



Anoka County

MINNESOTA

Veteran Services

Government Center
2100 3rd Avenue, Suite 216
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 324-4500

VETERANS ADVOCATE

Spring 2026

ANOKA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES TO ATTEND 2026

NACVSO TRAINING CONFERENCE

The Anoka County Veteran Services Office will not be scheduling appointments and will be unavailable for any visits during the week of June 1–5 while our Veteran Service Officers attend the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers Training Conference.

This training ensures that our Veteran Service Officers have the most up-to-date information to best serve our Veterans, Survivors, and Dependents. We kindly ask that you avoid visiting our office during this week, as staff will not be available to provide assistance.

Normal operations and appointment scheduling will resume on Monday, June 8. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

NEW VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Construction is now underway on a new office space for the Anoka County Veteran Services team, located on the first floor of the building. This space is being built specifically to meet the unique needs of our staff and the Veterans we serve. Work began in January and is expected to be completed by mid-2026. We look forward to sharing additional details and updates as the project moves closer to completion.

WILL CLINIC FOR SENIORS

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System will host a Senior Wills Clinic providing free legal services for eligible Veterans and their spouses age 60 and older with assets under \$100,000. This clinic offers assistance with preparing important end-of-life documents, including wills, health care directives, powers of attorney, and transfer-on-death deeds.

The events will be held on:

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Wednesday, Sept 16, 2026 - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

Advance registration is required, as appointments are scheduled by phone. Call 612-334-5970 to schedule an appointment. This clinic is presented in partnership with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid.

TAX SEASON GUIDANCE FOR VETERANS

As tax season approaches, Veterans should prepare by gathering financial documents and exploring tax breaks unique to their military service. Notably, disability benefits—including VA compensation, pension, VR&E, and GI Bill education—are exempt from federal income tax and should not be included in gross income. Veterans who receive a retroactive increase in disability rating or Combat-Related Special Compensation may be eligible for a federal tax refund. Consult IRS Publication 525 and official

IRS guidance to fully understand your tax benefits.

A variety of free tax preparation services are available to Veterans:

- IRS Free File for those with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$79,000 or less, or fillable forms for higher-income filers.
- IRS Direct File, a free federal e-file service available in participating states.
- In-person assistance through IRS-certified volunteers for Veterans with AGI of \$64,000 or less, those aged 60+, or those with disabilities or needing language support.
- Military OneSource MilTax, offering free federal and state tax filing for up to one year after military separation or retirement. Visit MilitaryOneSource.mil or call 800-342-9647 for details.

Veterans must remain vigilant against tax season scams, as fraudsters often target military personnel. The VA will never request sensitive personal or financial information via text or email. Safeguard personal data—including VA.gov credentials, Social Security numbers, and bank account details—and consider requesting an IRS Identity Protection PIN to help prevent filing fraud.

Finally, protect your identity by freezing your credit—available free through Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion—and limit the online presence of personal information. If you suspect scams, report them to the IRS or VA at 800-827-1000, or through VS.A-F-E at 833-38V-SAFE. Acting cautiously and proactively can help secure a safe and accurate tax filing experience.

CAFÉ - DROP-IN GROUP FOR VETERANS

The Minneapolis VA Medical Center's "Café" is a welcoming drop-in group designed for Veterans looking to connect in a relaxed, supportive setting. Hosted by the Mental Health Integrated Care Community, the Café offers a mix of educational sessions, games, and social time, with complimentary snacks and beverages provided. No reservation is required, and all Veterans are

encouraged to attend.

The group convenes monthly on the third Friday from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CT in Room 4T 112-113 on the fourth floor of One Veterans Drive, Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Upcoming themes include:

- March 20: Veterans Resilience Project
- April 17: Project Healing Waters
- May 15: Equine-Assisted Services (Gateway Meadows) These sessions provide both meaningful conversation and camaraderie, tailored to foster resilience and community among participants

To learn more or share suggestions for future themes, please contact the Mental Health Integrated Care Community at the Minneapolis VA at 612-467-3559.

ANOKA COUNTY VETERANS SUPPORT NETWORK

Similar to how the Veterans Advisory Board operated, there will be quarterly meetings with stakeholders, and the Anoka County Veteran Services Office will serve as a facilitator for these meetings. This group allows for all local Veteran Service Organizations, support groups, and stakeholders to collaborate and ensure that the needs of our local Veterans are met. Please help us spread the word to ensure that any interested groups or individuals can attend.

The next meeting will be held:
****Monday, March 23, 2026 - 2:00 PM****
Anoka American Legion Post 102
400 W. Main Street
Anoka, MN 55303

LOCAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION MEETING SCHEDULE

Anoka American Legion Post 102 and Auxiliary
Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM
400 West Main Street

Anoka, MN 55303

Blaine VFW - SGT John Rice Post 6316

Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM

1374 109th Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55434

Coon Rapids American Legion and Auxiliary Post 334

Meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Coon Rapids VFW

1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566

Meeting on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Lino Lakes American Legion

7731 Lake Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Coon Rapids VFW Post and Auxiliary Post 9625

Meeting on the second Monday of each month. Auxiliary meets at 6:30 PM and VFW Post meets at 7:00 PM at the Coon Rapids VFW

1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Anoka DAV Chapter 39

Meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Coon Rapids VFW

1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Columbia Heights VFW Post and Auxiliary Post 230

VFW Post meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM and the Auxiliary Post meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM at the Columbia Heights VFW

4446 Central Ave NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 470

Meets at 7:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month at the Anoka American Legion

400 West Main Street
Anoka, MN 55303

Palmer Lake VFW Post #3915

Meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Palmer Lake VFW

2817 Brookdale Drive
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Shaddrick and LaBeau American Legion Post #303

Post/Aux - First Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM

SAL - Second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM

Riders - Second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

7365 Central Ave NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon NE Metro

Meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12:15 to 12:45 via Zoom. Email radermacher.dorothy@gmail.com to be added to the meeting invite list.



We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit serving the NE portion of the Twin Cities Metro Area.

 651-321-4722

 btyrmetro.org

 Beyond the Yellow Ribbon NE Metro

We've got the back of our military community.

**If your organization's meeting information is not listed here, email the dates and times of your meetings to veterans@anokacountymn.gov

2026 ANOKA COUNTY HOLIDAYS

The Anoka County Veteran Services Office will be closed on the following dates in observance of Federal Holidays:

May 25, 2026 - Memorial Day

June 19, 2026 - Juneteenth

July 3, 2026 - Independence Day (Observed)

September 7, 2026 - Labor Day

November 26-27, 2026 - Thanksgiving

December 25, 2026 - Christmas Day

January 1, 2027 - New Year's Day

ABOUT ANOKA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES

Our hours of operation are:

Monday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Tuesday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Wednesday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Thursday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Friday - 8:00am - 3:00pm

Closed on all Federal Holidays

Phone: (763) 324-4500

Fax: (763) 324-1040

Email: veterans@anokacountymn.gov

Website: www.anokacountymn.gov/veterans

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.



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