

# Connecting Veterans to Services: A Brief Overview



**Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Whitney P. Allen Jr.  
Commissioner  
LTC, US Army (Retired)**

**Silas J. Session Sr. D.Ed. Min  
Executive Director  
Office of Kentucky Veterans Services**

<https://veterans.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyVeterans/>

# Outline

- Mission And Vision
- Office of Kentucky Veteran Centers
- Office of Kentucky Veteran Services
- Governor's Challenge
- Federal VA/ Other Services
- Office of Veterans Legal Services
- Trust Fund

# Mission/Vision

- ❑ **Mission:** Educate, Assist and Serve Veterans and their families to “Ensure” they receive benefits and services under federal and state laws.
  
- ❑ **Vision:** To be a transformational organization which serves as a “STRATEGIC PLATFORM” for advocacy, initiatives, and comprehensive “wrap around” services for the Commonwealth’s veterans and their families through investment in KDVA’s brand, infrastructure, legacy, and employee talent.

# Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers



**Robert E. Spiller Bowling Green Veterans Center, Bowling Green, KY**  
Capacity 60  
Admissions expected in the Winter of 2026



**Paul E. Patton Veterans Center, Hazard, KY**  
Capacity 120, Current census 101/120 = 84%+



**Carl M Brashear Radcliff Veterans Center, Radcliff, KY**  
Capacity 120, Current census  
56/120 = 47%-



**Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, Wilmore, KY**  
Capacity 285, Current census 140/285 =  
49%-



**Joseph Eddie Ballard Veterans Center, Hanson, KY**  
Capacity 156, Current census  
81/156 = 52%+

# Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers

- ❑ **Admissions (Nursing facility level of care) –70% Service-Connected Veterans – no cost to veterans or their families**
  - Accept Medicare, Medicaid, Private Pay and select insurance
  - Current private pay rates: Semi-private room - \$4,000/mo, Private - \$4,500/mo, Private Suite/CLC - \$5,000/mo



# Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers

- To be admitted to a Kentucky Veterans Center, the person shall:
- Be a veteran;
- Be disabled by reason of disease, wounds, age, or otherwise is in need of nursing care;
- Be a Kentucky resident as of the date of admission to a Kentucky Veterans Center; and
- Have a military discharge that is not of a dishonorable nature.
- A person shall not be eligible for admission if the person:
- Has needs that cannot be met by the Veterans Center.

# Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers



**Director Mark Bowman**



# Office of Kentucky Veterans Services





# Office of Kentucky Veterans Services

- Virtual Military Related Students Success Forums Summer 2026
- Community Faith-Based Forum for SMVF
- Faith Based Leader Academy 2026
- Faith Based Leader Discussion Aug 2026 during Commissioners' State Commanders Conference
- KDVA Overview Day 2 of Commissioner's State Commander's Conference Aug 2026
- High School and College Graduation Recognition Summer 2026

# Office of Kentucky Veterans Services

[ACE Military Guide - Catalog Search](#)

[Veteran Readiness and Employment \(VR&E\)  
Home](#)

Scholarships:

[Veteran Scholarships - Scholarships.com](#)

[15 Scholarships for Military Children, Spouses,  
& Veterans In 2023](#)

# Office of Kentucky Veterans Services

[Center for Faith - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors \(TAPS\) Is Here For You!](#)

[988 Partner Toolkit | SAMHSA](#)

How to Start a Veterans Support Group [Resources - Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[RURAL VETERANS - Office of Rural Health](#)

[Program of General Caregiver Support Services \(PGCSS\)](#)

[Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family other pe Caregivers \(PCAFC\)](#)

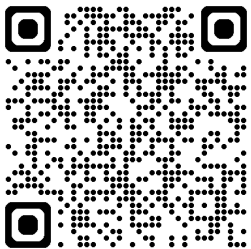
Monthly Virtual Meetings

Let's Ask the Question Campaign

Suicide Mortality Review Cooperative Agreement  
Lethal Means Safety Training Spring 2026

The Kentucky Service Members, Veterans, and their  
Families Suicide Prevention Program (HB 30)

