

VHWC DISPATCH

April 2025

FOUNDATION

The VHWC brings together parties to build or expand pathways through which Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their care partners optimize health and wellness outcomes.

CONTACT US

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CORE TEAM UPDATE

We continue to take small, yet incremental, steps to bring activity suggestions to fruition. We held brainstorming sessions for each of our priority areas during the month. Summaries of those meetings identifying major challenges, current initiatives, identified needs and opportunities for VHWC contribution are being disseminated via email and posted on the website. Recordings of the sessions will be available online. Our next steps will be to draft workplans for these activities to identify collaborators and action steps. We anticipate holding project touch-base meetings every 4-6 weeks. Our team is limited so we plan to prioritize opportunities that address multiple focus areas for greater impact and efficiency. We encourage and welcome self-nominations from individuals who might be interested in serving as chairs or co-chairs of these efforts. The staff of the Core Team is available to provide administrative support if desired. As always, if you are unable to attend upcoming meetings, we still value your input. Please share ideas or suggestions via email at ihp.vhwc@msu.edu.

We're working to expand awareness of our initiatives and increase engagement with individuals having military service. Please help spread the word. Opportunities to stay connected include sharing our newsletters, visiting our [website](#) for the latest updates, and subscribing for VHWC news. We also welcome your ideas for expanding participation. If you're interested in joining the Advisory Council or want to explore ways to get involved with specific projects, do not hesitate to reach out. We plan to convene the Advisory Council in July to share updates on progress. This will provide the opportunity for the larger group to provide input, offer suggestions, insights, and help troubleshoot emerging barriers.

On behalf of the Advisory Council and Administrative Core Team, we honor all who have served and extend our gratitude for your

dedication to our country. We will be hosting a Memorial Day event to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Stay tuned as those plans are finalized.

ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT:

We are proud to feature The War Memorial, a nonprofit cultural and civic center dedicated to honoring those who served, enriching our community, and delivering exceptional experiences through diverse programming.



THE WAR MEMORIAL

Located in Grosse Pointe Farms, The War Memorial is housed in the historic Russell A. Alger Jr. House, an Italian Renaissance Revival mansion built in 1910. The organization is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and hosts commemorative events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies and supports veteran-focused initiatives like our bi-monthly Vet-To-Vet gatherings and VetConnect Seminar Series.

The War Memorial, which partners with veteran organizations like the Grosse Pointe Veterans Club and American Legion Post 372, offers concerts, art exhibitions, lectures, and workshops, including performances by the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra and various art classes. In 2024, the venue welcomed over 80,000 visitors, including over 750 veterans who were directly honored and celebrated through specialized programming and events, transforming The War Memorial into a thriving hub on connections, culture, and celebration for all ages. The War Memorial is represented by Alex Szwarc and Charles Ohlsson. For more information or to explore collaboration opportunities, visit <https://www.warmemorial.org/>, and contact Alex at aszwar@warmemorial.org and Charles at cohlsson@warmemorial.org.

Their goal for veteran programming is to offer one event a month, whether it be a Vet-To-Vet gathering, a VetConnect Seminar, or a patriotic celebration. The War Memorial is honored to give back to those who have served our country. Memorial Week returns to the nonprofit organization from May 21 to May 26 with renewed vigor and significance. The week includes our annual fundraising gala An Evening of Red, White & Blue, Our Community Salutes which recognizes and celebrates the Class of 2025 high school seniors from the Detroit area who have made the honorable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, and Memorial Day when the community solemnly gathers for a poignant moment of remembrance for the courageous souls who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our cherished freedoms. Also happening this year is The War Memorial's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War's end. The yearlong program series aims to educate the regional community on the Vietnam War and its legacy with a series of diverse events. Registration links for upcoming events are located on the events tab of the VHWC website at <https://vhwc.msu.edu/index.php/resources-and-events>.

PROGRESS REPORT: 2025 PRIORITY AREAS

The meeting summaries have been saved to the website in each priority area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Webinars:

We are happy to highlight two webinar sessions coming up in May.

1. *Bridging Gaps and Enhancing Communication Strategies in Veterans' Health* on 5/13/25 from 12-1 EST featuring Jim Yates and Dr. Emre Umucu. Continuing education credits are available for a small fee.
 - a. [Free enrollment](#) (no continuing education)
 - b. \$5 [enrollment fee](#) (continuing education credit)
2. *Caring for Veterans: Best Practices for Screening* on 5/21/25 at 3 pm ET. This free webinar is offered by the American Nurses Association. Registration is available [here](#).

We continue to seek partnerships with those interested in delivering online content on health and wellness topics of interest for veterans and care partners. Please reach out at ihp.vhwc@msu.edu to be included on the speakers bureau list. Be sure to include your contact information, topic(s) of interest, and identify "Speakers Bureau" in the subject line so we can follow-up.

Events:

We're pleased to promote upcoming events through the [Resources and Events](#) tab of our website. Organizations looking to advertise an event or obtain assistance with hosting events can send event information and/or requests about the nature of support needed to ihp.vhwc@msu.edu. We will share the request with our networks to help fill gaps and boost engagement.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The VHWC offers various ways to engage in our work:

- Subscribe at our website to make sure you receive the latest updates and information and share this content with your networks.
- Participate with Advisory Council or subcommittee activities.
- Volunteer your expertise: Whether you have ever served in the military, are a health care professional, community leader, or advocate, your input can make a difference.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

John F. Kennedy