

Member Organizations:

555th Parachute
Infantry Association
"Triple Nickle"
Chicago Chapter

American Legion
Harold Washington
Post 1987

Chicago Veterans

Mexican American
Veterans Association

Montford Point Marine
Association
Chicago Chapter

National Women
Veterans United

Veterans for Peace
Chicago Chapter

Veterans for Unification

Veterans Strike Force

VetNet

CVO NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 2

May, 2017



Anne Scheetz makes a presentation to CVO on Single Payer health care.



Bruce Parry talks about the CVO Anti-Privatization Campaign.

Welcome Chicago Veterans

We'd like to welcome our latest Organizational Member, the Chicago Veterans, represented at the meeting by Carlos Luna and Michael Palaguachi! **Welcome!!**

CVO GoFundMe Fundraising Campaign

Instead of having a formal fundraiser this year, CVO has decided to use GoFundMe, an online fundraising tool, to raise the money it needs to carry out its core issues and take care of its internal needs. We will be sending emails around to all our supporters and hope that each and every one of you will be generous and help us reach our goal. Help support CVO!

CVO Launches Anti-Privatization Campaign to Keep the VA for Veterans

CVO has launched a campaign against the privatization of the VA. Efforts are being made – step by step – to deliver veterans' health care to the private sector. The purpose of the campaign is to reaffirm CVO's commitment to Full Mandatory Funding for VA health care without further payment by veterans.

Anne Scheetz came and made a presentation at the April 19th meeting on single-payer health care, which is what the VA is: one entity (the government) pays all the bills. We want to keep it that way and stop the move to having veterans pay for health care directly (co-pays) or indirectly (through private insurance) and to stop using VA funds to pay the private sector to do what the VA ought to be doing.

Boeing Military Salute at the Chicago Blackhawks Game

by Larry E. Nazimek



PHOTO: CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

If you watch Chicago Blackhawks hockey games, you have undoubtedly seen the pre-game singing of our National Anthem, where military members and veterans go out on the red carpet to the cheers of the fans. When the Winnipeg Jets visited the United Center for their Jan. 26 game against the Blackhawks, I was honored, along with IL Army National Guard 1Lt Monica Perez and WW II USMC Vet PFC. Dominick “Duke” Adducci. After we were introduced, soloist Jeff Ray sung the National Anthems of both Canada and the U. S. Protocol required that we salute for both. We were later sent photos and a video clip as a remembrance.

But wait...there's more! During a time out in the second period, we were gathered in an aisle in the stands where the cameras were once again on us and displayed on the scoreboard's big screens to the applause of the fans.

During the entire night, fans were shaking our hands and thanking us for our service. The public's attitude toward the military has certainly changed from 40 years ago.

The program is sponsored by Boeing, whose corporate HQ is in Chicago. They buy tickets for the person being honored plus one guest.

Under this program, an active duty/Reserve/National Guard member and a veteran are selected for each home game. The USO of Illinois is the coordinator for the program, and they maintain the waiting lists. For currently serving members, the list is approx. 5 years long, while for veterans, it is over 10 years long, due to the popularity of the Blackhawks (who sell out every home game) and the program. Requests to be added to the waiting list should be emailed to David Darroch, the Program Director of the USO of Illinois, ddarroch@usoofillinois.org. A friend or family member can be the point-of-contact, particularly for those members who are serving in various parts of the world and may be deployed on short notice. When one reaches the top of the list, he is notified and given several games from which to choose.

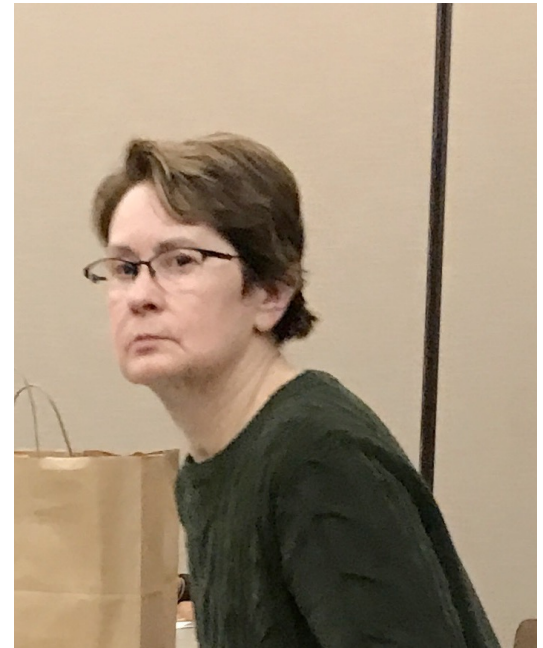
Kudos and thanks go out to Boeing, the Blackhawks, and the USO of Illinois for this fine program that honors those who are serving and those who have served.



Commander Frank Thompson and member Obie Wordlaw at the meeting.



Members Obie Wordlaw, Willie Mack, Anthony Travis, Carlos Luna, Mike Palaguachi and Abundio Zaragoza listen to the presentation on single-payer health care.



Long time member Francine O'Connor of Veterans for Unification rises to address the meeting.

I'm Not Going to be a Guinea Pig

by Larry E. Nazimek

That's a common response from many people when asked if they would be interested in participating in a clinical trial or being a research subject, but such a response usually indicates that they know little about these programs.

