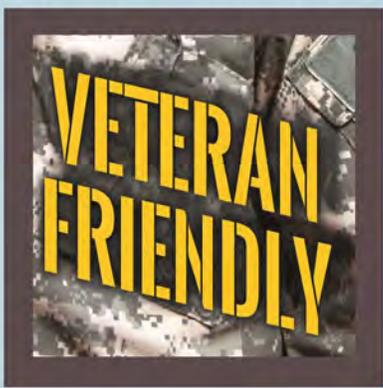




August 2014



Veteran Newsletter



The first concern of most veterans returning from military service is finding a job. Two recent surveys concerning veterans and employment information turned up a significant fact that's really not too surprising when you think about it – a solid majority of veterans will look for a job at a company that advertises itself as being veteran-friendly. This was important than all other factors listed in the surveys. We do our best each month to give veterans the most current information on these vet-friendly companies across the state, as well as other helpful information and tips for veterans in the job market. Read all about it in the section beginning on page 1.

Welcome to the Ohio Department of Veterans Services e-newsletter! The newsletter is a key source of information about issues of interest to our community of veterans in Ohio.

We thank you for your service to our country. Because you're a veteran, you've earned a number of benefits that you may not be aware of. Most of these benefits originate at the federal level with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Based on the time you served, you may be eligible for compensation for injuries, health care, educational assistance, home loans or many other benefits. There are also a number of state benefits available to Ohio veterans, to include the Ohio Veterans Bonus as well as direct financial assistance from the county to veterans in need.

The place to find out what you've earned and to apply is your county veterans service office. You can locate yours in the interactive map on our department home page, www.ohiovet.gov, or by calling 1-877-OHIO-VET (1-877-644-6838).

We will continue to provide you this newsletter each month. We hope it's of value to you and your family.

Veterans Seeking Employment Look For...

We wanted to lead this month with our traditional employment section, but include in it some important new information.

Two separate surveys, from the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of American and Monster.com, both reported that **a majority of veterans seeking employment will apply at companies that advertise themselves to be vet-friendly**. This single factor was viewed as more important than job fairs, resume assistance, access to job placement sources, or other issues.

Have questions about veterans benefits? Call 1-877-OHIOVET (1-877-644-6838)

Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



If you're an employer reading this, such ads could be a wise use of some of your marketing budget. Another way to let veterans know that you're vet-friendly is to register that way on the Ohio Means Jobs web site. This is done by visiting the Veterans Business Support Center at Ohio Means Jobs: <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/employer/assistance/vetrequest.do>

If you're a veteran seeking employment, prepare a resume from the online resources available, see what's out there from both online and in-person sources, dress appropriately, and actively get out and look. A wealth of additional information and tips on this process are contained below in this section.

Keep reading this monthly newsletter. We'll keep providing you the latest updates here. We'll also give you the latest on major regional hiring opportunities on our [Facebook](#) page, so be sure to "like" it.

Companies Looking to Hire Veterans: More and more nationally known companies with Ohio operations are actively seeking veterans to hire for many different areas of their businesses. These companies include AEP, AT&T, Chase Bank, GE, General Motors, Goodyear, Home Depot, Huntington Bank, PNC Bank, Scotts Miracle Gro, Starbucks, Walmart, Whirlpool, Verizon, and Xerox. Information on current jobs is available on the individual company web sites; go to www.google.com to search by company name and then click on their "employment" or "careers" links, or check out the Ohio Means Jobs site.



Many large state employers, such as the Cleveland Clinic and local and regional hospitals and the Waterworks, are also in the market for qualified veterans. Again, check out the Ohio Means Jobs site or local in-person assistance through the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (see **Finding Jobs in-Person**, page 3).

The Ohio insurance industry has 26,000 new jobs to fill by 2020. These new jobs are in a number of different skill sets, and are available in insurance companies all around the state. For more information, see: <http://insurancecareers.org/veterans>

State agencies are also seeking to hire veterans. Open state jobs can be viewed and applied for at: <http://careers.ohio.gov/>



Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



Local communities and counties often hire veterans for a variety of public service jobs. Search “employment” on the web sites of local government offices and agencies where you live.

