a copy of your VA and/or HealthNet Authorization (if you have one), and a letter from your provider's office stating you attended your non-VA care appointment.

Prosthetics Specific Information: Trips to pick-up or drop-off prosthetics or general adjustments **do not** qualify for Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement. Only first and fitting appointments qualify for Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement.

Please help us provide timely processing for your Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement by providing complete and correct information. Thank you for choosing Manchester VA Medical Center for your healthcare; we are honored to serve those who served;

Examples of completed requests are available at the points of care associated with potential Beneficiary Travel Reimbursement.

Sincerely,

Travel

Office



VETERAN/BENEFICIARY CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

Section A. Traveler's Information

1.a Name of Person Claiming Travel Reimbursement (<i>Last, First, Middle</i>)	1.b Claimant's SSN
	1.c Claimant's Date of Birth (<i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>)
2.a Claimant's status: (<i>check <in></i>) Complete 3.a, 3.b, 3.c and 3.d if Caregiver, Attendant or Donor is checked, <input type="radio"/> Veteran <input type="radio"/> Caregiver- (National Caregiver Program) <input type="radio"/> Attendant (Medically authorized by VA) <input type="radio"/> Donor (VA Transplant Care) <input type="radio"/> Other	
3.a Name of Veteran (<i>Last, First, Middle</i>)	3.b Veteran's SSN:
	3.c Veteran's Date of Birth (<i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>)

Section B. Trip Information

1.a I am claiming travel reimbursement from address: (<i>Street, City, State, Zip</i>)	1.b Date Trip Began (<i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>)	1.c Travel by: (e.g., car, train, bus, taxi)
2.a I am claiming return travel reimbursement to the address B.1.a above <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> NO (<i>if no, provide the Street, City, State, Zip below</i>)	2.b Date Trip Ended (<i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>)	2.c Travel by: (e.g., car, train, bus, taxi)
3. I am claiming reimbursement of expenses other than mileage, such as tolls, parking, lodging, meals. YES NO <i>(If yes, itemize expenses below and provide a receipt for each expense. Use reverse if additional space is required)</i>		
a.		
b.		
c.		
d.		
e.		
f.		
g.		
h.		
4. Treating Facility Name O/A or Non-VA location	5. Treating Facility Address (Optional)	

Section C. Statements and Certifications

Penalty Statement: There are severe criminal and civil penalties including fine or imprisonment, or both, for knowingly submitting a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim	
Certification: I have incurred a cost in relation to the travel claimed. I have not obtained transportation Government expense, through the use of Government owned conveyance, or Government purchase tickets/tokens, or received other transportation at no-cost to me. I am the only person claiming for the travel listed. I have not previously received payment for the transportation claimed. I certify the above information is correct	
Signature of Claimant	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

EXAMPLE

OMB Number: 2900-0798
Estimated Burden: 15 minutes

Department of Veteran Affairs

VETERAN/BENEFICIARY CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

Section A. **Traveler's** Information

1.a Name of Person Claiming Travel Reimbursement (Last, First, Middle) DOE, JOHN, SMITH	1.b Claimant's SSN 012-34-5678
	1.c Claimant's Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) 11/22/1927
2.a Claimant's status: (check one) Complete 3.a, 3.b, 3.c and 3.d If Caregiver, Attendant or Donor Is checked. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veteran <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caregiver (National Caregiver Program) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attendant (Medically authorized by VA) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donor (JA Transplant Care) <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
3.a name of Veteran (Last, First, middle) DOE, JOHN, SMITH	3.b Veteran's SSN 012-34-5678
	3.c Veteran's Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) 11/22/1927

Section B. **Trip** Information

1.a I am claiming travel reimbursement from address: (Street, City, State, Zip) 123 MAIN ST, MANCHESTER NH 03104	1.b Date Trip Began (mm/dd/yyyy) 12/24/2016	1.c Travel by: (e.g., car, train, bus, taxi) CAR
	2.a I am claiming return travel reimbursement to the address in B.1.a above YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (if no, provide the Street, City, State, Zip below)	2.b Date Trip Ended (mm/dd/yyyy) 12/24/2016

3. I am claiming reimbursement of expense other than mileage, such as tolls, parking, lodging, meals. YES NO
(If yes, itemize expenses below and provide a receipt for each expense claimed. Use reverse if additional space is required)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.

