

Coshocton County Veterans Service Office Newsletter

318 Main St., Coshocton, OH 43812 740-622-2313 coshoctoncounty.net/veterans

Applications being accepted For Veterans Tribute Hunt

Veterans with service-connected disabilities who have a passion for the outdoors are invited to participate in an all-expenses paid event hosted by Elsaan Outfitting on Saturday, October 27.

The event is offered at no cost to the veteran thanks to generous donations from local veterans groups and organizations.

This is an all-day event with veterans afforded the opportunity to take part in guided pheasant hunt, sporting clay shoot and other outdoor activities.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided with a light lunch and sit-down catered dinner for Veterans and volunteers.

Elsaan Outfitting is located just west of Newcastle on Township Road 52.

Designed to become an annual

event, at least five Coshocton County veterans will be selected to participate. Those who apply and are not selected for the inaugural hunt will be deferred to the following year.

Also participating will be veterans from Holmes and Knox counties.

Elsaan Outfitting is becoming one of

Ohio's premier upland gamebird hunting preserves offering sportsmen of all ages an ultimate experience in hunting upland game, as well as three 100-round sporting clays.

To apply, contact the Coshocton County Veterans Service Office.



Free fair passes available to eligible county Veterans

The Coshocton County Veterans Service Office will again be issuing free Veterans Fair passes to honorably discharged veterans who are residents of Coshocton County and served or are serving on active duty.

Each pass will provide eligible Veterans one free admission between Monday, October 1 and Thursday, October 4.

Passes can be obtained at the Veterans Service Office during regular business hours, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday, Sept. 10th through Wednesday, Sept. 26th. Each veteran must show proof of residency and bring either valid military/veterans ID card or a copy of their DD-214.

Veterans who are unable to get to the office at the aforementioned times should contact the Veterans Service Office to make other arrangements for obtaining their pass.

The numbered passes must be signed for and are not transferable. They must present the pass at any of the fairground entrances.

The passes are made possible through the co-sponsorship of the Blue Star Mothers Chapter OH #59 and Coshocton County Veterans Council.

The 167th Coshocton County Fair runs from Friday, September 28 through Thursday, October 4.

Fallsburg school house continues to transform into Veterans' facility

Work on a facility designed to provide shelter and recovery opportunities for area Veterans continues but will fall short of its targeted opening date of this fall.

Mark Baylis, co-founder of the Valor Clinic Foundation said progress has been made on the old Fallsburg School in Licking County and that its opening will happen sometime in 2019.

"We're still chipping away and are looking to form partnerships with people who are interested in supporting the fundraising effort," said Baylis. "We're making a lot of progress out there but we're still about a year out."

Located just outside the Coshocton and Knox county lines at the intersection of State Routes 586 and 79, the school-house is undergoing major renovations to house veterans returning home with post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and those who are homeless.

Built in the 1930s, the facility was donated by Vaughn and Linda Richards. The couple had previously owned and operated Fallsburg Pizza.

The new establishment is to be known as SGT Kevin Lannon Veterans Sanctuary, is now owned by the Valor Clinic Foundation based out of Brodheadsville, PA and is a 501c3.

See Valor (continued on pg. 3)



The Coshocton County Honor Guard members conducted 10 Military Funerals during July and August 2018. Veterans honored for their service are listed below.

July	August
 Richard L. Smalley <i>Peacetime</i>	 Robert A. Richard <i>Vietnam</i>
 Lewis Kevin Keirns <i>Desert Storm</i>	 Richard W. Holskey <i>Vietnam</i>
 Harold G. Adams <i>Vietnam</i>	 Louis F. Harper <i>World War II</i>
 Daniel B. Cochran <i>Peacetime</i>	 William K. Love <i>Vietnam</i>
 Claude Fee <i>World War II</i>	 Raymond D. Dickerson <i>Vietnam</i>

Vets entitled to military funeral

Military funeral in the United States is a memorial or burial rite given by the U.S. military for a Soldier, Marine, Sailor, Coast Guardsman, or Airman who died.

The following is a list of criteria for deceased veterans being entitled to Military Funeral Honors conducted by the Coshocton County Veterans Council Honor Guard.

*Military members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve.

*Former military members who served on active duty and departed under conditions other than

dishonorable.

