

August 2015

For those that haven't seen the new addition to our Legion building, it is quite impressive. We've got a new look to the landscaping outside as well as very nice furniture inside along with a large flat screen TV. It is something to see!

As discussed at our July meeting, our plans for the new addition include having it open and available for member veterans to come and enjoy coffee & doughnuts on a Saturday. Just sit around and fellowship with other members and relax and enjoy yourself in an open/inviting atmosphere. Check it out; I think you will be proud.

FYI – dues were payable August 1. If you haven't renewed your dues for 2015/2016, don't let another day go by.

Thought you'd like to know ... help for struggling homeowners is often closer and more attainable than they think.

Some Veterans experiencing financial hardship may be unaware of the programs and services available to help them avoid foreclosure, even for home loans not guaranteed by VA. It's easy to become discouraged after falling behind and receiving daily collections phone calls. Remember that a mortgage servicer's goal is not to take anyone's home from them. Servicers would much rather see hardships resolved and borrowers resume making payments or otherwise avoid foreclosure. There are many VA resources to help Veterans do those things.

Did you know that the inability to afford your mortgage does not mean that foreclosure is inevitable? Modifying your loan to a more affordable interest rate, being placed on a forbearance plan to obtain additional time if your financial situation is expected to improve down the road, or even deeding the property back to the mortgage servicer are all potential options to avoid foreclosure.

Are you concerned that your property value is so upside-down that you will never get out from under it? A Compromise Sale, or short sale, may be a great option, potentially allowing you to sell the home for less than you owe.

To see the stories of some of the more than 450,000 Veterans whom have been helped, watch the "VA Alternatives to Foreclosure" on website at http://www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS/resources_video.asp.

These are only a few of the many options available. If you are more than two payments past due and have a VA home loan, a VA Loan Technician has already been assigned to assist you. If not, or if you do not have a VA loan, knowledgeable VA staff can offer financial counseling to determine how VA can help and what loss mitigation options might work best. If you have a VA loan, VA staff can even speak directly with your mortgage servicer on your behalf.

Please call [\(877\) 827-3702](tel:877-827-3702) to reach your nearest VA Regional Loan Center, or you may visit our web site at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/> to obtain information about the VA Home Loan program.

Additionally, Veterans who feel they may be facing homelessness as a result of losing their home can go to <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp>, or call [\(877\) 424-3838](tel:877-424-3838) to receive immediate assistance from VA.

In addition to the resources offered by VA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers assistance to homeowners by sponsoring local housing counseling agencies. To find an approved agency in your area, please search online at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm> or call HUD's interactive voice system at [\(800\) 569-4287](tel:800-569-4287).

Our next Legion meeting is August 27. Come and enjoy the fellowship of your fellow Veterans and bring a friend. Only you can expand the benefits of being a member of this great organization.