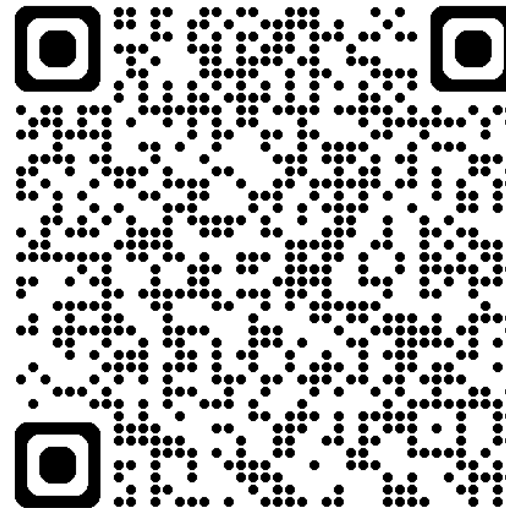
The Armory Project Listening Sessions – Feb 2026





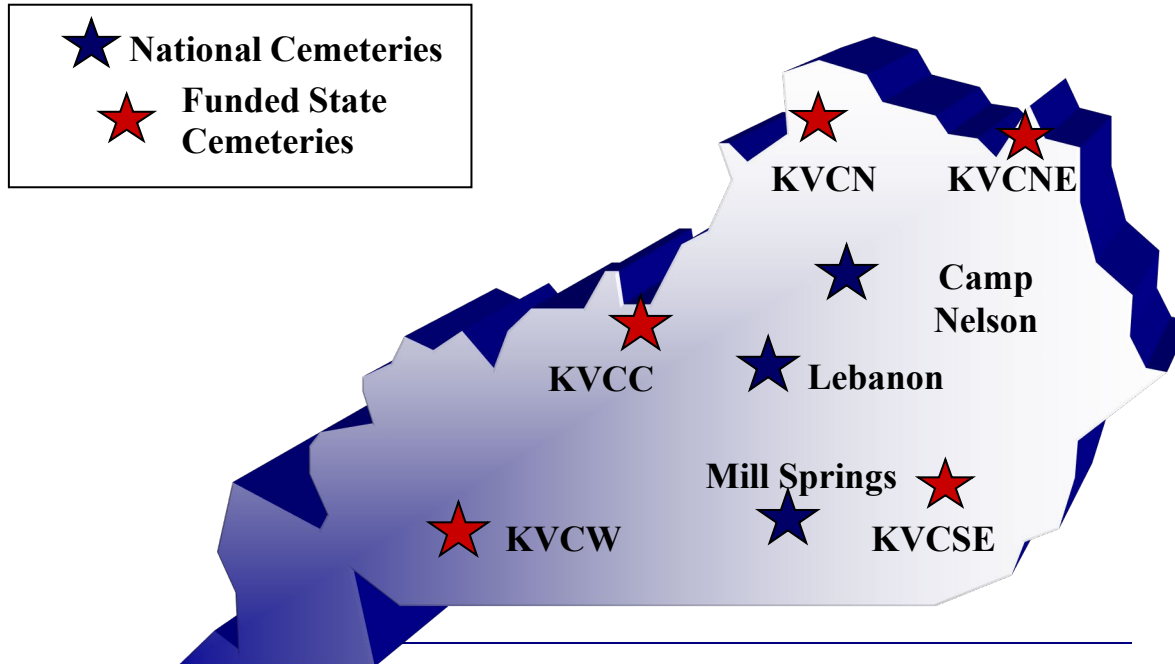


**Director Shane Lagrone**



**Pre-eligibility**

# VETERANS' CEMETERIES IN KENTUCKY



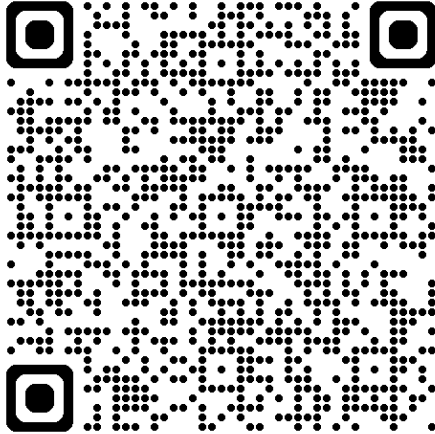
**\*Does not include National cemeteries that are closed**

- According to Kentucky State Law, you do not have to be a resident of Kentucky in order to be eligible for burial within one of Kentucky's five-state veterans' cemeteries.
- Who's eligible for burial in one of Kentucky's state veterans cemeteries?
- Veterans, service members, spouses, and dependents may be eligible for burial in a state veterans cemeteries, as well as other benefits if they meet one of the requirements listed below.