4. Treating Facility Name (I/A or Non-VA location) DR, ACULA ACUPUNCTURE AND CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES	5. Treating Facility Address (Optional) 321 STRAWBERRY LANE, CONCORD NH, 03301
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Section C. Settlements and Certifications

Penalty Statement: There are severe criminal and civil penalties including fine or imprisonment, or both, for knowingly submitting a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim

Certification: I have incurred a cost in relation to the travel claimed. I have not obtained transportation at Government expense, through the use of Government owned conveyance, or Government purchased tickets/tokens, or received; their transportation resources at no-cost to me. I am the only person claiming for the travel listed. I have not previously received payment for the transportation claimed. I certify that the above information is correct.

Signature of Claimant 	Date (mm/dd/yyyy) 12/26/2016
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Date: December 5, 2016

Veteran I-Name: Veteran

Date of Birth:

Referred to Provider:
PHILLIP JOSEPH MALINO, MD
07 MCGREGOR ST
MANCHESTER NH 03102
Phone Number: (603)650-453

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has approved the following services requested by Manchester VA Medical Center under the Veterans Choice Program:

We have scheduled an appointment for you with the "Referred to Provider" cited above. If you are unable to keep this appointment, please call 1-800-838-8288 to reschedule. Please refer to the authorization number listed below when you call.

Appointment Date: 2016/11/21
Appointment Time: 3:00PM
Authorization Number: 2016/11/21 authorization, Internal
Provider Specialty: Medicine

Authorization valid from: 12/05/2016-12/05/2017

This authorization is valid for the dates shown above. If the services are to continue after the approved dates, your provider will contact Health Net Federal Services, LLC (HNFS).

Please obtain any related X-rays or image results your VA provider may have ordered and bring them with you to your appointment. Examples of images includes, but is not limited to, CT scans, PET scans, and MR/s.

Prescriptions

If your provider prescribes urgently needed medications, you may take the 14-day supply prescription to a non-VA pharmacy of your choice at your own expense. Reimbursement is available from the Purchased Care office at your preferred VA medical facility. If you choose to take the urgently needed prescription to a VA pharmacy, it can only be filled if the physician also gives you a copy of the HNFS authorization letter/fax.

Routine prescriptions must be filled at VA pharmacies and can be filled one of two ways: 1) the provider can fax or mail the prescription to your preferred VA medical facility or 2) the provider can issue a written prescription and you can mail or physically present it to your VA medical facility pharmacy for processing. Again, if you choose to fill the prescription at a VA pharmacy, you will also need a copy of the HNFS authorization letter/fax.

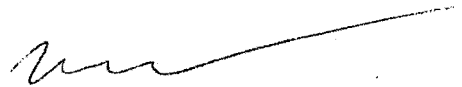
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EXAMPLE

DR. ACULA 'ACUPUNCTURE AND CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES

To whom it may concern,

Mr. John Doe (DOB: 11/22/1927) arrived on time for a scheduled appointment in my office on 12/24/2016 for treatment. His next scheduled appointment is scheduled for 12/30/2016



Dr. William Acula



321 STRAWBERRY
LANE
CONCORD NH, 03301

PHONE 000-111-2222
FAX 000-222-3333
EMAIL DR.ACULA@VA.GOV
WEB SITE DR.ACULA.COM

All Veterans May Be Eligible for Property Tax Credit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Frederick Rice 606-512-4146 fcrice@comcast.net

Concord, NH (January 2, 2017) - All veterans may soon become eligible to receive property tax credits for their military service regardless of when or where they served, under new legislation recently signed into law by the Governor.

