

Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission
 January 15, 2015 8:30 a.m. MST
 Idaho Division of Veterans Services HQ – Main Conference Room

Members: Commissioner H. Melvin Napier, Chairman
 Commissioner Leo Dub, Co-Chairman
 Commissioner Arthur L. Gimpel
 Commissioner John A. Spurny
 Commissioner Thomas Prewitt
 Commissioner David E. Brasuell, Executive Secretary; Administrator, IDVS
 Tamara Mackenthun, Deputy Administrator, IDVS
 Tracy Schaner, Human Resource Officer, IDVS
 Debbie Spence, Financial Manager, IDVS
 James Roberts, Administrator, ISVH – Boise
 Kenneth Shull, Administrator, ISVH – Lewiston
 Josiah Dahlstrom, Administrator, ISVH – Pocatello
 Bill Heyob, Director, Office of Veterans Advocacy
 James Earp, Director, Veterans Cemetery
 Tom Byrns, Veterans Education Coordinator
 Kevin Wallior, Administrative Assistant II, IDVS

Guests:

- I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 Meeting commenced at 8:25 AM
- II. OLD BUSINESS:**

Topic A.	Minutes of Last Meeting (10-16-14):
Information/Data Discussion:	Minutes were sent electronically to the Commissioners for review prior to this meeting. There were no changes offered.
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	8:25 AM PST Commissioner Dub made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Gimpel seconded. Vote was held and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.
Responsible Party:	Administrative Assistant II, IDVS
Target Completion Date:	N/A
Status:	CLOSED

II. STANDING ITEMS:

Topic A.	Human Resources (Tracy Schaner – Human Resource Director):
Information/Data Discussion:	1. Staffing Overview – 360 positions total, 60.3% of which is Nursing care staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 Administrative positions (admin, fiscal, social services, inventory included) • 40 Dietary positions

- 211 Nursing positions (DONs, RN Managers, therapy aides, & recreational assistants included)
- 6 Nursing Admin positions (activities/volunteer coordinators & nursing scheduler included)
- 9 Health Information positions
- 8 Maintenance positions (13 w/ cemetery maintenance included)
- 8 Cemetery positions
- 18 Office of Veterans Advocacy positions
- 5 Commissioners
- 300 positions are Classified
- 55 positions are Non-Classified (includes 7 executive FTP and temporary staff)

2. FY 2014 Classified Position Separations and Reasons (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

- 2 Separation, Federal Job
- 1 Separation, School District Job
- 2 Separation, Layoff/Shortage of Work/Reorganization
- 1 Separation, Military
- 18 Separation, Private Sector Job
- 45 Separation, Personal (including school, moving, resigning in lieu of dismissal)
- 9 Separation, Retirement
- 5 Separation, Layoff/Medical
- 7 Termination, Dismissal
- 4 Termination, Failure to Complete Entry Probation
- 1 Transfer to Other State Agency

3. Statewide Average Comparison, IDVS & Statewide Averages

- Average Compa-Ratio
 - January 2015 IDVS was 87%
 - October 2014 Statewide was 85%
- Average Pay Rate
 - January 2015 IDVS was \$16.32
 - October 2014 Statewide was \$19.86
- January 2015 IDVS Employees' Average Years of Service with
 - State/Longevity 6.6 Years
 - IDVS/Longevity 5.1 Years

Floor opened for questions and/or comments.

Commissioner Spurny enquired about the reason for the \$3.00 difference between average state and average IDVS wages.

Tracy responded that mostly is a result of the number of entry-level positions our organization has, which brings the average down.

Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Human Resource Director
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic B.	Financial Report (Debbie Spence – Financial Manager):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. ISVH Fiscal Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YTD Average Nursing Per Diem as of December 2014 is \$302.79 per day, for each ISVH Per Day is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boise - \$289.22 ○ Pocatello - \$362.60 ○ Lewiston - \$281.40 • 88% Nursing Occupancy Rates as of January 12, 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boise 88% ○ Boise Dom/Res Care 92% ○ Pocatello 77% ○ Lewiston 98% ○ IDVS is doing better than the Statewide Nursing Occupancy Rate of 63% <p>2. General Funds for FY15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All General Funds are appropriated in Personnel and Trustee & Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ None are utilized for operations. • FY15 Appropriation is \$30,155,400 of which \$964,300 (3.2%) is General Funds • IDVS is closely monitoring revenue for cash flow purposes. <p>3. Governor’s Recommendation for FY16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$31,192,500 • General Funds 3.2% • Recommendation includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3% Change in Employee Compensation (classified employees only) ○ \$197,900 Change in Health Benefit Costs ○ \$493,200 Inflationary Increase (no general funds) ○ \$505,200 Repair and Replacement items (no general funds) – mattresses, beds, recliners, kitchen equip, and IT equipment ○ \$143,500 Additional Staffing (no general funds) – 2 FTPs; 1 Service Officer in Twin Falls and 1 Technical Records Specialist for Criminal History Monitoring