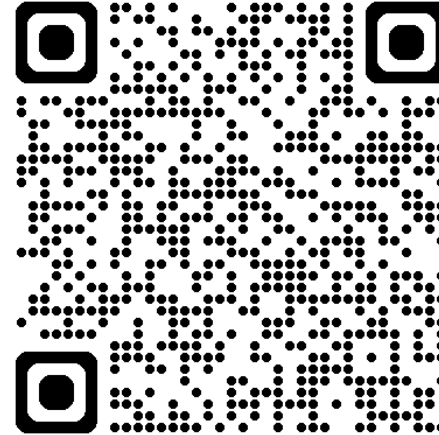
- One of these must be true. The person qualifying for burial benefits is:
- A Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, or
- A service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training, or
- The spouse or minor child of a Veteran, even if the Veteran died first, or
- In some cases, the unmarried adult dependent child of a Veteran.
- If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact one of our state veterans cemeteries.



# Cemetery Division



Burial Honors Stipend  
request



Indigent Burial  
Reimbursement



★ **December 11, 2025** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



**Help us honor local heroes!**

Join us for the Kentucky Statehouse Ceremony  
on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.  
Old Kentucky State Capital Building at 300  
West Broadway, Frankfort, KY

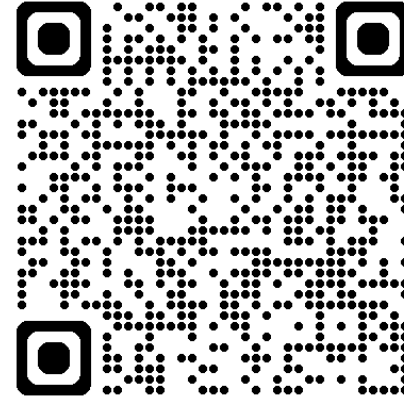
Scan QR Code  
to RSVP



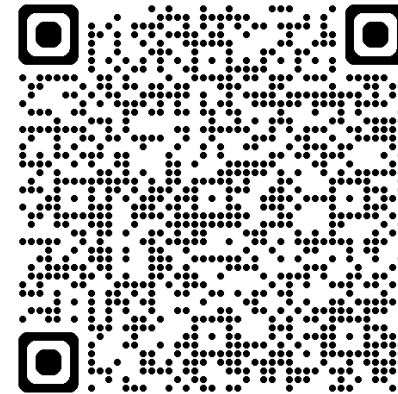
#KeepMovingForward



**Stephen Buford**  
*Director of Veterans Benefits*



**Accredited Benefits  
Representatives**



**Summary of Kentucky of  
Veterans Benefits including  
license plates**

- **Disability Compensation**-A tax-free monetary benefit paid to veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.
- **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**- A tax-free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training; or inactive duty training or survivors of veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities



- **Pensions**
- **Special Monthly Compensation (SMC)**
  - Housebound
  - Aid and Attendance
- **Claims Appeals**
- **Reentry/Pre-Reentry Assistance**

## Tuition Waiver

- May be used in conjunction with Chapter 35 (Federal Benefit)
- For dependents of eligible veterans
- 45 months of tuition waived at KY state-funded college or university
- Does not include books, fees, room/board
- Expires upon receipt of degree or certificate
- Expires when child turns 26 (active-duty exception possible)