*Former military members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.

*Former military members discharged from the Selected Reserve due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Those wishing services for their loved ones should inform the funeral home that is handling arrangements or call the Veterans Service Office.

Veterans Service Commission

President

John Dotson—KWVA

Vice President

Jack Patterson—VFW

Secretary

John Wright—DAV

Member

Gary Kilpatrick—American Legion

Member

David Dilly—AMVETS

Service Officer

Jim Barstow

Executive Assistant

Patty Dilly

Assistant Service Officer

Russell Hammond

Assistant Service Officer

Zac Miller

The Coshocton County Veterans Service Commission meetings are at 4 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Veterans Service Office Closings

September 3

Labor Day

October 8

Columbus Day

Meetings, Events & Observances

September 6

Coshocton County
Job & Family Services
Employment Expo
Lake Park Pavilion
(10 a.m.-2 p.m.)

September 11

Patriot Day

September 28-October 4

Coshocton County Fair



Valor (continued from pg. 1)

Veterans who participate in the 60-day program will not only receive care and temporary housing, they will also shoulder some of the responsibilities, such as cleaning, gardening and lawn maintenance.

Baylis and Tony Cross established the Foundation in 2008 with the belief that the emotional scars of war can be just if not more damaging than the physical scars. Their program helps veterans to readjust their lives through structured routines, guidelines, and involvement in their community through Veteran Outreach and Recovery. Both men are also veterans.

Once open, local volunteers will be needed to meet the goal of housing up to six veterans at the facility.

"We cannot survive without community support," said Baylis. "These veterans, you should see them when they come back. They come back to help us and they feel like they're part of a family."

There is a screening process whereas the veterans must agree to program policies, applying for jobs and going to work after they get the jobs. Also in place will be a strict no substance, alcohol policy.

For more information on Valor, visit their website at valor-clinic.org. To make a monetary donation, make checks payable to Valor Clinic Foundation and send to Box 315, Brodheadsville, PA 18322.



Pictured is the 1930s era school house located in Fallsburg as it was prior to undergoing renovations needed before opening as the SGT Kevin Lannon Veterans Sanctuary. About a year behind its targeted opening date, founders are hoping it will be functional some time in 2019.

VA partnership extends to local Walgreens Pharmacy

As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) efforts to improve care coordination for Veterans, the department is working with pharmacy services provider Walgreens to coordinate patient and pharmaceutical care for VA-enrolled patients.

With the click of a button, VA providers will be able to see the entire medication and immunization history of VA-enrolled patients who receive their prescription and immunization needs at Walgreens.

The Coshocton Walgreens, located at 190 Chestnut St., is one of the participants and is providing flu shots to veterans.

"This arrangement is the first of its kind and it's a strong collaboration," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

"Partnerships like this will help VA continue to improve the way we care for Veterans."

As it expands its community care program, VA actively refines its ability to track medication prescribed by community providers. Prior to the arrangement, VA providers would ask patients to inform them about medications filled at Walgreens.

With the VA-Walgreens exchange, VA providers can now easily view medications directly that are prescribed to VA-enrolled patients by community providers and filled at Walgreens pharmacies.

For the past five years, VA and Walgreens have collaborated to provide flu shots at no cost for enrolled Veterans, improving vaccination rates and access to immunizations.

VA exchanges standards-based medical information securely and electronically with participating community health care partners, such as Walgreens, to ensure the best possible care coordination and medication management.

Repairs continue at Zanesville VA Clinic

While the restoration process, from the recent flooding, continues at the Zanesville VA Clinic; facility leadership is announcing the following coverage for VA health care services during the week of September 4, 2018 through September 7, 2018.

Two Primary Care Providers will be seeing their scheduled patients in a Medical Mobile Unit, located in the parking lot outside of the Zanesville VA Clinic (2800 Maple Avenue Zanesville, OH 43701). An additional Primary Care Provider will be seeing patients at the Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic in Newark, Ohio. The Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic is located at 1855 W. Main Street, Newark, OH 43055.

A free round-trip shuttle service is being offered to patients traveling to and from the Zanesville VA Clinic and the Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic. For additional information on the shuttle schedule, Veterans can call 614-257-5293.

