



### **EMBASSY OUTREACH 17 MAY 2018**

The Embassy will be holding an OUTREACH 17 May at Mansion Garden Hotel SBMA. 0800-1100. See the Embassy website for particulars.

**RAO CLOSURE----** 1May Tuesday for Philippine Labor Day.

**NEW MEDICARE CARDS:** Social Security is in the process of mailing new Medicare cards to eligible members. The new cards will not have a SSN on them, which is being replaced by an ID number on the new cards. A scam is on-going in the states regarding these cards. People are being called by persons saying they are with Social Security and they need to verify the address and SSN so they get the card to the right place. If you should get such a call hang up its not Social Security calling.

**FMP REGISTRATION:** Last October the FMP program came into effect. We encouraged everyone who has a VA rating to come to the RAO to register to get a Authorization letter which shows the illnesses/ailments they are service connected for, so they could seek treatment at medical facilities. Many did register through the RAO and some did it with the VA in Manila. Some just ignored our advice. Recently we had a couple of cases where a vet was hospitalized and never took the time to register. ACE and Medical City will not provide the care and file the claim if the Vet does not have a letter from FMP. So now they are crying for help to get a letter real quick because they cant afford the hospital bill. It takes 30 days to receive the letter, sorry guys, you were aware of this. We also had a couple deaths where now the family is trying to find a way to pay the hospital bill, because the Vet failed to register. None of these needed to happen, if you are not registered come in and we can assist. Dont go through needless stress due to your inaction.

## **ACE HOSPITAL SOON TO BE TRICARE AGAIN:**

Here's an excerpt of an email received recently regarding ACE(Baypointe)

" Good morning Mr Walker

I hope this email finds you well, I wanted to provide you with a quick update on the status of certification and Preferred Provider network of ACE Medical in Olongapo. At the moment we anticipate that ACE Medical will meet the TRICARE policy requirements by the middle of May and be able to accept patients again for all services. As mentioned previously, any patients receiving routine care must attend to a certified provider and therefore cannot receive care at ACE until they meet policy requirements.

Any Emergency care will be allowed under TRICARE Policy so long as the care meets the requirements and definitions of Emergency Care.

I'll update you again once I have received the go-ahead."

## **TWO POSSIBLE SCAMS WE ARE INVESTIGATING:**

1. A few widows have reported receiving letters from VA stating that VA has received their request for change of Direct Deposit. Problem is none of them changed their bank. We have reported this to VA and they are checking it out. It may be a scam or a computer screw up, we will let you know. If you receive a letter like this please inform us if you didnt request a change. The letter looks official with all the correct info.

2. This from a member, "A person that called said they were calling from HMO at Baypoint Hospital regarding free Medical Cards and they wanted to talk to me about it. The phone number 09509620474 was still on her phone so I called it yesterday before I went to RAO. At first a woman answered and was speaking Filipino and I told her I don't speak Filipino so she referred me to a Mr. Mackey. This Mr. Mackey was inquiring about my Health Care in Olongapo and he was asking questions about the current health, like my age and my disabilities (which he seemed to know about) and how this health care card will help defray any costs in I went on the outside. He knew I as enrolled in FMP and for what. He also said his clinic is located near Wesley Methodist Church in Olongapo and when I go there I show two forms of ID (including my Military ID) and a Visa or Master Card if any costs may come up. I told him I will not entertain him any longer and never to call again.

I called Baypoint at SBMA and they said they have not heard of any of this."

I have attempted to call the number and always get unattended. Baypointe has no knowledge of this problem.

**TAX MAN IS NOW EVERY OTHER FRIDAY**