- Veteran must be KY resident or died in KY
  - KRS 164.505 Unlimited due to death of veteran
  - KRS 164.515 Limited Child/Spouse 100% service connected
  - KRS 164.507 Limited due to death of veteran
  - KRS 164.512 Unlimited Disabled Child
- Deceased Veteran
  - Active duty death
  - Service connected death
  - Deceased wartime veteran
  - 100% at time of death
- Living veteran
  - 100% service connected or IU (P&T not required)
  - Receiving non-service connected pension

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  - Receiving non-service connected pension



## KY Tuition Waiver Coordinator



**Tammy Wray**  
**1135 Lexington Rd. Suite J**  
**Georgetown, KY 40324**  
**Cell: 502-545-6252**

**[twray@ky.gov](mailto:twray@ky.gov)**

**[veterans.ky.gov](http://veterans.ky.gov)**



**Veteran Education Benefits**

## Other VA Benefits

[Homestead Exemption - Department of Revenue \(ky.gov\)](#)

[Assistance to Veterans with a Severe Disability | ChooseVA](#)

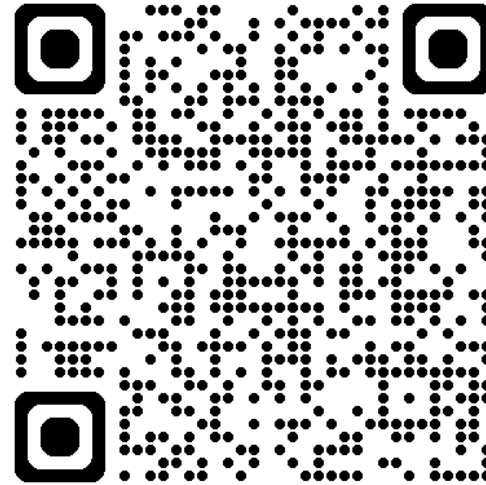
**Specially Adapted Housing**

**Special Housing Adaptation**

**Temporary Residence Adaptation**

**Automobile grants**

**Adaptive equipment**



Millie Dee Stevens  
State Programs  
Director

# Programs Division

**Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs**  
*presents*

*2nd Annual*

**Veteran and Military Family Conference**

**Wednesday February 4, 2026**  
**10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST**

**Founders Union Building, Shelby Campus Conference Center**  
**University of Louisville**  
**450 N. Whittington Parkway, Louisville, KY 40222**

*Check-in plus networking at 9:00 a.m. EST - Event starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. EST*

There is no charge to attend. Limited seating is available.

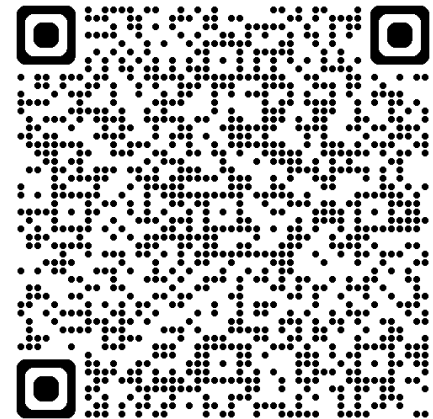
**SAVE THE DATE**  
***Register Here*** →



*Sponsored By*

## Homeless Veterans Program


- Homeless Veteran prevention grant
  - Homeless Veterans Referrals
  - Homeless Veterans Stand Downs
  - Homeless Veterans committees and workgroups
  - Homeless Veteran Run/Walk
- Oct 2026





# Programs Division

## Women Veterans Program



**YOU SERVED.  
YOU DESERVE.**

CONNECT WITH US

**KDVA WOMEN VETERANS  
PROGRAM**

*Women Veterans*

www.facebook.com/groups/kentuckywomenveterans  
Official website: veterans.ky.gov

Are you a woman who served in the U.S. Armed Forces?  
**You are part of a proud SISTERHOOD.**

Whether you're newly separated from service or a longtime veteran,  
we're here to help you:

- Understand and access your VA benefits
- Connect with support services and peer networks
- Find resources for healthcare, employment, education, and more
- Be heard, recognized, and celebrated

Let us help you get the benefits you've earned and the support you deserve.

The KDVA Women Veterans Program is dedicated to empowering,  
connecting, and advocating for the unique needs of women who served.

