

The Challenge!

“As we fought in the trenches in past wars, we are now needed to join America in a new challenge – the war against alcohol and drug abuse. And it is a War – the battlefields are in our homes, schools, and workplaces. It threatens the very fiber of American family life.

However, this war will be fought without guns. Instead, we will win the battle against substance abuse by educating our youth and offering support to our families through the AADAA program. This program will serve as a tool to communicate, inspire, and motivate your Post to act as a clearinghouse for information and support for those in need.”

PNC Ted Leszkiewicz

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WARNING: It is important to remember that the AADAA program should act as simply a resource center for information on chemical dependency. We are not licensed counselors or consultants. Our purpose is to direct people in need to the correct resources on the subject of chemical dependency and recovery.

It is Reality!

- 6.3 % of youths 12 to 17 were drug users in 2009 compared to 5.9 percent in 2008
- 10 % of young adults 18 to 25 were drug users in 2009 compared to 9.3 % in 2008
- Marijuana use drives increase in illicit drug use
- Exposure to substance use prevention messages in schools decreased 4% from 2002 to 2009
- One in three 8th graders drinks alcohol
- One in five teens binge drink

(Source: SAMHSA, 2009 Nat. Survey on Drug Use and Health (Sept. 2010))

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AMVETS National Headquarters
Programs Department
4647 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, MD 20706-4380

Beryl W. Love – Programs Director
301-683-4030 – (blove@amvets.org)
Tiffany Hilton – Programs Associate
301-683-4031- (thilton@amvets.org)
Toll Free: 877-726-8387
Fax: 301-459-7924
(www.amvets.org)



AADAA

**AMVETS Against Drug
&
Alcohol Abuse**



**Millions of Americans are
in denial about
drug & alcohol abuse!**

**“EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA IS AT
RISK OF USING DRUGS,
REGARDLESS OF RACE,
ETHNICITY, OR ECONOMIC
STATUS” — NATIONAL SURVEY OF
AMERICAN ATTITUDES ON SUBSTANCE
ABUSE II**

**PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO HELP
KEEP YOUTH DRUG FREE**

The AMVETS AADAA Program

The AMVETS AADAA program was established in 1988 and encompasses a two-phase program in its war against alcohol and drug abuse.

Phase I:

Youth Awareness/Incentive Program

Using a drug awareness theme, a yearly contest is held for students in grades K-12. This contest is open to all students through AMVETS post sponsorship and is divided into three media categories: poster art, poem or essay. National awards are gift certificates for each category. (see separate contest brochure/application)

Phase II:

Community Awareness Program

AMVETS Posts may serve as a clearing house for those seeking help by compiling information on treatment centers, hospitals, clinics, and local community support groups.

AMVETS may serve as facilitators and or hosts for such programs. There are many local groups who would welcome your assistance in helping to staff and promote their efforts.

It is important to note that AMVETS is not in the treatment or counseling "business," rather it acts as an "information" service and keeps alcohol and drug abuse prevention/education on the front burner.

Let's Get Involved

Today we face an ever-rising social epidemic due to the abuse of alcohol and other drugs in our homes, schools and community. In an effort to promote community-level education programs and to act as a referral service to the citizenry, the AADAA program encourages local AMVETS Posts to work with and support the existing community programs.

Goals

Why a Community Awareness Program?

- **BECAUSE:** As a community, we want to ensure that children grow safely into adulthood without the burdens caused by alcohol and other drug related issues.
- **BECAUSE:** We believe that all people need and benefit from communities committed to quality of life issues.

How will the Community Awareness Program function in your community?

- As a community networking tool, by which parents can be given the information to deal with chemically dependent family members, including adolescents.
- As a facilitator between all community businesses, groups, and governmental agencies that can impact the issues and be a part of the solution.

What will the Community Awareness Program do?

- Educate and inform the community about the problems of chemical dependency.
- Make facilities available for community groups conducting awareness programs.
- Monitor laws and regulations that affect the community in its ability to respond to the care and treatment of the chemically dependent.
- Support prevention programs within the local school districts. Encourage the development of programs that foster self-esteem and coping skills among students.

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A leader since 1944 in preserving the freedoms secured by America's Armed Forces, AMVETS provides, not only support for veterans and the active military in procuring their earned entitlements, **but also community services that enhance the quality of life for this nation's citizens.**