

VVA 1069 BENEFITS PRESENTATION 3/9/2016

1. Dwight Winkler 2254 CR 291, East Bernard, TX 77435, (979) 335-4464, lerwinkdd@aol.com. Don Montoya, 1017 N. Alabama Road, Wharton, TX 77488, (979) 532-1311, don.montoya@co.wharton.tx.us. At last months meeting, the Chapter was introduced to Vanessa Hicks-Callaway, the newest member of Congressman Blake Farenthold's office as our advocate in dealing with not only the VA but the IRS and Medicare or any other federal agency. If you ever need any assistance in your dealings with ANY federal agency you can contact Vanessa by phone at (361) 884-2222 or by e-mail at Vanessa.Hicks-Callaway@mail.house.gov.

2. SUMMARY OF BENEFITS. If you are receiving compensation from the VA, you should have received your SUMMARY OF BENEFITS by now for compensation received in 2015. I have an example copy of a SUMMARY OF BENEFITS dated 1/25/2016 and received 2/12/2016 for you to see on my table. If you have not received your SUMMARY OF BENEFITS, contact Don Montoya at the phone number listed in #1 for him to assist you in obtaining your copy. BE SURE YOU KEEP THE COPY FOR YOUR FILES.

3. AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) FORM 1095. You may or may not have received your ACA Form 1095 A, B, or C by now. The Form documents your health coverage during 2015. The government now says all forms will be delivered by 3/31/2016 and not 1/31/2016 as previously stated. I have an example of a Form 1095-B that I received from the VA on 2/13/2016 that was dated 1/22/2016. BE SURE TO KEEP A COPY OF THE FORM FOR YOUR FILES. You do not need to send the form in with your income tax filing.

4. VA DROPS NET WORTH AS ELIGIBILITY FACTOR TO JOIN VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM. On December 21, 2015, the VA officially excluded a veteran's net worth as a factor in detrermining eligibility for enrollment in the VA healthcare system. Prior to December 21, 2015, a veteran's sum of income with assets was used to determine eligibility for medical care and co-payment obligations. The VA will now only consider the veteran's gross household income and deductible expenses from the previous year. The VA estimates that over a five year period nearly 190,000 veterans will become eligible for reduced costs of their VA health care services. Also, nearly 53,000 veterans would be moved from a lower priority category (6, 7, or 8) to Category 5 in the first year of this policy, allowing them to make lower co-payments. Over the next five years, the VA expects that another 135,000 veterans who previously were ineligible would be able to enroll in the VA healthcare system because of the change. Vietnam veterans with "boots on the ground" are automatically eligible for enrollment in the VA healthcare system regardless of gross income. The VA will be notifying veterans if they have been moved from Category 6,7,or 8 to a "higher" priority category of 5.