Welcome to the Women Veterans Program!

This has been an exciting month, as I started working my way across the state speaking with women veterans. On my initial pass, I will be holding office hours at each of our state Veteran Service Officer locations. My intent is to meet with women veterans and discuss whatever is on your mind. We can talk about state and federal benefits, community concerns, veteran nonprofit organizations, and access issues...truly any topic related to women veterans in New Mexico. Stop by and see me when I am in your area!

Questions? Contact me at:
Amanda Somerville
AmandaL_somerville@state.nm.us
(505) 383-2431
5201 Eagle Rock NE, Suite 1-A
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Upcoming Outreach Events

Raton Women Veterans Outreach
4 September, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
200 North 3rd St, Raton

Las Vegas Women Veterans Outreach
6 September, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
917 Douglas Ave, Las Vegas

New Mexico State Fair
11 September
New Mexico State Fair Grounds

Clovis Women Veterans Outreach
13 September, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
904 West 6th St, Clovis

Santa Fe Women Veterans Outreach
24 September, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
301 W. De Vargas St, Santa Fe

Roswell Women Veterans Outreach
2 October, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
1600 SE Main St, Suite A, Roswell

Hobbs Women Veterans Outreach
3 October, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
2120 North Alto St, Hobbs

Carlsbad Women Veterans Outreach
4 October, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
101 N Halagueno Rm 204, Carlsbad

Gallup Women Veterans Outreach
9 October, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
908 Buena Vista Ave, Gallup
Adaptive Sports Program NM

Adaptive Sports New Mexico provides a variety of recreational activities to those with cognitive and physical impairments. Skiing, sailing, rock climbing, and rafting are just a few of the opportunities. Veteran-specific events are held throughout the year.

For more information, go to https://adaptivesportsprogram.org/ or call (505) 570-5710

Troops to Teachers

The New Mexico Public Education Department recently won a Troops to Teachers grant. This military career transition program provides guidance and financial assistance to those looking to move to a classroom teaching position.

For more information contact Dr. Becky Kappus at Becky.Kappus@state.nm.us or (505) 827-1444.

Veterans Integration Center Stand Down

The New Mexico Veterans Integration Center will be holding a Stand Down for homeless veterans on October 25th (veterans only) and 26th (veterans and non-veterans) at The Rock at Noonday in Albuquerque.

Learn more at http://nmvic.org/standdown.html or call (505) 265-0512

Ruidoso Veteran’s Health Fair

There will be a Veteran’s Health Fair on October 6th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 1231 Mechem Dr in Ruidoso. Learn about local services, talk to medical experts, and get your annual flu shot.

For more details call JoAnn Wolfe at (575) 808-2834 or Jacqui Lawrence at (505) 409-3562

Women Veterans Luncheon

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 6 will be holding a Women’s Luncheon on September 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the ENMU Campus Union Building in Portales. This event is open to both active duty and women veterans.

For more details, contact Monica at monica.n.banuelos@gmail.com

Focus Forward Fellowship

This fellowship from the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University helps build skills, leadership and community among women student veterans and military-connected women students.

Contact Runco at lrunco@purdue.edu or (765) 496-6045 or check out the program online at https://www.mfri.purdue.edu/education-employment/fwdfellows/
Valor Run Storytelling Project

Valor Run (http://www.valorrun.org/) is starting a storytelling project, aiming to highlight and amplify the voices of women veterans from all branches and generations. They are seeking stories that cover the breadth of the veterans’ experiences, from combat to transition to family life to leadership experiences and lessons. These stories may be written by the veteran, written by representatives from Valor Run, or recorded interviews.

Interested in telling your story? Sign up here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe85tk1Zs37-EYPU9U6kw2S8R8gL3GyYi2rG08yBqk5emxd8VQ/viewform

Suicide Prevention and the Department of Veterans Affairs

Suicide prevention is the VA’s #1 clinical priority. In June, the VA released the 2018 VA National Suicide Data Report. After adjusting for differences in age, the rate of suicide in 2015 was 2.0 times higher among female veterans compared with non-veteran adult women. Veterans’ deaths by suicide are also more likely to involve the use of a firearm. Across the board, suicide rates increased faster for veterans who do not access the Veterans Health Administration than for those who do access VHA.

Learn more here:

https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/Suicide-Prevention-Data.asp

Women’s Clinics at VA Medical Centers

The Women’s Comprehensive Care Clinic at the Raymond G. Murphy VAMC provides gender-specific care to New Mexico’s women veterans. These services include (but are not limited to):

- Comprehensive Primary Care
- Gynecological Care
- Maternity Care
- Geriatric Care
- Infertility Eval & Treatment
- Menopause Eval & Treatment
- Counseling and Treatment for Military Sexual Trauma (MST) & Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Services for Homeless Vets

The clinic also hosts the Women Veterans Healthcare Program Manager, who can be reached at (800) 465-8262 x2679.