

FY2017 VETERANS RECOGNITION FUND COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES, WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2015, MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: David Brasuell, Administrator
H. Melvin Napier, IVAC Chairman
Leo Dub, IVAC Vice Chairman (Absent)
Arthur L. Gimpel, IVAC Commissioner
Tom Prewitt, IVAC Commissioner
John A. Spurny, IVAC Commissioner
Josh Callihan, Committee Member
Allen Niksich, Committee Member (absent due to schedule conflict)

I. WELCOME – INTRODUCTIONS – ORIENTATION

- Introductions around of all attendees.
- David Brasuell reminded committee members of the logistics
- Committee reminded that Idaho was likely to be approved for a Cemetery Grant and for construction of a 4th Veterans Home in Post Falls in the near future and will need matching funds from the Recognition Fund. As such, encouraged to keep this in mind when considering grant approvals.

II. GRANT PROPOSALS

Requests

- Southwest Idaho Resource, Conservation, and Development Council \$561,000.00
 - This organization is working in concert with the Canyon County Veterans Council (which represent chapters of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled Americans) to transform the Caldwell Carnegie Library into the Caldwell Veterans' Memorial Hall and is seeking funds to help in this transition.
- National Center for Veterans Studies (NCVS) \$463,116.00
 - The Idaho Military Peer Network (IMPN) will be conducted as a partnership between the NCVS, the Idaho National Guard (IDARNG), and Jannus, Inc., an Idaho-based non-profit organization with a history of providing community-based programs that improve health outcomes and quality of life for Idaho veterans. The IMPN will train Volunteer Veterans across the state to help connect military personnel with needed support services (e.g., childcare, finances, legal advice, mental health care).

- Jannus, Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline \$146,000
 - Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline is a program of Jannus (formerly Mountain States Group). It is committed to the prevention of suicide in Idaho and provides crisis intervention, emotional support, resource referrals, linkages to local services, and follow-up for all Idahoans.

- Wyakin Warrior Foundation \$100,000
 - The Wyakin Warrior mission is enabling severely wounded and injured veterans to achieve personal and professional success as business and community leaders through mentoring, professional development, financial support, community service and networking.
 - Enables severely wounded and injured veterans to achieve personal and professional success.
 - Help veterans develop as business and community leaders
 - Provides mentoring, professional development, financial support, community service and networking.

- Valley Regional Transit \$93,000
 - Provide transportation to meet the medical, employment, rehabilitative, and social needs of elderly veterans, disabled veterans, and other veterans without means.

- Jannus, Friends in Action Legacy Corps \$55,000
 - Legacy Corps, of Friends in Action/Jannus (formerly Mountain States Group), is dedicated to increasing the availability of volunteer-powered caregiver support. The program helps family members caring for chronically ill, disabled, and frail Veterans reduce stress, solve problems, make tough decisions and find help.
 - Legacy Corps is a national volunteer-powered caregiver support program, operating within the Mountain States Group, which provides assistance to veterans needing help in their home and a veteran's family caregiver. Legacy Corps volunteers provide caregiver respite, caregiver education, linkages to other community support resources, and other services that help veterans' families.
 - Legacy Corps serves family members who provide live-in care for veterans and veterans or military family members who care for an adult at home.
 - Legacy Corps can provide:
 - 3-5 hours of caregiver respite per week
 - Transportation to medical appointments/grocery shopping for care receiver
 - Information sharing about community and veteran resources to help family caregivers
 - Peer-to peer support networks
 - This grant will benefit over 200 veterans.
 - The grant will be used to increase the number of caregivers and care receivers served, veteran volunteers, target geographic areas they are not already visible, and overall expansion of the program.

- University of Idaho Operation Education Scholarship Fund \$50,000
 - This scholarship fund offers a comprehensive support package to US military veterans who have sustained severe and permanent disabilities. This support package address three vital areas (academic, home, and social) customized to meet participants needs. This program is completely personalized to meet the needs of each recipient and ensure successful completion of a degree.
 - This program honors and assists Veterans who have sustained severe and permanent disability while serving our country post-9/11 by providing the opportunity to attain a college degree.
 - This was one of the first programs in the nation for disabled veterans in higher education.
 - The program provides aid beyond the GI Bill. It can provide therapy, transportation around campus, transportation from campus to therapy, financial assistance to cover short falls.
 - The program caters to the specific needs of each veteran. The program does everything possible to ensure disabled veterans are successful and able to achieve their educational goals.
 - Serves approximately 20 Veterans annually.

