

NWVU NEWS

Save the Dates

NWVU is co-hosting a Free Mental Health First Aid training with the Sertoma Center, Inc. Saturday, October 20, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the IL Community Military Women Veteran’s Center located at 7907 - S. Racine Chicago, IL 60620. Nwvu.org @gmail.com or (872) 731-2150 to register.

Cook County Recorder of Deeds Kelvar Career Event

NWVU has partnered with the Recorder of Deeds office for their annual resource fair for military veterans. The event will be held at Malcolm X-College located at 1900 West Jackson at 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Director Marc A. Magill, MS



“Together We Are Strong and Rise”

The Stand Down for Military Women Veterans, draws more than One-Hundred women veterans and active service women to the Jesse Brown Veterans Health Care System Co-hosted by the National Women Veterans United

Women who are serving and those who have served in the Armed Forces in all branches of service, War and peace time came together on Saturday, September 15, 2018, together to show their strength. NWVU Team leaders, motivation speakers, free raffles, federal, state and county agencies and community resource information vendors were on hand to provide assurance

Valorie Harris leads the NWVU Color Guard.



NWVU is PROUD to have a Color Guard and participate in community events. Women Veterans continue to Salute in and out of military service!

that there are services for military women veterans. Those vendors included

Jesse Brown Veterans Health Care Systems

Director Marc A. Magill, MS., spoke about what the Health Care system is doing to ensure that military women veterans are cared for with comprehensive health care services and a future initiative to relocate



the Women Veterans Clinic. The VISN 12 Director Renee Oshinski, was also in attendance and provided input on the VISN initiatives. **Jenny Sitzer, LCSW** was praised for her work as the Women’s Program Manager and her tireless efforts to assist military women veterans in the Jesse Brown Veterans Health Care System and community.

(Below)

Director Magill and NWVU Board of Director Jeannie Adams, Financial Secretary Valorie Harris and Association Chair Lettie Butler.





“Together We Are Strong and Rise”

Major Dr. Olawuatoyin Hines, PhD, is the IL State National Guard Chaplain. She provided information on the National Guard and also “shared her story.”

Dr. Hines is also a Counselor at the Road Home Center for Veterans where she provides counseling for her peers.



Sharva Hampton - Campbell, Author & Life Coach, autographed her book for the women veteran participants

Sharva shared her story of triumph and overcoming her experiences and hardships. She translated her pain through her co-authored Book titled U.G.L.Y - Uncovering God’s Love For You. Sharva also donated books to raffle off to the women veterans.



Diane Nowak, (left) Dignity Memorial General Manager of Oak Hill, Beverly and Oakland Memory Lanes Cemeteries provided a presentation about the Dignity Memorial Veteran’s Resource Book with over 100 community and municipal services.

NWVU also noted the Memorial Day Programs and various community recognition ceremonies hosted under Ms. Nowaks leadership.



In addition to general health care screening, **Dr. Ellen Koucky, PhD (Dr. K)** (Pictured) is a Clinical Psychologist – of the JBVA Women’s Health Center and she provided health factors and awareness about Stress and women’s health.

Michelle Langlois, LCSW, Suicide Prevention Coordinator Lead, (Not pictured) provided information on the programs and also engaged the event participants with “Make the Connection” videos featuring veterans who had been in programs and received help and assistance at VA facilities across the nation. Many had given up hope and tried to end their pain and found new strength with the help of the VA staff.

“Together We Are Strong and Rise”



(Left/Gray & Black clothing) Dr. Patty Davis, MD, a member of the West Towns (IL) Links, Inc. presented a Financial workshop “Ally Wallet Wise” to the women veteran participants. Financial literacy is a tool for resiliency. In addition the Links, Inc. members donated duffel bags full of various toiletries to raffle off to the women veterans. The raffle winners were extremely grateful for the prizes.

The West Towns (IL) Links, Inc. is one of NWVU’s partners and for the past two years they have supported the Stand Down for military Women veterans. In addition they assist with NWVU’s mentoring program for our Gold Star family and daughter.



Allison Chikos, RD, CSG, LDN the Clinical Dietitian - JBVA Healthy Teaching Kitchen Dietitian presented Healthy Eating Nutrition for Women. It was a wealth of information on healthy eating and modification of eating. Inpatient veterans are eating healthy while hospitalized and she takes pride in her profession and sharing a life changing lifestyle.

AARP was one of many vendors who participated at the Stand Down to provide resources to military Women Veterans.

The vendors also included staff from the VA Benefits office to discuss and assist the women veterans with their VA benefits claims by checking on the status of claims and or advising them of what they further needed to do. Wigs Plus for military women veterans who lost their hair in chemo treatments, housing advocates, State Treasurer to check on unclaimed money from banks, properties etc. Pre and Post surveys captured critical information on understanding the many gaps in service programs or the lack of services. Some of the suggestions were to hold a Stand Down and conference more often and in Indiana and other areas, assist with business and entrepreneur training, include more time to network with each other and help with VA benefit claims and financial assistance.

