

Monthly Stakeholder Newsletter



Employee's Act of Kindness

What does Veteran's Day make most people think about? Flag ceremonies at a Veteran's cemetery, a parade down main street. Matt Schaeffer of the Togus Regional Office (RO) wanted to do more. Matt decided he wanted to have a Veteran's Day fundraiser for a local Veterans organization to help those Veterans that might need a helping hand.

Matt reached out to [House in the Woods](#), a local nonprofit organization offering outdoor programs that bring together small groups of active military, Veterans, and their family

members, to see how he could support their mission. After meeting with them and discussing ideas, Matt set about planning Matt & Friends Music for Veterans. After months of planning and fundraising in the local community, the event came together. Several musicians agreed to perform and the Togus RO Executive Director, Ms. Jennifer Bover, volunteered to be the guest speaker.



The day opened with the National Anthem sung by Matt's daughter, Gabriella Martin and then Ms. Bover provided a very touching Veteran's day speech. That's when the true entertainment began, as Matt and his friends played several hours of patriotic music to the joy of all attendees. Matt and his team raised close to three thousand dollars for House in the Woods and all in attendance got to spend time together appreciating the efforts and sacrifices of all our Veterans.

Are you looking for a challenging fulfilling career that's focused on customer service?

The Togus Regional Benefits Office has claims processing positions now open to the public.

Scan to find out more information.



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- Special Point(s) of Interest
- Dial 988, Press 1 for Veterans Crisis Line
 - Benefit questions? Call our Public Contact Team at 207-621-6938 to receive help over the telephone, schedule an in-person appointment or video appointment.

S-DVI/VALife Switch Fact Sheet

Making the Switch: Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) and Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (S-DVI)

Veterans currently enrolled in Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (S-DVI) may be interested or eligible to enroll in Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife)—VA’s newest life insurance program for service-connected Veterans.

WHAT ARE THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN S-DVI AND VALIFE?

 Features	 VALife	 S-DVI
Coverage Amounts	Up to \$40,000 in coverage.	Up to \$10,000 in basic coverage, with supplemental coverage up to \$30,000 only if a Veteran
Premium Amount	Premium rates are based on age and coverage amount. Once issued, premiums do not increase.	Premium rates are based on age, coverage amount, and coverage plan requested.
Premium Waiver	No premium waiver option.	Premium can be waived on basic coverage if a Veteran meets certain criteria.
Medical Requirements	No medical exam or health questionnaire required for enrollment.	Must provide proof of good health, aside from service - connected condition(s), prior to enrollment.
Waiting Period	Two year waiting period for full coverage to begin.	No waiting period for coverage to begin.
Application Timeline	No time limit to apply if a Veteran is age 80 or under.	Must apply within two years of receiving notification of their new disability rating or by December 31, 2022, whichever comes first.

If I currently have S-DVI, do I need to switch to VALife?

No. If after reviewing the coverage both programs offer, you believe S-DVI is still the best option for you and your family, you may continue coverage through S-DVI.

If I currently have S-DVI, how would I switch to VALife?

If you are currently enrolled in S-DVI, you may apply for VALife and switch coverage at any time if you are age 80 or under. There are, however, certain application time frames to be aware of:

- If you apply for VALife **on or before December 31, 2025**, you may keep your S-DVI coverage during the two-year waiting period for VALife coverage to take effect.
- If you apply for VALife **on or after January 1, 2026**, your S-DVI coverage ends on the day you enroll for VALife, and you will not have that coverage during the two-year waiting period for VALife coverage to take effect

Where can I learn more about both programs?

- You can learn more about VALife by visiting <https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp>
- You can learn more about S-DVI by visiting <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/s-dvi/>

If you or your organization is hosting an event and you want Togus to participate, please email John Brinzow at VBATOGROENGAGE@va.gov.

Look for a Togus Representative at one of the following locations:

- ◆ **December 17** – Wreaths across America—Togus Cemetery Time: 11:30am to 2pm, The Employees of Togus Regional Office will assist in placing Wreaths on the Veterans Headstones
- ◆ **December 17** – Wreaths across America— Maine Veterans Cemetery (Civic Center) 143 Blue Star Ave, Augusta Time: 12pm to 2pm, The Employees of Togus Regional Office will assist in placing Wreaths on the Veterans Headstones

Save the Date!

- ◆ **February 25, 2023** – We are all “PACT” up and headed to Bangor! Please join Veterans Benefits Administration—Togus Regional Office, Veterans Health Administration—VA Maine Healthcare System, Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services and many other Veteran-centric organizations to learn more about the PACT Act and the myriad of other resources available for Veterans in the State of Maine. All Veterans are welcome to attend this free, family-friendly event. Our valued stakeholders are also welcome to attend to witness first-hand how Maine takes care of their Veterans. Stay tuned for more details and thank you for helping us spread the word.

- Location: Anah Shriners, 1404 Broadway, Bangor, ME
- Date: Saturday, February 25, 2023
- Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Cost: Free!

Claims Clinics

To schedule an appointment at one of the Claims Clinics near you, please call 207-621-6938.

- ◆ **December 6** – Lewiston VA Clinic, Lewiston, ME Time: 9:30am to 2:30pm
- ◆ **December 8** – Bangor VA Clinic, Bangor, ME Time: 10am to 2:30pm
- ◆ **December 13** – Portland VA Clinic, Portland, ME Time: 10am to 2pm
- ◆ **December 16** – Mid Coast Veterans Resource Center, Brunswick, ME Time: 9:30am to 2:30pm
- ◆ **December 20** – Bangor VA Clinic, Bangor, ME Time: 10am to 2:30pm
- ◆ **December 27** – Portland VA Clinic, Portland, ME Time: 10am to 2pm

Togus Regional Office

The Togus Regional Office (RO) is assigned to the Northeast District of the Veterans Benefits Administration. The RO is authorized 265 full time employees to support a State Veteran population of more than 100,000 Veterans. The RO administers a variety of services and benefits including Compensation and Veteran Readiness and Employment.

Did You Know about GovDelivery?

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) - Togus Regional Office (RO)
Your Maine Connection

Purpose: Do you want to receive information directly from the VBA Togus RO about upcoming events and services? If so, please sign up to receive our bulletins.

Link: [GovDelivery](#)

- **Step 1:** Enter your email address and click *Submit*
- **Step 2:** Confirm your email. Click the *Privacy* section and click *Submit*
- **Step 3:** Select *Togus VBA RO* and any other areas of interest and click *Submit*.

For assistance with GovDelivery, please contact our Public Contact Team at 207-621-6938.

Contact the Regional Office

Togus Regional Office

1 VA Center

Augusta, ME 04330

207-626-4788

DIR.VBATOG@VA.GOV

Jennifer A. Bover, Executive Director

Michael J. Brawn, Assistant Director

Timothy R. Hum, Veterans Service Center Manager (VSCM)

Christopher V. Smith, Staff Assistant

Thomas C. Whitney, Assistant VSCM

Philip S. Black, Assistant VSCM

Allison D. Bubier, Veteran Readiness and Employment Officer

Tracy L. Sinclair, Support Services Division Chief

John Brinzow, Public Affairs

Contact Your Congressional Liaison

David Poulin

Email: CIC.VBATOG@VA.GOV

Helpful Websites

- ◆ File a claim and access self-service benefits (e.g., print a letter): www.va.gov
- ◆ Access the latest information on the PACT Act: www.va.gov/PACT
- ◆ Access the Togus Regional Office website: www.benefits.va.gov/togus