For the most current information on jobs in a local area:

- the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services offices in each county, as well as regional Ohio Means Jobs Centers, can help; see “Finding Jobs In-Person” (below in this section).
- ***the Ohio Department of Veterans Services’ Facebook and Twitter pages will also post frequent announcements of multiple job openings across the state, so be sure to check them out at <http://dvs.ohio.gov/HOME>.***

Finding Jobs Online: “Ohio Means Jobs” is the state’s primary job web site, listing the vast majority of both private sector and public jobs which are open in Ohio. The site is at <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/>, or simply type in “Ohiomeansjobs.com.” The available jobs are posted in the “Job Seekers” area of this recently-upgraded site.



Be sure to register and post your resume on the site; just follow the “Veterans” Private Owen icon. Ohio Means Jobs automatically posts veterans’ resumes first for any job that matches the qualifications they’ve stated in their resume – so employers who go to the site will see veterans’ resumes before they see anyone else’s. The resume should be reviewed every month and electronically “updated” – which is a simple key stroke, whether any additional information is added or not – to keep it refreshed and at the head of the line for jobs.

This web site also has an area with other resources for veterans, to include translation of military to civilian skills and a resume rater. The link is below: <http://www.ohiomeansveteranjobs.com/>

Finding Jobs In-Person: If you want to start a face-to-face job search, there’s in-person assistance available throughout Ohio that knows where the local jobs are. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) is in an active partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor to operate centers regionally around the state. Contact information can be found online at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/wiamap.stm>



Monthly Update



These Ohio Means Jobs Centers are open to all residents, but are also staffed with counselors who specifically assist veterans. Their primary clients are veterans with barriers to employment, of which long-term unemployment definitely qualifies. Counselors can also assist with skills translation and resume preparation – and they know where the jobs are locally. The Job Centers also have resources to assist disabled veterans with qualifying for, finding and keeping meaningful employment.

Schools and Companies Offering Job Training: Job training that could lead to employment in the emerging shale industry and in manufacturing is available throughout Ohio. For example, Stark State College and Eastern Gateway Community College offer training targeted to shale jobs. Cincinnati State College offers training aimed at industrial jobs. Siemens Corporation offers training geared to engineering manufacturing jobs. Find out more at the schools' and company's web sites; conduct your search using www.google.com. Veteran-specific information on higher education is available through the Ohio Board of Regents at: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/veterans>

For a Job Fair, or any Employment Event, Be Prepared for Interviews, and Know Your Skills:

Before you attend any job fair or visit any employer, remember these common tips:

- Have a current resume;
- Have a cover letter that's geared to the type of job being sought;
- Present a professional appearance, e.g., suit and tie, or dress/skirt or pantsuit.



To prepare an effective resume, you have to be able to translate military experience to civilian experience. The Army and the Navy have developed online “cool” web sites that help veterans translate their military skills into terms civilian employers can understand. The sites, which stand for “credentialing opportunities online,” allow a veteran to select their military skill code and then see the types of jobs their training and experience translates to, as well as any certifications that are needed. There is no Air Force, Marine, or Coast Guard “cool” site. However, the Air Force does offer similar resources in its Community College of the Air Force site, at the Credentialing and Education Research Tool (CERT) page; Marine skills are similar to those found in the Army and Air Force; and Coast Guard skills are similar to those found in the Navy.



Monthly Update



Veteran Newsletter



The “cool” sites are below:

<https://www.cool.army.mil/index.htm>

<https://www.cool.navy.mil/overview.htm>

The Air Force education site is at:

<http://www.mcinfoex.net/?q=air-force/community-college-air-force-ccaf-credentialing-programs-flight>

Medicaid for Veterans Can Lead to Other Benefits...

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services is proud to partner with the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation in providing quality support to our state’s veterans.