Additional health care services, such as Eye Clinic, Behavioral Health and Lab are being offered from either the Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic or the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Columbus, Ohio. The Chalmers P. Wylie facility is located at 420 North James Road, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

Veterans Memorial, Museum set to open in Columbus

This country's official museum honoring military veterans has an opening day: October 27.

That's when the \$82 million National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus will throw open its doors to the public, with retired Army general and former Secretary of State Colin Powell set to give the keynote address.

Museum officials announced recently that the opening and dedication of the 53,000-square-foot museum — on West Broad Street across from COSI Columbus in the area of the East Franklinton neighborhood known as the Scioto Peninsula — will take place from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The museum will stay open until 9 p.m. after the ceremony for the public to get its first look.

Construction started on the museum in 2015 after Franklin County demolished the aging Veterans Memorial that stood at the site. Spurred by the vision of the late astronaut and Sen. John Glenn and led by a donation of \$40.6 million from local philanthropists Leslie and Abigail Wexner, the museum gained its official national designation from Congress earlier this year.

Aiming to tell the stories of America's veterans, rather than focus on one branch of service or any particular war, the museum is headed by retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, who was hired in June as president and CEO.

"I believe the institution will be a national treasure and will become a pilgrimage site for millions of veterans and their families," Ferriter said in a release. "I also believe that what lies within the walls of the museum is only the beginning of its impact."

In July, the museum hired Samir Bitar as its director. He most recently was director of visitor experience at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, where he developed and oversaw

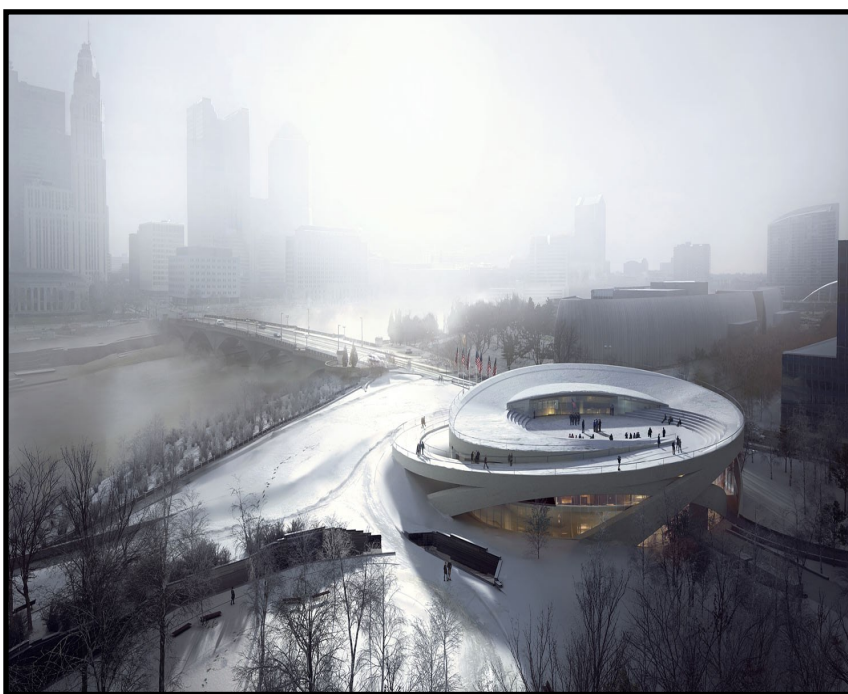
strategies to improve access and engagement for visitors.

The veterans museum here in Columbus said that more details about the opening and dedication will be added as available at www.nationalvmm.org.

Originally slated to open in the summer, the museum's date was pushed back a couple of times by its developer, the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation. For months, however, its leaders have promised it would open before Veterans Day in November.

Guy Worley, president and CEO of the development corporation, said Thursday that he can't help but think back to the day in 2013 when Glenn first spoke of leading an effort for a true veterans memorial here.

"It is really gratifying to see that his vision is finally coming to fruition," Worley said. "The mission ... was to really understand what the stories of our veterans were and make sure they are told."



Vocational Rehabilitation program to provide additional counselors

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program (VR&E) recently began the process of reducing the average counselor-to-caseload ratio, to one to 125 or below, through the hiring of 172 vocational rehabilitation counselors (VRCs).