**Contact Us**

Women Veterans Program Coordinator  
Dina Parrott      dina.parrott@ky.gov  
502-782-5733      veterans.ky.gov

  
**SCAN ME**



MILITARY  
WOMEN'S  
MEMORIAL

**STRIVE FOR  
500 IN 2025!**

**Join the Legacy. Register with the  
Military Women's Memorial Today!**

**GOAL: 500 NEW  
REGISTRANTS BY 2025**

Help us honor their service and sacrifice.  
Every state is working to register at  
least 500 military women in 2025 to  
the Military Women's National Digital  
Repository.

**WHO SHOULD  
REGISTER?**

- Women currently serving or  
veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces

**WHY REGISTER?**

- **Preserve Your Legacy**  
in the nation's only memorial  
dedicated to military women
- **Inspire Future Generations**
- **Be Counted** among those  
who made history through  
service

**LET'S REACH 500 BY 2025!  
REGISTER ONLINE TODAY:**



www.militarywomenmemorial.org  
Questions? Contact us:  
info@womensmemorial.org



TEAM  
KENTUCKY®  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**YOUR SERVICE  
DESERVES TO BE  
REMEMBERED.**

Let's honor every story.  
Strive for 500 in 2025



# **Programs Division**

## **Women Veterans Program**

Women Veteran Retreat Summer 2026

Women Veterans County Ambassadors  
opportunities by county

## Wounded and Disabled Veterans Program

- Suicide Prevention
- Content Sharing
- Governor Challenge assistance
- Suicide Mortality Review Assistance
- Suicide Prevention Virtual event Sep 2026

Disabled American Veterans post #13 and American Legion post 113

IDA V  
KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS

## Here. Is. Better.

Join @HerelsBetterDoc for a showing of the legendary documentary with insirpring stories from veterans overcoming PTSD.

When: January 17, 2026 5:00 PM  
Where: American Legion Hardin Post; 1251 Ring Road, Elizabeth Town, Kentucky

Scan the QR code with your phone to RSVP to watch the documentary which highlights how 13 million Americans every year suffer from PTSD.

SCAN ME

## VA Additional Programing

**Vet Center Locations** [Locations | Lexington Vet Center | Veterans Affairs](#)

**Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Program**  
[Kentucky – Locations](#)

[What Does COMPACT Act, Mean For Veterans? | VA Cincinnati Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#)

Kentucky VA Reentry Representative  
janis.skilling@va.gov

## KYNECT-A-VET

### What is KYNECT-A-VET?

If you are a Kentucky veteran aged 60 or older OR a veteran of any age with a traumatic brain injury as defined by KRS 211.470, you may qualify to receive a Samsung mobile device that is preloaded with the "Here Now Help" app to increase veteran access to resources and supports.

This pilot program is a partnership with the KY Department of Veteran Affairs and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Aging and Independent Living.

### How do I apply?

Kentucky agencies serving veterans may complete an application to nominate a veteran who meets the eligibility criteria.

### How can I obtain an application?

The application is located on the KDVA website at:

An announcement will be sent to agencies serving veterans. All completed applications will be sent to the secured KDVA email box: [kynectavet@ky.gov](mailto:kynectavet@ky.gov)

Applications are currently being accepted. Applications must be fully completed to be considered. Selected nominees will be notified.

### Who do I contact for more information?

Email [millie.stevens@ky.gov](mailto:millie.stevens@ky.gov)

**100 Veterans**

Eligible to Receive  
a Samsung  
Mobile Device



### Here Now Help App

Increase Veteran Access to  
**Local, State & Federal  
Resources & Supports**

Connectivity to  
**Mental & Physical  
Health Services, Crisis  
Intervention  
Resources, &  
Much More!**



HereNow Help has been developed to assist veterans in self care, peer care and clinical care. The application will provide veterans with ease of access to services and resources. The free app is available now on the Google Playstore and Apple Store.

Use the QR Code to get the app.  
Use this access code: 219378



## Kentucky Veterans Education and Training Program

**REGISTER NOW**  
**Team Kentucky**  
**Virtual Job Fair**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026  
**Time:** 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. EST  
**Focus:** Bourbon, EV Revolution and Tourism

*All employers are welcome to participate, including those from the targeted industry.*

**Schedule:**

- 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. - Veterans & Military Families
- 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. - Open to All Job Candidates

Future virtual job fairs will take place on the third Wednesday of each month.

