

Dear Volunteers,

Friday, March 13, 2020

On Thursday, March 12, 2020, our Secretary Mary M. Kolar sent out the following statement:

"In the interest of the health and welfare of our members and staff, I have made the difficult decision to no longer allow visitors at our Wisconsin Veterans Homes located in Chippewa Falls, King, and Union Grove, in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

*At this time, we **do not** have any diagnosed cases of COVID-19 at our Wisconsin Veterans Homes. However, following the recommendations of infection control experts, we are stopping all medically unnecessary visits to the veterans who have entrusted us with their care and safety.*

We continue to closely monitor the status of COVID-19 in Wisconsin, will continue to adjust our practices accordingly, and reopen our campus to visitors as soon as practicable. Thank you for your understanding and for joining us to help prevent the spread of disease in our community."

With our commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for our members, staff, volunteers and visitors, we have put in place, until further notice, closure of our campus to ALL volunteers no matter what task you have.

Along with this notice, I'm sorry to say we have cancelled any large activities and events that are occurring in the next couple of months. This includes Peaceful Journey Training sessions, the Spring Gala on April 7 as well as all outgoing activity trips. Also included in this is **our Volunteer Banquet on April 21st**. I know many of you have received the invites to the Volunteer Banquet, please disregard them. It saddens us to do this, but we have to look out for the best interest in our volunteers, members, staff, and community.

Other things to note:

- We are not accepting donations at this time. If you know of folks that donate items, please let them know to hold them until we are able to accept donations.
- No outside group meetings, tours, events until further notice. Please contact us if you have a question.

Know our talented activity team will still be holding activities for our members on their floors and we are making adjustments to ours and our member's days to ensure a high quality of life is still provided.

We continue to closely monitor the status of COVID-19 in Wisconsin and will adjust our practices accordingly, as guided by the CDC and DHS. Thank you for your understanding and for joining us to help prevent the spread of disease in our community.

We will notify you when our campus is again open for volunteers and visitors. Please feel free to contact me with any questions and I wish you and your family and friends be safe and well!

Thank you,

Terry

Theresa A. Heschke

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