The hiring effort, which began early this summer, will help improve service to Veterans with service-connected disabilities and employment barriers, as well as help provide them with expedited services to improve their ability to transition to the civilian workforce.

"The VR&E program is much more than a benefits program," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "It's a vital support network, where VA's expert counselors work closely with Veterans on their personalized vocational rehabilitation goals. Congressional funding enables us to expand our team of counselors who are on the ground across the country working tirelessly for Veterans, and we appreciate their support."

VA is committed to ensuring its counselors have manageable caseloads and the resources needed to ensure Veterans are receiving thorough, quality services.

Currently, 941 counselors are working across VA's 56 regional offices, as

well as in out-based and satellite locations.

Once hiring is complete for the additional 172 counselors, a total of 1,113 VRCs will be deployed in the field to serve Veterans. This includes 905 VRCs at regional and out-based offices, 132 Integrated Disability Evaluation System counselors at 71 military installations and 76 Veteran Success on Campus counselors at 105 institutions of higher learning.

Since 2014, over 56,000 Veterans have either completed a rehabilitation plan, are employed or have achieved a greater independence in living through VR&E assistance. The VR&E program currently has more than 123,000 participants.

Space Force creation continues to progress

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis seems to have reversed course on his previous stance against a Space Force, telling reporters in early August that the Defense Department is supportive of establishing a new combatant command for space.

"We need to address space as a developing war fighting domain and a combatant command is certainly one thing that we can establish. This is a process we're in," Mattis.

"We are in complete alignment with the president's concern about protecting our assets in space to contribute to our security to our economy and we're going to have to address it as other countries show a capability to attack those assets," he added.

Mattis' comments appear to align with a recent Defense One report stating that the Defense Department intends to stand up U.S. Space Com-



mand as the eleventh unified combatant command.

Defense One, which saw a draft of the Pentagon's report on how best to restructure its space infrastructure, also reported that the department plans to set up a new joint agency for space procurement and a "Space Operations Force" that would bring together expertise from all four services and the contractor community.

The public roll-out of the report, is expected soon.

The actions proposed by the Pentagon are seen as the first steps toward developing a brand-new, space-centric service, as President Donald Trump has directed.

However, only Congress can approve the creation of a new branch of the armed forces.

Trump ordered the creation of an independent Space Force in a June speech after a meeting of the National Space Council.

By creating a unified space command, the Defense Department will be going even further than the congressional armed forces committees in the fiscal year 2019 defense policy bill.

That legislation calls for making a U.S. Space Command that would be a "subunified combatant command" falling under U.S. Strategic Command. The Pentagon's proposal would put STRATCOM and U.S. Space Command on even footing.

New provisions to GI Bill beginning to be applied

The Department of Veterans Affairs has begun implementing new provisions of the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, better known as the "Forever GI Bill." In one of his first actions since taking the oath of office Monday, new VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said the provisions to expand GI Bill coverage were put into effect 1 AUG.

The VA said the new provisions "will have an immediate and positive impact on veterans and their families using VA benefits to pursue their educational goals."

"We are excited to get the word out about implementation of the provisions," Wilkie said in a statement. "From the day the Forever GI Bill was signed into law, VA, in collaboration with Veterans Service Organizations, state approving agencies and school certifying officials, has taken an expansive approach to ensure earned benefits are provided to veterans in a timely, high-quality and efficient way."

The VA said 15 new provisions of the GI Bill went into effect in early August, in addition to 13 that were already in place.

Among the new provisions is one making recipients of the Purple Heart awarded on or after Sept. 11, 2001, eligible for full post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for up to 36 months, if they were not already entitled.

Another new provision expands the "Yellow Ribbon Program," in which degree-granting institutions of higher learning can agree to make additional funds available to a veteran's education program without an additional charge to the



GI Bill entitlement.

This program is to be implemented by Aug. 1, 2022.

A few other of the new provisions were:

- Military and Veteran families who have lost a family member can now reallocate transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.
- Additional Guard and Reserve service now counts toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.
- Post-9/11 GI Bill students may now receive monthly housing allowance for any days they are not on active duty, rather than having to wait until the next month.

More provisions are scheduled related to science, technology, engineering and math benefit extensions; increased benefit levels; a pilot program for high-technology training geared toward "upskilling" Veterans to enter the workforce quickly.

