

SPIRIT

ONLINE

Volume 2, Issue 17

Published for the employees of VA Connecticut Healthcare System

September 29, 2004

All-Employee Picnic

The second of two All-Employee Picnics took place Sept. 22 at the Newington campus. Employees and volunteers were treated to burgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, potato salad, chips and cookies during this annual event.

Sunny skies once again prevailed as more than 200 staff and volunteers took part in the picnic.

Thank you to all of the staff who volunteered to cook, serve, set up and clean up for the picnic. Food and beverages were provided by the Veterans Canteen Service from funds generated by profits from the food court and retail store.

The West Haven picnic was held on Sept. 15.



Sheila Baretts and Melissa Cunningham (Business Office Call Center) take lunch up to fellow co-workers in the Call Center.

See more picnic page 2.



Employees show their support for the departing National Guard troops at the Newington campus on Sept. 21. Employees and volunteers also served a farewell luncheon.

see page 3 for more on the luncheon and deployment...

In this Issue:

- More All-Employee Picnic p. 2
- National Guard Luncheon & Deployment... p. 3
- Flu Shot Fair..... p. 3
- in the NEWS p. 4
- Service Pin Awards..... p.4

Events:

**Combined Federal Campaign
Kick Off
Oct.1**

**CFC Car Wash
West Haven
Oct. 8**

**Food-A-Rama
West Haven
Oct. 15**

For more information on these and other events please see *Good Morning VA Connecticut*.

Art From the Heart

Poetry, art and photography by the Veterans Arts Council is now on display (next to the Veterans Portrait Gallery) on the 2nd floor between Buildings 1 and 2.



All-Employee

PICNIC



NEWINGTON



Newington Staff Bid Another Farewell to National Guard

For the second time in as many months, Newington employees said goodbye to members of the Connecticut National Guard based at the campus as the troops deployed for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



National Guard members bid farewell to loved ones as they prepare to deploy from the Newington campus.



Nancy Pilarski (MHC) serves up a dish of baked ziti at a luncheon for the troops. The luncheon was provided by Newington volunteers and staff.

The VAVS Executive Committee prepared a baked ziti lunch for the troops on Sept. 20. VA Connecticut and VBA employees were invited to attend as well and asked to donate desserts and soft drinks. In addressing the troops during the luncheon, **Joe Canzanella**, Voluntary Service, commented that the luncheon was a group effort on the part of the Newington volunteers and staff members as a show of support for the National Guard. Members of the 118th Medical Battalion deployed Sept. 21 to Fort Drum, N.Y. en route to service in Iraq. The troops are expected to be on deployment for up to 18-months.

Newington employees have set up a pen pal program to keep in touch with the soldiers. Recently, the staff sent cards, letters and health and comfort items to Newington-based soldiers who were deployed this summer.

Employee Flu Shot Fair - Oct. 20

West Haven - There will be a Flu Shot Fair in the Staff Dining Room on Wednesday, Oct. 20 for employees and volunteers. Shots will be given from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Employees are encouraged to receive the vaccine and to view the educational materials that will be available during this event. The fair will also include door prizes and other surprises.

Influenza Vaccination reduces your chances of getting ill and keeps you from spreading influenza to patients, co-workers, friends and family.

Flu shots will also be given on the following dates and times in the Employee Health Unit, located on the second floor of Building 2:

Nov. 3 8 a.m. to noon
Nov. 4 1 to 4 p.m.
Nov. 17 1 to 5 p.m.



in the
NEWS...



Roberto Groszmann, M.D., FRCP, VA Connecticut Chief of Digestive Diseases and Professor of Internal Medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine, recently received the Ismar Boas Medal from the German Society for Digestive and Metabolic Diseases. Named after one of the Society founders in 1917, the award is presented to “academics that have significantly contributed to the scientific advancement in gastroenterology, hepatology and metabolic diseases.” The award was presented during the opening ceremony at the Society’s 59th Annual Meeting on Sept. 1 in Leipzig. Following the medal presentation, Dr. Groszmann gave the keynote address.

Gary Desir, M.D., was appointed VA Connecticut Chief of Medicine, succeeding David Coleman, M.D. Dr. Desir brings a wealth of experience in clinical medicine to this position as well as an outstanding reputation as a teacher and a distinguished record of accomplishment in biomedical research.

Service Pin Awards



25 YEARS



35 YEARS



30 YEARS

***Congratulations to
our
Service Pin Award
Recipients!***

SPiRiT ONLINE

Is published bi-monthly by the VA Connecticut Healthcare System Public Affairs Office. Please submit comments and ideas to Pamela Redmond or Richard Thompson, Public Affairs, 00/PR.

**Director
Roger Johnson**

**Associate Director
Karen Waghorn**

**Chief of Staff
Michael Ebert, M.D.**

**Associate Director for Patient/
Nursing Services
Margo Veazey, MSN, RN**

**Chief Information Officer
Joseph Erdos, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Chief Financial Officer
Karen Meffert**

**Public Affairs Specialist
Pamela R. Redmond**

**Editor:
Visual Information Specialist
Richard G. Thompson**



VA Connecticut
Healthcare System
950 Campbell Ave.
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 937-3824