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$25,600 Group Positions Health Benefit Increase (no general funds) ○ \$666,000 New Capital Outlay (no general funds) – computers, communications equipment, kitchen equipment, and IT equipment and services ○ \$100,600 IT On-going Items and Services (no general funds) – data line charges, hardware maintenance, networking software, and travel ○ \$100,000 Idaho Suicide Hotline (no general funds) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4th year that IDVS has contributed ○ \$400,000 Veterans Recognition Income Fund <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. 8:41 AM, at this point David Brasuell previewed his budget briefing that he will present to the Idaho Legislature Joint Finance Affairs Committee for the Commissioners. David presented his briefing to JFAC on January 22, 2015 and a copy of his presentation can be accessed at http://legislature.idaho.gov/budget/JFAC/presentations/2015/2015-01-22.04.pdf</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Financial Manager
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic C.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Lewiston (Kenneth Shull – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It's been a busy three months, especially with the holiday season. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Admissions Coordinator has been visiting area hospitals to smooth the process for veterans who utilize the Lewiston Home for the purposes of rehab. ● Lewiston Admissions have been increasing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinating with local nursing homes regarding care for their veteran residents 2. FY15 1st Quarter Operations Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursing Care Occupancy Rate 98% for the quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 96% ▪ November 100% ▪ December 100% ○ Medicare A Average Daily Census 1.12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ October 1.00 ▪ November 1.33

- December 1.03
- Admissions and Discharges
 - October 4 Admissions, 0 Discharges
 - November 2 Admissions, 1 Discharge
 - December 0 Admissions, 0 Discharges
- Receipts
 - Medicaid \$464,780
 - VA Per Diem \$456,075
 - All Other Receipts \$621,509
 - Medicare Part A \$147,917
 - Medicare Part B \$31,939
- Pharmacy
 - Medicare Part D \$14,371
 - VA Pharmacy Receipts \$11,713
 - Pharmacy Costs \$106,520
 - Average Cost PPD \$17.82
- Janitorial
 - The facility is looking excellent.
- Energy Costs
 - Stable, as expected for winter months.
- Food Services
 - Changes were made to make it more home-like for the residents.
 - Veterans choose what they want from a steam table and are served at the table.
 - Appetites seem to have increased because they are able to see and smell the food before deciding what they wish to eat.
- Volunteer Hours
 - A lot of support from AL, VFW, MCL chapters in the community.
 - 17,235 Volunteer hours, 2.89 PPD

3. Activities

- Special Meals
 - October Fan tail shrimp
 - Traditional Thanksgiving Day meal for residents and families on 20th and on actual Thanksgiving they received another special Thanksgiving meal.
 - 210 people turned up to help celebrate
 - The veterans had a great time
 - Christmas Dinner of ribs and shrimp
- Anniversary Celebration
 - ISVH Lewiston celebrated their 20th Anniversary with the community.
 - Great turnout
- Marketing and Media Contacts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rose continues to build a rapport with hospital discharge planners and continues to educate them on the benefits veterans receive utilizing veterans homes. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Lewiston Home Administrator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic D.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Pocatello (Josiah Dahlstrom – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FY15 1st Quarter Operations Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Small increase ○ A lot of work went into that small increase ○ Hospice care accounts for a lot of their admissions ○ There seems to be buy-in from the area hospitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More discharges are being sent to ISVH-Pocatello than previously ● Food Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A lot of family members dine with residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotes a home-like environment ● DPW Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No major projects were conducted during the previous quarter ○ Upcoming Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shower Renovation ▪ Surveillance Cameras 2. Activities – It was a very busy quarter for activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Special Meals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Veterans Day meals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Papa Johns donated Pizza, salad, and fruit cups for Veterans Day lunch for the residents and staff ▪ Prime Rib was served to Veterans ○ Thanksgiving dinner was provided for residents and their families ○ Christmas finger foods and desserts were provided to the residents by Blackfoot Elks Lodge

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American Legion Women’s Auxiliary provided a gift table for veterans to send Christmas gifts to their families. ○ Impressive numbers of gifts were donated by the community to ensure the veterans enjoy Christmas morning • Media Contacts and Marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Idaho Power donated \$1000 on Veterans Day for the “Music and Memory” program ○ Local news covered a visit to the home by Allied Mobile X-Ray to benefit veterans • Other Important Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISVH-P hosted IVAL meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IVAL approved the purchase of 20 two-way radios and headsets to facilitate communication. ▪ Also, approved support for “Music and Memory” program. Will cover training and 10 sets of iPods and headphones for residents. ○ A local resident donated a 6’2” marble statue of George Washington <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It will be unveiled on Washington’s Birthday ▪ Estimated value is \$12,000-\$20,000 ▪ A local interior designer designed a base for it ▪ Will be secured in the front entry of the facility by the dining room ○ Food Convoy raised over \$17,000 in cash and food donations <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Pocatello Home Administrator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic E.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Boise (Randal Barnes – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	1. Operations Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remained steady ○ Average is 90% in Nursing Care

