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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ADAM GREGG

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND IOWA VETERANS HOME
COMMANDANT TODD JACOBUS

TO: County Commissioners and Boards of Supervisors

FROM: Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

DATE: August 16, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) Fall Training for County Commissioners

1. The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs will provide a training program for County Commissioners of Veterans Affairs on **Monday, October 14, 2024**, beginning at 8:00 am and concluding at 4:00 pm. **Location is Building S70, Freedom Center, Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center, 7105 NW 70th Avenue, Johnston, IA 50131.** There is no registration fee. While this training is specific to Commissioners, elected officials serving on county boards of supervisors would also benefit from attending.

2. The IDVA will host an ice breaker / social event for Commissioners, and anyone else coming to Central Iowa on Sunday for the Monday training, and we hope that you will join us. This event will take place at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum, 7105 NW 70th Ave., Johnston, Iowa 50131 on **Sunday, October 13, 2024 from 5:00-6:30 pm.** We need to know how many participants to expect, so please confirm on the registration document / link either “yes” or “no” on whether you can join us.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbQOS8PjyOIO9j3Onj72AZV_2NHXUhR2poLnUyfTgI0IKVfA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

3. The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs (ICVA), and the Iowa Association of County Commissioners and Veteran Services Offices (IACCVSO) have developed an agenda that includes subjects that will engage our audience, and provide opportunities for discussion and interaction.

4. The attached agenda was developed by leaders from the IDVA, the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs (ICVA), and the Iowa Association of County Commissioners & Veteran Service Officers (IACCVSO).

a. The intent of this training is to present duties and responsibilities of County Commissioners of Veterans Affairs as outlined in Iowa Code Chapter 35B (County Commissions of Veterans Affairs), recent changes in Iowa Code, resources and opportunities for Iowa Veterans, additional duties for CVSOs, the need for a Personal Identification Verification (PIV) card to access Federal VA systems, continuing education requirements, budget planning, Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) relevance to support and assistance to Veterans, guidance relative to State of Iowa allocated funds to support county Veteran service offices, utilization of the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund, grave registration and military separation documentation (DD Form 214), and the VA claims process. The training will culminate with an open forum.

b. It is important that Commissioners attend this training in order to understand the scope of responsibilities, meet other Commissioners from throughout Iowa who are making an impact in their communities, learn about best practices where we connect with and bridge gaps between Veterans and the vast resources available to support them, and open / maintain lines of communication among County, State and Federal levels of government that support Iowa Veterans. This training will help us achieve that objective. **Please attend!**

5. There are many very nice hotel options in the area; some options are outlined below. Please confirm cost when you make your reservation.

a. Ramada Tropics Resort & Conference Center, 4995 N Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa 50322, \$68 per night. Reserve your room online or by calling (515) 278-2381.

b. AmericInn by Wyndham, 5050 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa 50131, \$73 per night. Reserve your room online or by calling (515) 270-1111.

c. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Des Moines Northwest, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Urbandale, Iowa 50322, \$100 per night. Reserve your room online or by calling 1-888-746-9680

d. TownePlace Suites by Marriott, 8800 Northpark Drive, Johnston, Iowa 50131, \$107 per night. Reserve your room online or by calling (515) 727-4066.

e. Hilton Garden Inn Des Moines / Urbandale, 8600 Northpark Dr., Johnston, Iowa 50131, \$118 per night. Reserve your room online or by calling (515) 270-8890

f. Stoney Creek Inn Hotel, 5291 Stoney Creek Court, Johnston, Iowa 50131, \$121 per night. Reserve your room online or by calling (515) 334-9000.

7. The point of contact at the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs' Benefits & Cemetery Bureau is Benjamin Dales, Veterans Benefits Specialist, at ben.dales@iowa.gov or 515-727-3439.

8. I am looking forward to seeing you all in a few weeks!

Respectfully,



TODD M. JACOBUS
Commandant

Encls
Training Agenda
QR Code for registration

