

August 4, 2008

Honorable Tygh M. Tone
Honorable Roger E. Binette
Judges of the Common Pleas Court
323 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, OH 44870

Dear Judge Tone, Judge Binette:

This is the second 2008 quarterly letter to be sent to you by the Erie County Veterans Service Commission informing you of the various ways we help our Erie County Veterans. The Erie County Veterans Service Office is located in the Erie County Office Building, 247 Columbus Ave. (former LaSalle Building), Sandusky, Ohio 44870, telephone numbers are 419-627-7650/7651/7579.

The members of the Erie County Veterans Service Commission for 2008 are President Todd P. Christman, representing the Disabled American Veterans; Vice President George J. Danilla III, representing the Vietnam Veterans of America; Secretary Dr. John Wasylik, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Member Donald A. Lautzenheiser, representing the American Legion; and Member James L. Singler, representing the American Veterans. The Veteran Service Commissioners are appointed by the Administrative Judge of the Erie County Common Pleas Court. The Veterans Service Office staff consists of Executive Director/Veterans Service Officer, Susan M. Howey, U.S. Army Veteran; Veterans Service Officer, Vernon D. Chiow, U.S. Navy Veteran; Veterans Service Officer, Monty E. Lemmons, U.S. Army Veteran/Retired; and one full-time van driver, Rodney R. Ramsey, U.S. Marine Corps. Veteran. The Erie County Veterans Service Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., except holidays.

The Erie County Veterans Service Commission meetings are the first and third Mondays of every month, starting at 5:00 P.M. with special meetings convened as requested to carry out the business of the Veterans Service Commission. The Commissioners approve or disapprove financial requests, after hearing the information collected by the Service Officer and discussing the case in person with the Veteran and/or his dependent involved. Vouchers are issued for approved amounts to utility companies, landlords, grocery stores, and mortgage companies requesting payment.

Throughout the days between meetings, one Commissioner is designated "Duty Officer" to approve or disapprove requests when called by the County Veterans Service Officer, (CVSO).

The CVSO's also assist in filling out Veterans Administration forms for service connected compensation, non-service connected disability pension, death and burial benefit forms, and other VA forms. The staff also requests discharges/DD214's when a veteran does not have his or her original or a certified copy.

During April, May, and June of 2008, 43 Veterans and dependents received financial assistance amounting to \$46,135.32. Veterans assisted with VA issues numbered 2,103. A 12-passenger van is also available, with a staff driver, and makes daily trips (Monday through Friday) to the Cleveland area VA Medical Centers. Home pick-up is available at 6:30 AM. During April, May, and June of 2008, 245 Veterans were transported from their homes to the VA Medical Center in Cleveland and Brecksville and returned home at the end of the trip; 39 Veterans made 319 trips to the VA Out-patient Clinic at the Ohio Veterans Home. Transportation was provided by the Sandusky Transit System. Four disabled veterans were transported by North Central Emergency Medical Services and made 7 trips to the Louis Stokes VAMC, Cleveland, Ohio and one disabled veteran made one trip to the V.A. Community Based Outpatient Clinic at the Ohio Veterans Home by North Central EMS. This is a free service to Veterans who live in Erie County.

The VA Community Based Out-patient Clinic provides health care and prescriptions to Veterans in Erie and surrounding counties. The Clinic is located at the Ohio Veterans Home, 3416 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio, 44870. Direction signs to the Clinic are posted at OVH, and the Clinic's phone number is (419)625-7350. OVH's phone number is (419)625-2454.

Please join us for Veteran's Day at the Erie County Fair on August 9, 2008. Veterans and their dependents will enjoy a day of information about veteran's benefits and a free lunch. Hope to see you there!

Our web address is www.erie-county-ohio.net/veterans/. The website is very informative and has a wide range of links included.

The Veterans Service Commissioners and office staff encourage you to visit or call our office if you need help or have questions pertaining to financial assistance, Veteran benefits or entitlements. Just call (419)627-7651, (419) 627-7579, or (419)627-7650 or toll free in Erie County 1-888-399-6065. We will also be glad to provide a speaker for one of your meetings.

Sincerely,

Todd P. Christman
President
Veterans Service Commission