Under current law, RSA 72:28, the "Standard Veterans Tax Credit, is awarded to anyone who served a minimum of ninety days on active duty, was honorably discharged, and served during certain specified "wartime" periods. The newly enacted law (RSA 72:28b) is exactly the same as the old one, but without the time periods.

"Individuals can volunteer to enter the military, but they have little or no say as to where or when they will actually serve," said outgoing state representative Fred Rice, (R.) of Hampton, the prime sponsor of the bill that created the new law. "All veterans should all be recognized for their service, and not be deprived of a benefit because of something they had no control over," said Rice.

Each municipality in the state must formally adopt the All Veterans Tax Credit by a vote of town meeting or equivalent in order for it to take effect in that town. Rice hopes that it will be done this year. At present, every municipality in the state awards the Standard Veterans Tax Credit. Twenty percent of all municipalities, mostly smaller towns in the North Country, award the mandatory minimum of \$50, while sixty percent are at or near the \$500 maximum award. Others are scattered at rates in between. If the All Veterans Credit is adopted, it will replace the current Standard Tax Credit in that town. The same tax credit must be awarded to, and the same for, all veterans in each town.

The time periods that will be eliminated under the new option are those that fall between "periods of conflict," such as from the end of WWII to the start of the Korean War, from the end of Korea to the start of Vietnam, and from the end of Vietnam to the invasion of Grenada. Almost all of the time since Grenada has been covered under a single blanket authority for anyone who was deployed outside the United States.

Not everyone who was deployed was necessarily in combat, however. Only ten percent of those in uniform ever see combat, according to government statistics. Naval crews at sea, support troops at logistics installations or air bases, and administrative, legal and medical personnel are examples of those who may have served "in country" and are eligible for the current tax credit, but were never in danger of enemy action.

"The exact number of veterans who would be added to the tax credit rolls cannot be known, since there is no way to have counted them," said Rice, "but it is not expected that the numbers will be very large, since these peacetime periods coincided with the most significant reductions in the size of the armed forces." In addition, many who served in those periods also overlapped into eligible periods.

Veterans should check to confirm that their town has the All Veterans Property Tax Credit question on this year's ballot. If not, they should file a petitioned warrant article for its adoption.

If there is a concern about the potential budgetary impact of providing tax credits to more veterans, towns could take the option of first sending a questionnaire with the next tax bills to determine how many would apply, and then holding the vote next year.

"This is a matter of treating all those who served in the military on a fair and equal basis," said state representative John Martin, (R.) of Bow, a retired Army First Sergeant with 29 years of active duty service, and a co-sponsor of the bill. "You wouldn't ask a veteran when and where they served before saying, 'Thank you for your service,' and you shouldn't put down a veteran's peacetime service by denying them the same benefit as their comrades-in-arms," said Martin. "They all earned it, and all were ready to fight."

Individuals or municipalities wishing to learn more about the All Veterans Property Tax Credit should contact Fred Rice at <fcrice@comcast.net>.

New VA chief to decide Agent Orange list

The next VA secretary will decide whether to expand the number of ailments presumed linked to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in the Vietnam War by up to four, which would qualify many more thousands of veterans for VA medical care and disability compensation.

The most common and controversial of the ailments in play is hypertension, or high blood pressure, which already afflicts two-thirds of Americans by 65 regardless of their service history.

So the secretary will have to weigh the association medical science has found with Vietnam War veterans against the potentially enormous cost and added may have caused spina bifida in children born to Vietnam War veterans. If VA accepts this it would likely be applied only prospectively and not impact current beneficiaries.