- Idaho Division of Veterans Services Veterans Support Fund \$35,000
 - Small grant program in support of Veterans Service Organizations and events.
 - IDVS Veterans Support Fund
 - Amount requested: \$30,000
 - Initial Amount IDVS suggested: \$30,000
 - Final Amount IDVS suggested: \$25,000
 - Serves tens to hundreds of veterans.
 - Will be used to fund small-scale grants of less than \$5,000 to be used to serve veterans interests.
 - The rules covering the Fund are at <http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/21/0103.pdf>.

- Idaho Veterans Assistance League, Bravehearts Grants \$30,000
 - Assist Idaho Veterans in critical need. This is done with one-time grants of up to \$500 to assist during financial crisis.
 - Mel Napier recused himself from discussion on this grant due to his involvement as chairman of the Bravehearts Foundation.
 - A minimum of 30 Veterans will be able to receive aid from this grant.
 - Bravehearts provides small (no greater than \$500) one-time grants to veterans suffering from financial hardship.
 - Program was started in 2008 and to date as provide help to over 200 veterans
 - The grants are paid directly to the individuals/organizations owed money not to the veteran directly.
 - Some examples of aid: providing rent money, paying utility bills, vehicle repairs, etc.
 - \$15,000 is approximately the amount required to fund it for a year, based upon historical precedent.

- Healing Our Heroes & Family \$5,000
 - To provide military veterans, current service members and their families with free therapeutic care to enrich their personal and family lives. Types of care services provided: Individual Therapy, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Problem Solving Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Family Counseling, Couples Counseling, Art Therapy, Sand Tray Therapy, Wellness Recovery Action Plan, Caregiver Support Groups, PTSD and MST Support Groups, and Military Culture Training.

- Veterans Mentor Group \$2,500
 - Provide Mentor Support to Veterans participating in Region 2: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties Veteran's Treatment Court.

- Preservation Idaho \$2,000
 - Seeking funds to prepare a historical exhibit in the recently restored Bldg. 4/Surgeon Quarters at Boise VAMC. The exhibit will be a place for recreation and education celebrating the 151-year history of Fort Boise and the Boise VAMC.

III. DISCUSSION AND VOTING

- After presentation and discussion, the committee decided to:
 - Deny Southwest Idaho Resource, Conservation, and Development Council's \$561,000.00 request and the National Center for Veterans Studies' (NCVS) \$463,116.00 request.
 - These requests were larger than the funds available to allocate.
 - The committee chooses not to utilize these funds toward building facilities. Instead they favor funding programs that directly benefit veterans.
 - Allocate the University of Idaho Operation Education Scholarship Fund, IDVS Veterans Support Fund and IVAL Bravehearts requests for the amounts requested.
 - Approved, but reduced the request for Wyakin Warrior Foundation from \$100,000 to \$55,000.
 - Approved, but reduced the request for Valley Regional Transit from \$93,000 to \$55,000.
 - Approved, but reduced the request for Jannus Friends in Action Legacy from \$55,000 to \$30,000.
 - Approved, but reduced the request for Jannus Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline from \$146,000 to \$90,000.
 - Additionally, this will be the final year ISPH submits a Veterans Recognition Fund application, as IDVS will be providing funds out of its budget separately.
 - Redirect Healing Our Heroes & Family to submit a Veterans Support Fund Application due to small amount requested.
 - Redirect Veterans Mentor Group to submit a Veterans Support Fund Application due to small amount requested.

- Redirect Preservation Idaho to submit a Veterans Support Fund Application due to the small amount requested.

FY 2017 Veterans Recognition Fund Annual Allocation Plan

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Committee Recommendation</i>
Southwest Idaho Resource, Conservation, and Development Council	\$561,000.00	\$0.00
National Center for Veterans Studies	\$463,116.00	\$0.00
Jannus Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline	\$146,000.00	\$90,000.00
Wyakin Warrior Foundation	\$100,000.00	\$55,000.00
Valley Regional Transit	\$93,000.00	\$55,000.00
Jannus Friends in Action Legacy Corps	\$55,000.00	\$30,000.00
University of Idaho Operation Education Scholarship Fund	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
IDVS Veterans Support Fund	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Idaho Veterans Assistance League Bravehearts	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Healing our Hero's & Family	\$5,000.00	VSF
Veterans Mentors Group	\$2,500.00	VSF
Preservation Idaho	\$2,000.00	VSF
Idaho Veterans Cemetery	\$100,000.00	Fund Later
Total	\$1,542,616.00	\$345,000.00