



About LVMAC

Proper Name: The Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council

When formed: In 2003 as a 501(c)(3) volunteer, community service organization

Mission: To improve the lives of our local military service members, veterans and their families by fostering and coordinating support from businesses, organizations, institutions and communities; and by promoting awareness of the military's role in defending America through educational programs and public events.

Vision: For serving military, veterans and their families to find the Lehigh Valley to be the most supportive community in the United States.

Goals:

- To explain to the community the sacrifices required of service members and families and the effect on the community.
- To help service members, veterans and their families understand their entitlements, benefits and services and know how to obtain them.
- To work toward improving the quality of life of service members, veterans and their families.
- To offer a forum and a focal point that enables businesses, civic organizations and government to support our military service members, veterans and dependents and to improve the community in accordance with their strategic plans.

Our Guiding Principles:

- Since the military is vital to our nation's existence, it is both necessary and honorable that some in our community perform military service. Consequently, we as a community are indebted to those who serve and have served to protect us. Their sacrifices should not be overlooked.
- The act of taking care of our own begins with us and our community and rises above individual agendas. Helping those who serve or have served strengthens our community, honors our fallen, and ensures the willingness of others to serve.
- Honest patriotism requires knowledge and understanding of our military and our heritage.
- The Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council exists to facilitate community awareness of, advocacy for, and assistance to our service members, veterans, and their families. To ensure LVMAC's success, all government, business, civic, religious and veteran organizations, and individual citizens must come together in common purpose.
- The Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council supplants no existing organization that serves military service members, veterans, or their families. Its intention is to work with these organizations, when willing and as suitable, to accomplish its mission.
- While it is to be considerate of its individual members' concerns, the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council does not further any particular financial interests of its members, public or private. Its duty lies with serving the service members, veterans and their families. Its interest is in needed services and benefits provided to them from whomever they may best be obtained. Its immediate focus is upon its own strategic plan agreed upon by the board elected from the membership.

Synopsis: We are a regionally-focused organization that í

- Studies regional veterans and military servicemember issues and problems and seek solutions.
- Promotes awareness of our military history and the local veterans and military scene and issues.
- Works with and assists others when their programs benefit military servicemembers and veterans.
- Organizes or helps organize needed programs, when they do not exist.
- Facilitates networking and coordination of the public and private sectors to improve services to local veterans and military and their families.
- Promotes meaningful veterans and military legislation that can have a regional impact.
- Serves as a regional meeting place for those in the community concerned about the military and its veterans and their families.

Area of Operations: Lehigh and Northampton Counties

Membership and Dues: Veteransø organizations, businesses, government organizations, religious institutions, any organization and individual interested in our mission and participating in our activities, and willing to abide by our bylaws and policies. No military affiliation is required. No dues are paid. There are about 170 member organizations and associate members currently.

President: Gerald Still, Major General, USAF-Ret.

How to Contact to Us:

- website: www.lvmac.org
- blog site: lvmac.wordpress.com
- email: admin.office@lvmac.org
- telephone: 484-788-0196
- mailing: P.O. Box 22522, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
- corporate office: 39 S. Sixth St., corner of South Sixth and Walnut St., Allentown, PA 18101

Newsletter: See blog site.

Council Meetings: Anyone interested in helping is welcome to attend. LVMAC meets as a council normally on the third Wednesday of the month from noon-1:30 p.m. at Saucon Valley Manor, Hellertown (right side of Main St., about a mile in from the I78 exit, <http://www.sauconvalleymanor.org/location.html>). Lunch is provided to attendees at no cost. Parking lot is in the rear.

Programs and Initiatives: Provided separately. See blog site for examples.

RJH