Here's a preview of the upcoming dates:

- February 18, 2026  
Healthcare



EMPLOYERS  
SCAN THE  
QR CODE TO  
REGISTER.

JOB-SEEKERS  
SCAN THE  
QR CODE TO  
REGISTER.

TEAM  
KENTUCKY  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

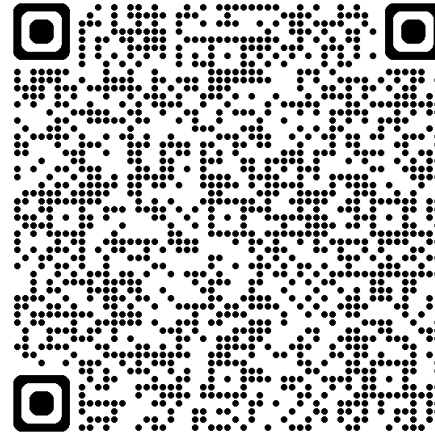
Questions? Contact James Hensley at 502-782-5740 or by email at jamesh@ky.gov

Kentucky Chamber  
of Commerce Hiring  
Academy

Ft Knox  
Ft Campbell  
KY Army National  
Guard  
Reentry assistance



# Office of Veterans Legal Services



National Veterans  
Legal Services  
Program (NVLSP)

**Lily Chan Patteson**  
*Executive Director -  
General Counsel*

# Trust Fund

The purpose of the Veterans program Trust Fund (VPTF) is to direct funding to projects and programs that help Kentucky's veterans for which other funds are not available.

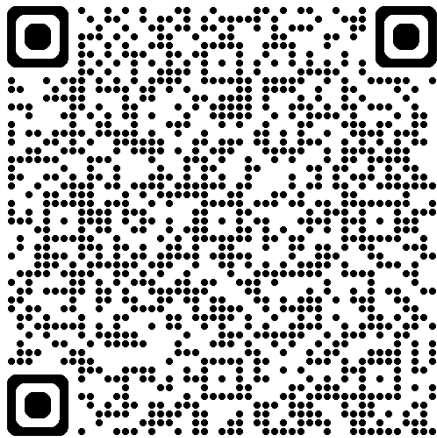
The VPTF is overseen by a Board of Directors whose members are appointment by the Governor.

The application deadline is thirty calendar days before the meeting date and must be received (not stamped by post office but received in our office) at the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs by email [KDVA.PIO@ky.gov](mailto:KDVA.PIO@ky.gov).

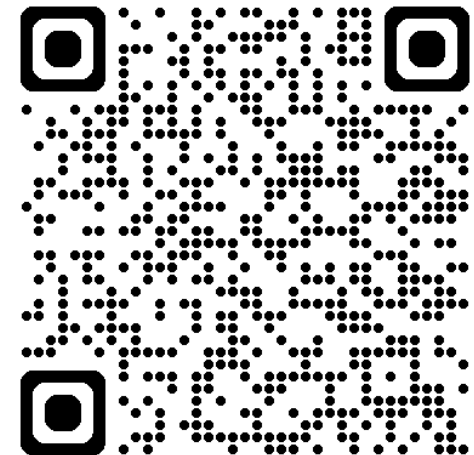
# Trust Fund

The Meetings are scheduled for the second or third Wednesday every March, June, September and December.

Next Quarterly meeting for June not set yet, for up to date information or changes please contact [Kirk.Shepherd@ky.gov](mailto:Kirk.Shepherd@ky.gov)



Apply for Trust Fund



Donate to Trust Fund

# Questions



[Governor's Advisory  
Board for Veterans'  
Affairs \(GABVA\) -  
Kentucky Department of  
Veterans Affairs](#)

[whitney.allen@ky.gov](mailto:whitney.allen@ky.gov)  
(502) 229-2478

[silas.session@ky.gov](mailto:silas.session@ky.gov)  
5022295354