Some veterans without health care may be eligible for Medicaid under the recent expansion championed by Governor Kasich. These veterans may also be eligible for other benefits.

If you are a veteran applying for health care coverage through Medicaid, be sure to check the box that says you have served in the military. You will then be contacted by a representative from the Ohio Department of Veterans Services who will provide additional information about other veterans’ benefits that may be available to you. These may include coverage of health care fees for student veterans through the post-9/11 GI Bill, five years of free VA health care because of combat deployments, or eligibility for a number of VA, state or local benefits that can be applied for through Ohio’s network of county veterans service offices.



Together our agencies will continue working to serve those who served. Veterans can apply for Medicaid coverage at:

<https://www.benefits.ohio.gov/>



Veteran Newsletter

Monthly Update



Summit County Stand Down...

Homeless veterans in Summit County can get a hand up, not a hand out on Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Stand Down for homeless and displaced veterans will be held at Firestone VFW Post 3383, 690 West Waterloo Rd., in Akron, zip 44314. The post is on the bus route of Metro Bus #18.

The annual event offers access to VA health care, mental health and substance abuse counseling, eye, dental and foot exams, employment and social services, and legal aid. Veterans in attendance will be provided a lunch and can also receive donated clothing and comfort items.

The intent of the stand down is to provide basic service and camaraderie with other veterans to help them fight the battle of life on the streets. This year's stand down is sponsored by the Summit County Veteran's Council, the Summit County Veterans Service Commission, the Akron VA community based outpatient clinic, and county social service agencies.

Veterans' Town Hall with the VA in Columbus...



The Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center (VAACC) will hold a town-hall event on **Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the Columbus VAACC.

The new Secretary of the VA, Robert A. McDonald, has directed all health care and benefits facilities to hold town hall events by the end of September. The town hall at Chalmers P. Wylie is designed to allow feedback from veterans, their family members and other beneficiaries.

In addition, the facility is inviting Congressional stakeholders to attend, along with veteran service organizations, non-governmental Organizations, and other community partners.

All veterans within the 13-county Central Ohio area served by Chalmers P. Wylie are welcome to attend.



Monthly Update



Veteran Newsletter

Iraq War Veterans, Don't Miss Out on the Ohio Veterans Bonus...

If you served boots on the ground in Iraq, listen up – **the application deadline for the Ohio Veterans Bonus for veterans who served boots-on-the-ground in Iraq is Dec. 31, 2014.**

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is available to veterans who served anywhere in the world during the time of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Service must have been for more than 90 days active duty, not for training. Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents currently.

December 31, 2014 is the deadline to apply for those who served in the country of Iraq. The Bonus remains open for veterans who served in the country of Afghanistan or anywhere else in the world since Oct. 7, 2001.



Specific eligibility periods and deadlines are:

- For service in Iraq: eligible period is from March 19, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2011 (**deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2014**); and
- For service in Afghanistan or anywhere else in the world: eligible period is, from Oct. 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President.

The Bonus pays \$100 a month to veterans who served in the countries of Afghanistan or Iraq, up to a maximum of \$1,000.

For veterans who served anywhere else in the world during the eligible periods, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum. The maximum individual award for all eligible periods of service is \$1,500.

Veterans medically discharged due to injuries sustained in combat can receive \$1,000, plus up to \$500 for months of service elsewhere. Family members of those killed in action or who died from disease as a result of their in-theater service can receive a bonus of \$5,000 plus whatever the service member was eligible for, up to a total of \$6,500.



Monthly Update



Veteran Newsletter

Anyone needing more information or who want to request an application can call toll-free to 1-877-OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838) option 2, or see:

https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web/

Veterans can also apply for the Bonus at their local Veterans Service Office in their home county. To find the location of your county office, see the Ohio map and select the appropriate county at:

<http://dvs.ohio.gov/>

Your County Veterans Service Office can also help you determine what other federal and state benefits you're eligible for and help you apply for them.