



VETERANS VOICE

Winnebago County Department of Veterans Services Newsletter

May 2022

Beat Pension Poachers

Have you received a suspicious call from an organization claiming to represent or have affiliation with VA? Did the caller guarantee a lucrative payout for your disability compensation or pension claim for a “small fee?”

If so, you may be a target of a scam. Recently, VA has seen an increase of fraudsters and non-accredited representatives who are targeting the pension benefits of elderly Veterans, their dependents and survivors.

VA is committed to defeating fraudsters by educating elderly Veterans, their families, and all partners about the types of fraudulent tactics being used against them, including [Pension Poaching](#).

Pension Poaching is the financial exploitation by an advisor who profits by artificially qualifying a claimant for VA pension benefits. The scheme often involves financial maneuvers such as advising claimants to hid their assets in trusts or annuity products sometimes resulting in lost

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“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Avoid a financial scam.

Be prepared, be educated,
and be vigilant.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration



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investments and lucrative fees paid to the advisor. Pension Poaching is rapidly evolving as a preferred method used by criminals to defraud elderly Veterans, survivors and their families who are eligible for VA benefits.

To avoid being a victim to these tactics, here are some helpful tips to remember when protecting yourself from fraud:

- Be suspicious if someone offers to shift your assets around to qualify for VA pension. You may be required to repay benefits to the government.
- NEVER share eBenefits, VA.gov, or other VA login credentials with anyone.
- DO NOT deposit VA benefits directly into a third-party bank account unless the person is court appointed or a VA accredited fiduciary.
- Remember, VA does not charge for processing a claim or request a processing fee. Use VA accredited organizations to help file your claim.
- VA does not threaten or take adverse actions such as jail or lawsuits on claimants. If in doubt, call VA directly at 1-800-827-1000.

To report suspected activity, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) by calling 1-800-488-8244. You may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by visiting www.consumercomplaints.fcc.gov.

Protecting Veterans' benefits against fraudulent activity is one of the best things everyone can do to honor them, their service and sacrifice.

Clean Air Month

Supported by the American Lung Association, Clean Air Month educates people about the impact clean air can have on their lives. This observance also encourages people to take positive steps to help improve air quality.

Clean air is air which has a natural balance of gases such as oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide. Clean air does not contain pollutants or allergens. Clean air does not harm the environment, nor is it a cause or trigger of health problems.

Poor quality air can harm the environment and can affect us all. Toxic air pollution is linked to serious conditions such as cancer and chronic bronchitis. Air pollution can exacerbate pre-existing conditions such as asthma.

The Clean Air Act came into force in 1970. This Act has been successful in reducing air quality related health conditions and premature death.

Clean Air Month is recognized in many state across America. Events are held throughout the month of May to promote awareness. These have included "Bike To Work Days" and "Share A Car Days".

We can all make positive steps to improve the quality of our air. Ways we can improve air quality are often based around reducing our use of electricity and using transport more efficiently. We can also support legislation that improves air quality.

Advance Care Planning

Different people want different things when it comes to their health care. Advance care planning ensures that your loved ones and your health care team know what's important to you and what your preferences are for treatment now and treatment in the future.

Your health care team can help you decide what type of advance care planning is right for you, including advance directives and goals of care conversations.

What is an advance directive?

If you are ever too sick to make health care decisions for yourself, your surrogate will make health care decisions for you. You can name a specific person to be your surrogate in a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, which is a type of advance directive. That person will be known as your health care agent.

When deciding on a health care agent, it's best to choose someone you trust and who knows you well because they will be asked to represent you when you can no longer do so. When you choose someone, you should talk to that person to make sure they are willing to be your health care agent and willing to carry out your wishes.

A living will is another type of advance directive, and it can help your surrogate and health care team understand what medical and mental health care you would or would not want if you experience an unexpected illness or emergency in the future. You can only list general preferences about treatments in a living will, so it's important to discuss your living will with your surrogate and health care team so that they will know how to interpret your preferences in the future.

VA's advance directive is [VA Form 10-0137A](#). A member of your health care team can assist you with this form and can answer any questions that you have.

What is a goals of care conversation?

Do you have a serious illness or are you at risk of developing one? If so, it's important to think about what matters most to you. A goals of care conversation between you and your health care team can help you think about your values and goals for your current care, not just care in the future. Based on that conversation your healthcare team can help you make a specific plan for treatment.

You might complete an advance directive as part of a goals of care conversation, especially if you want to name a trusted loved one as your health care agent, but your health care team can help you decide if that is right for you.

Advance care planning stories

All Veterans deserve to have their wishes heard and health care preferences honored. Check out this series of animated stories that highlight why advance care planning is important for everyone - whether healthy or ill, young or old, receiving health care in a clinic, hospital or at home: [animated stories that highlight why advance care planning is important for everyone](#).

Upcoming Event



Military Veterans Museum & Education Center's 6th Annual Golf Tournament

All proceeds benefit the the Military Veterans Museum and Education Center.



EVENT DETAILS

Wednesday, June 1st, 2022
Lake Breeze Golf Club
6333 Ball Prairie Road
Winneconne, WI 54986

9:00 AM Registration
10:00 AM Shotgun start/scramble
\$90.00/golfer - Includes green fees,
cart, meals, & 2 drinks

Sign up as a foursome or as an individual in support
of the Military Veterans Museum.

Enjoy a great day of golfing at the
Lake Breeze Golf Club

**RAIN OR
SHINE**

Box Lunch and Dinner

- Hole Events • Raffle Prizes
- Hole Prizes • Silent Auction

Please RSVP by May 31st

Call Tom Sonnleitner at
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Major Sponsor:
Oshkosh Lakeside Associates

CONTACT US

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Stay informed about bene-
fits; join our e-mail list.
Send a request to:

CVSO@co.winnebago.wi.us

Visit us on the web at:

www.co.winnebago.wi.us/veterans



www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCVSO

For a list of more events,
check out our [calendar](#) !