Procedures for veterans' emergency care outlined

During a medical emergency, Veterans should immediately seek care at the nearest medical facility.

A medical emergency is an injury, illness or symptom so severe that without immediate treatment, you believe your life or health is in danger.

If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Veterans do not need to check with VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency department.

During a medical emergency, VA



encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay. A claim for emergency care will never be denied based solely on VA not receiving notification prior to seeking care.

It is, however, important to promptly notify VA after receiving emergency care at a community emergency department.

Notification should be made within 72 hours of admission to a community medical facility.

This allows VA to assist the Veteran in coordinating necessary care or transfer, and helps to ensure that the administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met.

Important Numbers for Veterans

Crisis Hotline	800-273-8255
Zanesville CBOC	888-615-9448
Newark CBOC	740-788-8329
New Phila. CBOC	330-602-5339
Columbus VA	888-615-9448
Wade Park VA	216-791-3800
VA Regional Office	800-827-1000
Veterans Office	740-622-2313
Transportation	740-622-7139
Choice Program	866-606-8198

To request transfer from

private hospital to a

VA medical facility, call:

Columbus 614-388-7248

(If no answer, leave a message)

Cleveland 216-791-3800 (Ext. 5596)

Emergency Care Fact Sheet

- **What is an emergency?**

A medical emergency is an injury or illness that is so severe that without immediate treatment, it threatens your life or health.

- **How do I know my situation is an emergency?**

Your situation is an emergency if you believe your life or health is in danger.

- **If I believe my life or health is in danger, do I need to call the VA before I call for an ambulance or go to an emergency room?**

No. Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

- **When should I contact the VA regarding an emergency room visit?**

You, your family, friends or hospital staff should contact the nearest VA medical center as soon as possible, preferably within 72 hours of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover. Provide VA with information about your emergency and what services are being provided to you. Ask VA for guidance on what emergency charges may or may not be covered so you can plan accordingly.

- **If the doctor then wants to admit me to the hospital, must I obtain advance approval from the VA?**

If the admission is an emergency—NO, although prompt notification of the VA is necessary.

If the admission is not an emergency—YES

- **If a VA bed is available and I can be safely transferred, do I have to move to the VA hospital?**

YES. If you want VA to continue to pay for your care. If you refuse to be transferred, VA will not pay for any further care.

- **If I am admitted to the hospital as a result of an emergency, how much will VA pay?**

This depends on your VA eligibility. VA may pay all, some, or none of the charges. Some highlights are listed in the next column.

- **For service-connected conditions, here are some of the criteria that must be met:**

Care or services were provided in a medical emergency, and

VA or another federal facility were not feasibly available, and

VA was notified within 72 hours of the admission.

Ask your local VA Medical Center's Non-VA (Fee) Care Office for further eligibility guidance.

- **For non-service-connected conditions, here are some of the criteria that must be met:**

Veteran is enrolled in the VA Health Care System, and

Veteran has received health care services from VA within the previous 24 months, and

Veteran has no other health insurance coverage.

Ask your local VA Medical Center's Non-VA (Fee) Care Office for further eligibility guidance.

- **How do I know if I have a service-connected condition?**

A service-connected condition refers to an illness or injury that was incurred in or aggravated by military service and has a rating assigned by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

- **How long do I have to file a claim for reimbursement for emergency medical care?**

File your claim with the nearest VA Medical Center quickly because time limits usually apply. For non-service-connected care, the time limit is 90 days. Again, consult your local VA Medical Center for more information.

- **Will VA pay for emergency care received outside the United States?**

VA will only pay for emergency care outside the U.S. if your emergency is related to a service-connected condition. For more information about care provided outside the U.S., contact the Foreign Medical Program (FMP) at (877) 345-8179, or go to the FMP website at: <http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/fmp>

VA funds squandered by unnecessary exams

The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) reviewed reexamination requests by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and estimated that, from March through August 2017, VBA spent \$10.1 million on unwarranted reexaminations.

The OIG estimated that VBA would waste an additional \$100.6 million over the next five years unless it ensures that VBA employees only request reexaminations when necessary.

According to VBA policy, employees can request reexaminations for veterans when there is a need to verify the continued existence or current severity of a disability, and when there is no exclusion from reexamination.

