Upcoming Events

**June 2018**

Caribbean American Heritage Month

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month

PTSD Awareness Month

D-Day
June 6

SAIGE National Training Program
June 11-14; Green Bay, WI

Flag Day
June 14

Juneteenth
June 19

VACO LGBT Pride Month Commemoration
June 21, noon–1 pm; Room 230

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**ORM**

Steps Toward Conflict Resolution
Callers can REACH to the Office of Resolution Management (ORM) using the new number, 1-888-566-3982, and speak with a specialist regarding **Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint Processing**, **Alternative Dispute Resolution**, and the **Harassment Prevention Program**. REACH to ORM is available from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in all time zones.

To file a discrimination or harassment complaint, you must contact ORM within 45 calendar days of the date of the alleged discriminatory incident.

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**Commemorate**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

VA Central Office (VACO) will commemorate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month on Thursday, June 21, 2018, in the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Veterans Conference Center, room 230, at noon (ET).

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Public Service Recognition Week
Thank You for Your Service!

VA participated in Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) the first full week in May to honor the country’s federal, state, county and local government employees for their contributions to public service. Employees participated in many activities during the week-long celebration:

Cake Cutting Ceremonies

Fresh Air Walks

I CARE Certificate Distribution and Other Forms of Awards and Recognition
The committed work that VA employees do every day is the foundation of VA and is what makes the organization’s mission possible. VA thanks you for your service! For questions regarding VA’s observance of PSRW, contact Edith Perry, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, at Edith.Perry@va.gov.
Commemorate
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This year’s theme is “VA Marches On: Programs Serving the LGBT Community”, which highlights the numerous programs and services available to our VA LGBT employees and allies. This event will feature a panel discussion with prominent speakers from the Office of General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, and Veterans Benefits Administration on various programs and services throughout VA, in addition to other related topics and concerns. Office of Resolution Management (ORM) and Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) Deputy Assistant Secretary Harvey Johnson will serve as the Senior Host for this event.

VA joins the Nation in observing LGBT Pride Month each June. The LGBT community is an integral part and growing segment of our workforce diversity. It is their numerous contributions which speaks to the continued strength and diversity of our workforce, and further demonstrating the Department’s “ICARE” values consistently, in the provision of outstanding services to our Nation’s Veterans.

VA continues to demonstrate its commitment to building workforce diversity and cultivating workplace inclusion, in accordance with its established policies and protected employee protections from sexual discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity, in our VA-wide EEO, Diversity & Inclusion, and No Fear Policy Statements and associated Directives.

VA’s commitment is also evident in its institution of policy guidance, training on LGBT cultural competency, consultation, and survey-based needs assessment in this area. As VA has become more welcoming and inclusive in its diverse workplace, more LGBT employees are coming out and joining our workforce, including transgender and gender affirming individuals. To this end, the VA LGBT Workgroup, through ODI and ORM, continues its purpose of establishing a Department-level framework to develop strategies and recommendations to identify and eliminate systemic barriers to our LGBT community. The Workgroup aims to ensure VA has an inclusive environment that is free from discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPMs) and the Veterans Health Administration’s Veteran Care Coordinators (VCCs) across VA continue implementing programs and services to create inclusive work and customer service environments for LGBT Veterans and employees. For information on these initiatives or on the VA LGBT Workgroup, contact Mr. Sterling Akins, VA’s National LGBT Special Emphasis Program Manager, at Sterling.Akins@va.gov.

VA managers and supervisors are encouraged to support attendance at events and activities that recognize the contributions of LGBT individuals to our Nation. SEPMs should seek local management approval, and consult the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs and/or regional counsel as deemed necessary by local management to ensure that use of VA resources in support of a SEP activity is authorized. Visit VA’s LGBT Program Web page at https://www.diversity.va.gov/programs/lgbt.aspx for more information.

Section 508 Training

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act is a Federal Law That Applies to You

Everyone has a responsibility to create information that meets the Federal Section 508 standards. For training options or to learn more, e-mail the VA Section 508 Office at section508support@va.gov.