For some ailments, including ischemic heart disease, VA secretaries have used "limited or suggestive" evidence to add diseases to the presumptive list. For others, such as hypertension, that category hasn't been seen as strong enough. When August arrived without a decision on the findings, Congress deserved part of the blame. Last October, the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees allowed a provision of the Agent burden on VA's health-care system. The other ailments under review are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and

Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., spoke out against the expiration of a requirement for timely secretarial action on IOM recommendations.

Orange Act of 1991 to expire. Lost was a requirement that the VA secretary take action on IOM recommendations

Parkinson's-like symptoms without diagnosis of the disease itself.

For months it seemed that VA Secretary Bob McDonald would be making these tough calls. Last March he received the 10th and final biennial review of evidence of health problems linked to these exposures from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), now the National Academy of Medicine. He immediately convened a technical work group of VA medical experts to study its findings. The doctor co-chairing that group said McDonald likely could make decisions on these diseases by last August. It didn't happen.

The review took into account medical and scientific literature published from Oct. 1, 2012, through Sept. 30, 2014, and concluded that it supports changing the strength of association to herbicide exposure for several ailments.

For bladder cancer and hypothyroidism, it found "limited or suggestive" evidence of an Association and upgrade from previous findings of "Inadequate or insufficient" evidence.

The review didn't upgrade but did affirm its past finding of "limited or suggestive"

evidence that hypertension may be linked to herbicides. It also concluded that Parkinson's-like symptoms should fall into the same limited or suggestive category.

IOM withdrew an earlier finding that herbicide within 60 days of receiving its report.

The only lawmaker to complain was Rep. Timothy J. Walz, D-Minn., who urged that the law be preserved in full for two years, long enough to mandate a timely secretarial review of the final IOM report. VA itself urged Congress to extend the entire law by five more years.

Absent the deadline mandate, the VA technical team reviewing the IOM findings was diverted to other issues. The latest schedule was for the group to deliver a "draft VA response packet" to a VA IOM task force in early December. The task force was to review the packet and make its own recommendations to the secretary. But filling the task force positions in a new administration could take months.

Meanwhile, VA researchers have made some relevant new findings, as published recently in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. The researchers analyzed 2013 survey data from Army Chemical Corps veterans who sprayed defoliant in Vietnam, and found that occupational herbicide exposure history and Vietnam service were "significantly associated" with a risk of hypertension.

Ibm Philpott has been covering military personnel and veterans issues for nearly 40 years.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
**DIVISION OF
MOTOR VEHICLES**

Driver Licensing > REAL ID

VMIIC

On May 10, 2016, the Governor signed into law House Bill 1616, relative to REAL ID compliant New Hampshire Driver Licenses and Non-Driver Identification Cards. For more information on the federal REAL ID Act, please visit the US Department of Homeland Security's FAQ webpage. The New Hampshire law becomes **effective on January 1, 2017**.

On January 2, 2017, the New Hampshire DMV will begin offering Driver Licenses and Non-Driver Identification Cards that will be compliant with federal requirements, also referred to as REAL ID compliant identification. You are not required to obtain REAL ID compliant identification, since other forms of identification, such as a Passport, will be accepted for airplane boarding and for other federal purposes.

Per the US Department of Homeland Security, **effective October 1, 2020**, the federal government will require that your Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card meet requirements if you wish to use it for identification for things such as boarding an airplane or entering secure federal facilities. **Until that time, your current Driver Licenses or Non-Driver Identification Card will continue to be accepted for those purposes.**

Should you wish to get a REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card, wait until the time of your regular renewal after **January 1, 2017**, since your current Drivers License, or Non-Driver Identification Card may be used for the federal identification purposes until **October 1, 2020**. An application for an REAL ID compliant Drivers License or Non-Driver Identification Card (whether new or renewal), will have to be done in person and certain documentation will be required. I hope that everyone had a great holiday season.

For information regarding New Hampshire issued REAL ID compliant Driver Licenses and Non-Driver Identification cards, please visit our REAL ID FAQs page. For more information regarding REAL ID, please visit the Department of Homeland Security FAQs

(Please Post)