However, before requesting a medical reexamination, VBA policy requires a Rating Veterans Service Representative to review the veteran's claims folder and determine whether the reexamination is needed. This pre-exam review serves as an internal control to prevent unwarranted re-exams.

The OIG estimated that 15,500 of 19,800 unwarranted reexaminations (78 percent) lacked a pre-exam review, indicating that VBA management routinely bypassed this internal control. Instead, VA Regional Office managers routed these cases directly to a Veterans Service Representative for scheduling the reexamination.

Bypassing the pre-exam review caused the unwarranted reexaminations. About 14,200 veterans saw no change to their disability evaluations as a result of these reexaminations. The OIG estimated that the reexaminations resulted in proposed benefit reductions for about 3,700 veterans.

Unwarranted reexaminations also created unnecessary work for VA employees by reducing VBA's capacity to process benefits claims and the Veterans Health Administration's capacity to provide healthcare services.

The OIG made four recommendations including establishing internal controls to ensure that a reexamination is necessary, prioritizing the design and implementation of system automation to minimize unwarranted reexaminations, enhancing VBA's quality assurance reviews of requested reexaminations, and conducting a focused quality improvement review of cases with unwarranted reexaminations to understand and address the causes of avoidable errors.



Gold Star Monument unveiled in Cleveland

A salute to families who have lost loved ones in military action was dedicated August 31 at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 10701 East Boulevard.

The Cleveland Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is part of a campaign by Hershel "Woody" Williams to have similar markers placed in communities across the country.

The Gold Star tradition started during World War I when families hung out flags or banners bearing a blue star if a loved one was serving in the military.

That blue star was changed to gold if the loved one was killed.

Williams is the last surviving Marine awarded a Medal of Honor dur-

ing World War II, and he created the nonprofit Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation Inc. in 2013 to carry out his monument campaign.

Thus far there are 39 dedicated monuments and 45 projects in progress.

The black granite monument bears the words "Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who have sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom" on one side.

The other side has four granite panels dedicated to homeland, family, patriot and sacrifice.

Before joining the Marines, as World War II began, Williams delivered telegrams informing families of their loss in the war. He would later note, "Consideration and recognition of families of those lost in the war was very inadequate."



Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Coshocton County Veterans Organizations

VFW Post #1330

Commander: Linus Kilchenman
133 S. Sixth St.
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
740-622-6175

Meetings are the second Saturday
of each month at 11:00 a.m.

DAV Chapter #74

Commander: Ed Skerness
P.O. Box 116
Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Meetings are the first Tuesday
of each month at
the AMVETS Career Center at 6:00 p.m.

AMVETS Post #36

Commander: Dick Guess
986 Otsego Ave.
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
740-623-0538

Meetings are the third Monday of each
month at 6:00 p.m.

Army/Navy Garrison #628

Commander: Kevin Freshwater
628 Walnut St.
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
740-622-9110

Meetings are the
second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

American Legion Post #466

405 E. Union
West Lafayette, Ohio 43845
c/o Jack Patterson
740-545-9773

Meetings are held on an as needed basis

Coshocton County Veterans Council

Commander: Jack Patterson
Meetings are the second Thursday
of each month at the AMVETS Career
Center at 7:00 p.m.



American Legion Post #634

Commander: Gary Kilpatrick
222 Cherry St.,
Warsaw, OH 43844

Meetings are the third Wednesday
of each month at the Fire House
in Warsaw at 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post #65

Commander: Delbert Meddings
652 Main St.
Coshocton, Ohio 43812
740-622-6106

Meetings are the
third Wednesday
of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Korean War

Veterans Association

President: Bob Jones
52650 TR 166

West Lafayette, OH 43845
Meetings are on an as-needed basis

Coshocton County

Vietnam Veterans

Commander: Dale Foster
P.O. Box 341

Coshocton, Ohio 43812
Meetings are the
second Saturday of each month
at the American Legion Post #65 at 9 a.m.

Blue Star Mothers OH59

President: Sharon Burns
P.O. Box 1655
Coshocton, OH 43812
740-327-2235

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the
second Monday of each month at the
AMC Nazarene Church, 1030 Orange St.,
Coshocton, OH 43812