

Introduction

Most veterans organizations place heavy emphasis on VA and state veterans homes, and many overlook other long-term care facilities. It is more a question of resources than unwillingness. Consequently, a gap in attention occurs where often most needed: the private sector.

LVMAC created this program to encourage its member organizations and other local community organizations – such as churches, veterans associations, college groups, business volunteer groups, scouts and other civic organizations – to visit as many of those veterans living in these nursing and personal care/assisted living homes located throughout Lehigh and Northampton counties as possible for the purpose of ensuring their welfare and improving their quality of life.



Target audience

Veterans living in private for-profit and non-profit long-term care facilities and county nursing homes within the Lehigh Valley, defined as Lehigh and Northampton counties.

Those in Commonwealth veterans homes (aka veterans centers) and Department of Veterans Affairs veterans homes (aka Community Living Centers) are not the target audience because they are not within the valley and already well visited by veterans and veterans associated groups. Also, very few Lehigh Valley veterans use them.

Finally, these facilities – unlike those locally -- typically have some form of veterans advisory council to help ensure the facilities are properly attending to the needs of their veterans.



How to get involved

If interested as an organization in participating in this program, please contact one of the program coordinators, **Bruce Davis** or **Bill Allem** at Visitation@lvmac.org.



Some Ground Rules

As indicated, LVMAC provides limited funding assistance to defray costs for cards, gifts and entertainment of the veterans. Coordination and/or preapproval of the estimated amount of reimbursement and a final submission for reimbursement begins with the use of a dual-purpose, visitation program and report form. The instructions and form can be viewed and downloaded from <http://www.lv-mac.org/info-for-you-2/veterans-visitation-program>.

Do not seek reimbursement after the fact. Email is the preferred mode of operation.

LVMAC membership is encouraged but not required. Only 501(c)(3) nonprofits, church-status organizations and tax-exempt veterans organizations will be reimbursed visiting approved facilities.

About LVMAC

Established in 2003 as an organization of organizations (an association), the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization operating within the Lehigh Valley.

We offer a forum and a focal point for veterans and civic organizations, businesses and governments to support our Lehigh Valley military-veteran community.

We teach others to help in meaningful ways; advocate on issues of importance to our local military-veteran community and organize or support programs centering on local military units when deployed, the families of service members, the transition of returning veterans, and the recovery of veterans requiring additional help.

As an all-volunteer organization, LVMAC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from noon to 1:30pm. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to attend. No military affiliation is required. Lunch is provided to attendees at no cost.

LVMAC has no membership dues. The only membership requirement is that its member organizations actively support and work towards achieving LVMAC goals.

LVMAC seeks donations to fund its various programs, to include this veterans visitation program.

For current information on LVMAC and membership events and activities, go to our blog site: www.lvmac.wordpress.com

For more general information on LVMAC, and what it does, go to our web site: www.lvmac.org

LVMAC is a 501(C)(3) non-profit Pennsylvania corporation. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. The official registration and financial information of the Lehigh County Military Affairs Council may be obtained from the Pennsylvania department of state by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999



Veterans Visitation Program

A Lehigh Valley Military Veterans Affairs Council (LVMAC) Special Initiative



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The Demographics

Nearly seventy percent of those turning 65 will require some form of long-term care in their lifetime, according to a 2006 Congressional Quarterly report. Veterans are no different, though occasionally the severely war wounded are likely to use these facilities earlier than the general population.

In 2020, there were approximately 37,000 veterans in the Lehigh Valley. Of these, about 20,000 were 65 years of age or older, the age group most likely to use a long-term care facility now or in the near future.

The "Ask"

We are asking for your organization to help in visiting these veterans in personal care and skilled nursing homes, so they may know that they are not forgotten and someone cares. We will assist in funding your effort, if needed.

