



WVI NEWSLETTER

Nov
2023

Introducing Sheri Gentry

Sheri Gentry works in wellness but she also has a passion for woodworking. Her new workshop titled "Sheri's She Shop" is at 2216 Tedrow Road, Toledo, OH. Where she does custom creations. Sheri is also interested in hosting a Girl's Night Out group session of wood crafting, laughter and camaraderie. Attendees will take home a personalized décor piece that will add that touch of your unique style to your home.



Sheri will also offer team building sessions that requires effective communication and collaboration among team members. Call or text 740-360-2362 or email: gentrywellness@gmail.com for additional information. Question: Are any of the WVI members interested in a Girl's Night Out? Respond to: cenagy@bex.net

Picture provided by S. Gentry

Holiday Requests

- Thanksgiving meal requests due by November 5, 2023. RSVP to cenagy@bex.net.
- Christmas requests will be due by November 14. Email cenagy@bex.net for support form.

Food requests should include: name, branch of service, number of family members, allergies and/or special needs.

Lucas County: Veteran Service Commission

In the State of Ohio, all 88 Counties have a Veterans Service Commission ready to assist veterans and their families. The Lucas County Veterans service commission is proud to serve the needs of honorably discharged veterans. One of the services we provide is short term emergency financial assistance to veterans that are at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. This emergency assistance is often for things like evictions, utilities disconnects, auto repairs, and food. Last year we assisted over 4,500 Lucas County Veterans. Veterans that are over the income guideline can still appeal to our board of commissioners.

In addition to the emergency financial assistance that our agency provides, we also help veterans navigate the complex world of the federal Veterans Administration. Our highly trained Service Officers must maintain certification each year through the Ohio Department of Veterans Service to ensure they are aware of all the complex changes and strategies to ensure the veterans of this area are getting the Federal money that they are entitled to. Last year through the assistance of our service officers the VA poured over 17 million additional dollars increasing incomes to a total of 92 million dollars into the hands of Lucas County veterans. Disability compensations, Pensions for war era veterans, aid and attendance reimbursement for those individuals needing additional medical assistance and burial benefits are just some of the topics that are handled on a daily basis.

Our agency also assists veterans or widows with their medical transportation as needed. Veterans going to the local clinic are given bus passes to cover their cost and veterans needing additional assistance due to disabilities are

Calendar of Events

- **Day of Honor** is a free steak dinner for all veterans sponsored by Hope Baptist Church (6250 South Avenue Toledo) on Saturday, November 4 at 6:00pm. RSVP: 419-407-6593. Spouse may also attend with the veteran.
- **6th Biennial Veteran Art Exhibition** opening reception will be November 5 at 2:00pm Way Public Library. Guest speaker will be Peg Trout (Navy). She will discuss her book titled "Women in War: Remembering Veterans of WWII". There are 53 stories and photos included in the book. The exhibit runs until January 3, 2024.
- **Veterans Mass** at Immaculate Conception Church (434 Western Avenue Toledo) on Sunday, November 5 at 11:00am. The program will include mass, bagpiper, Honor Guards and Springfield Jr. Honor Guard. Lunch follows the mass in the church.
- **Buff City Soap WVI Fundraiser** November 6, 2023 from 3:00pm-7:00pm at 7103 Orchard Centre Drive, Holland, OH. There will also be a special bar of soap designed by WVI members to purchase. See you there.
- **A Veterans Celebration** will be held at Genesis Village (2429 S. Reynolds Toledo) Thursday, November 9 at 6:00pm. This special occasion will celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of our military heroes. An evening of camaraderie, inspiration and remembrance is planned. There will be refreshments and music provided by the Genoa American legion band. Genesis Village would be honored by your presence.
- **Veterans Appreciation Breakfast and Resource Fair** November 10 from 8:00am-11:00am at Savage Arena 2801 W. Bancroft, Toledo, OH
- **The 18th Annual Veterans Tribute Show** "All Hands on Deck" starring 65 Instruments 65 will be held Sunday, November 12 at the Clyde High School Performing Arts Auditorium (1015 Race Street, Clyde, OH) at 3:00pm. Veterans call 419-668-0637 by November 11 by 5:00pm to reserve your free V.I.P. ticket. Teresa Stamm (Navy and WVI member) and Patricia Stamm-Moyes (USMC) will lead the Pledge of Allegiance for the second year.
- **Annual women veteran's Holiday Party** December 3, 2023 from 2:00pm – 5:00pm at Genesis Village. Flier will be forwarded when available. RSVP deadline: November 28, 2023.

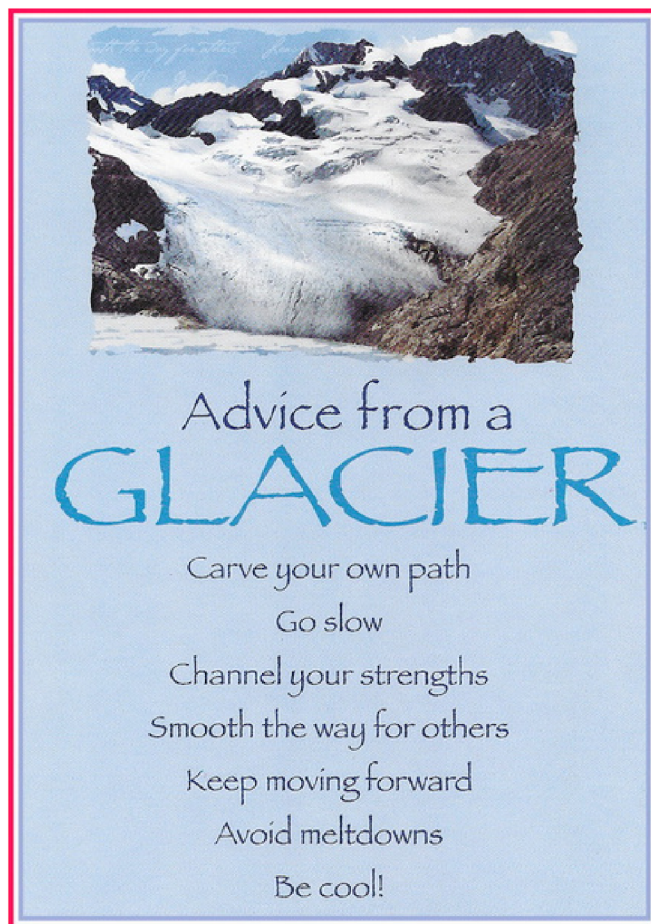
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transported by our own drivers when possible. We also take veterans to the Ann Arbor and Detroit VA hospital as needed if a driver is available.

In addition, the VSC is authorized to issue State of Ohio Veterans Identification Cards. It is a quick and easy way to show your honorable military service to businesses that may offer discounts.

Some of the special functions we do each year include providing approximately 54,000 flags to be placed on every veteran's grave in Lucas County for Memorial Day. In partnership with the Red Cross and The University of Toledo, we also host an annual veteran's appreciation breakfast and resource fair held on November 10th this year. Through partnerships with other local, State, Federal and Non Profit Agencies such as the VA Homeless program, 1 VetMatters and other caring groups and businesses, we have woven a collective web to help prevent veteran homelessness and to work closely with those that have lost their homes to get them back to a stable situation.

We are also excited to showcase our interactive website. Through our website you can reach our office, file a request for emergency assistance, submit all of your documentation and stay in the know on all things veteran related in our community. So please check us out at LucasCountyVets.org to see all the ways we can serve you.



Author: Jason Brown, Deputy Director, Lucas County Veteran Service Commission