Before you dismiss the idea, consider that you may benefit a great deal from participating in a study. There are trials in all medical fields, from psychiatry to surgery, which run the gamut from prevention to diagnosis, treatment, intervention, and everything in between. There are even trials looking at your genetics. All of these clinical trials have two things in common: the first is that they provide access to the best medical specialists in the country; the second is that you, as a research subject, are protected by a law, "Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations," also called, "The Common Rule." This law, which was enacted in 1981, insures that the trial is overseen by a committee of experts, and that you are told about the study details and risks, that your privacy is protected, that you have voluntarily consented to participate, and that you can quit any time. In other words, it's not like you're participating in research for someone's term paper or science project.

Clinical trials are designed and run by the top experts in their fields because they take place at medical research institutions, such as hospitals and clinics affiliated with medical schools, and most VA hospitals and outpatient facilities. Trials are expensive to run, requiring extra staff and facilities to screen and enroll potential volunteers, collect data and analyze it; furthermore, only teaching institutions have the expertise available to provide the oversight required by law.

The funds for running clinical trials are usually provided by federal research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Energy (DOE), or the National Science Foundation (NSF); by non-profits like the Susan Komen "Run for the Cure;" or by pharmaceutical companies which have new

drugs to test. The Department of Veterans Affairs Cooperative Studies Program works with VA doctors to conduct and fund clinical trials under the Office of Research and Development (ORD) on research that is entirely focused on Veterans' needs, such as PTSD, TBI, radiation exposure, Agent Orange, etc.

There are many studies to verify the effectiveness of screening for a particular illness. Early detection is a key to preventing, or curing in the early stages, many illnesses, such as cancer, but while early detection is the goal, too many "false positives" are not good, either.

There are many benefits to participating in a trial. The first is that you may have access to new and better treatments which you could otherwise not receive--the purpose of the trial is to demonstrate to the FDA that it works, so they will approve it. If you have Alzheimer's or an advanced stage of cancer, you will probably want to try anything that may cure you, or at least slow the progression, of your illness. For some studies, you may be healthy, without any ailments, and are asked to test a method of disease prevention, or to test the dose of a drug.

For many of these projects, there is monetary compensation. In other words, you get paid for your participation in these projects, but even if you aren't getting paid, at least you're getting free services from the very best. Just to insure that there are no surprises, be sure about any costs or payments before agreeing to participate. You would not want to be surprised by a hefty bill when you thought that everything was free, because they don't pay for your health care.

For some, the greatest benefit is altruistic, i. e., where you participate "for the cause" and not to benefit yourself. An example of this is the "Million Veteran Program" where blood is drawn from a large number of veterans in order to study their genetic characteristics and commonalities. Many VA hospitals,

such as Hines, but not Jesse Brown, are intake sites. Genetic studies such as these are recently of interest because the cost of genome sequencing is now low enough to make it possible to determine if certain genetic characteristics can be used to predict one's odds of getting certain diseases.

Clinical trials are designed to be very selective in their criteria for subjects. For example, for a new cancer drug, you might need to be previously untreated, while for another, you may need to have failed all treatments. In some cases, you may need to be a patient of the hospital where the research is being conducted. An example of this is the NUGene Project sponsored by the Center for Genetic Medicine at Northwestern Univ. (<https://nugene.org>). In order to participate, one must be a patient at a Northwestern Medicine-affiliated hospital. You are a "patient," however, if you merely participate in some other study at NMH or have been treated there under the VA's Choice Program. If you have no ailment and are in a

position where you cannot take any experimental drugs, as would be the case for pilots, you may not wish to participate in the trials of a drug whose purpose is to prevent some illness.

Want to know more? Whether you get your healthcare through the VA or other healthcare system, there are probably some research projects that would love to recruit you. Information on research programs sponsored by the VA, including the Million Veteran Program, can be found on the ORD's web site (Research.VA.gov). Non-VA hospitals usually have their own web site listing clinical trials at their institution. Finally, all publicly and privately supported clinical studies of human participants in the US, and many others around the world, are listed on the web site ClinicalTrials.gov.

I would like to thank Dr. Carol Westbrook for her helpful suggestions and input on this article.



David Rogers, John Newsom, Demetrius Gordon and Darryl Howard listen to the presentation on single-payer health care.

A Veteran

Whether Active Duty, Retired, National Guard or Reserve – is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America” for an amount of up to and including their life.



2017 INAUGURAL
"These Boots Still March"
Motorcycle Walk-A-Thon
April 24 – May 13, 2017

"These Boots Still March" for Veterans
Start: San Francisco, CA
Finish: Ford Heights, IL
(See Brochure for schedule and FAQ's)

Motorcycle/Walkathon – join us!
Benefiting Homeless Veterans
To help redevelop homes for the homeless Veterans and their families at
The Smith Residences Veterans Village in Ford Heights, Illinois



Saturday May 13, 2017
Culminating Event!
Registration begins at 6:45 AM ** **Walk** begins at 7:30 AM **

Registration and Pre-registration for this event is free with a *minimum pledge goal of \$200 or more per participant*. All rider/walk participants who raise at least the minimum pledge goal will receive a free "This Boots Still March" for Veterans coin and T Shirt as well as a goodie bag filled by our event sponsors

Registration and Pre-registration for this event without a *minimum pledge goal*:
Jan & Feb \$20.00, March \$25.00, 'Day of Event' \$35.00 each registered participant will receive a free "This Boots Still March" for Veterans coin as well as a goodie bag.

Please dress appropriately in comfortable clothing and good walking shoes.

For more information contact Doll Smith at 708-822-3370

To register visit:
www.thesmithresidences.com/2017-Events