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 88% Residential/Domiciliary Care ● Pharmacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continues to work with the VA to determine eligibility ● Laundry costs and quality consistent with norm ● Janitorial cost and quality consistent with norm ● Energy costs are as expected for the winter months ● Food Service <p>2. Narrative Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DPW and Maintenance Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fan Coil Project on 2 West completed ○ Public Restroom renovations completed ○ Shower remodel ongoing ○ Geothermal system at IDVS HQ was diagnosed and repaired by ISVH-B maintenance staff. ● Social Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submitted a CMP grant for “Music and Memory” project ○ Additional, support for “Music and Memory” project is ongoing including collaboration between Activities staff and Social workers to develop person-centered activities in conjunction with the program such as live music and student interviews regarding resident musical tastes. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Boise Home Administrator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic F.	Idaho State Veterans Cemetery (James Earp – Director):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. Cemetery Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed 2nd Quarter FY15 with 157 interments conducted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 11.3% increase from 2nd Quarter FY14 ○ Since 2011 the total interments have risen from 282 per year to 339 per year, a 20% increase without increasing staffing. ● The ISVC received 80 out of a potential 90 points, an 89% overall score during its review for National Shrine Status.

- Areas identified for increased focus were:
 - Headstone, Marker, and Niche Cover process for timeliness and accuracy. Score of 67%
 - New staff and internal operations changes have resulted in immediate and significant improvements
- Our Grounds Maintenance operation was noted as some of the finest in the Nation.
 - Maintenance and upkeep score was a perfect 100%
- To ensure that our landscaping/caretaker staff has equal operating capabilities to ensure that all outdoor operations can continue to be accomplished without capabilities shortages, the Landscape Technician position has been upgraded to a Landscape Technician, Senior position
 - Will ensure that all outdoor operating staff can equally support the myriad tasks necessary to accommodate Veterans and their families

2. Construction

- A meeting was convened with the director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and IDVS leadership to discuss the Cemetery well
 - IDVS was issued a temporary permit to prepare the site as a test well to gather the necessary data to determine if the well will be a viable contingency in the event of drought or other water shortages.
- Administrative building HVAC upgrade is ongoing.
 - It has had a negligible impact on customer service
 - Scheduled to be completed January 22
- Twin Falls VA Rural Cemetery is still in the process of finding a suitable land parcel of 3 to 5 acres.
 - Efforts to acquire land has been hindered by poor surface conditions, high sale prices, and other minor issues

3. Events

- The Wreaths Across America Ceremonial wreath placement was conducted on December 13th
 - Cemetery was decorated with over 3300 wreathes placed by 200 participants and volunteers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retired Admiral Archie Clemins, former commander of the USN Pacific Fleet acted as guest speaker ○ Wreaths were removed January 17th ● 2015 Memorial Day planning has begun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional coordination will be conducted in the coming weeks ○ Invitations will be issued shortly thereafter ● The Cemetery honored two maintenance staff members with certificate celebrating 10 years of excellent service to the ISVC and State <p>4. Volunteer Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The volunteer program continues to grow. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are now 12 regular volunteers ○ Combined for 799 volunteer hours in the last quarter <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Idaho State Veterans Cemetery Director
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic G.	Office of Veterans Advocacy (Bill Heyob – Director):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. Very Busy 2nd Quarter FY15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In December alone submitted 415 claims to the VA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This was an increase of 126 claims over the previous December ● YTD FY15 2,373 claim filed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase of 383 compared to the same 2 Quarters in FY14 ● Large number of WWII and Korean War veterans filing first time claims ● Taken all together the word is getting out to the veterans in the state what services are offered <p>2. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Six service officers attended advanced service officer training in Annapolis, MD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Class average was 87% ○ Four of the six service officers from Idaho scored better than the class average

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Their scores were 97%, 92%, 90%, 90%, 86%, and 86% <p>3. VA Regional Office Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Boise VARO averages 160 days from date of reception to completion of a claim.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ VA goal by the end of 2015 is for that average to be 120 days○ Boise has been doing better than the national average, which results in more claims being brokered in from other VAROs○ Still #1 in quality and issue accuracy○ A couple spots down from #1 in complete claim accuracy● Mtn Home AFB is doing a pilot program called Separation History Physical Exam<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Basically, a pre-separation exam○ 6 months prior to discharge date, military members are being asked to do their initial claim on e-benefits○ C&P exams get scheduled quicker, but those claims are still evaluated at SLC VARO rather than Boise VARO○ OVA doing their best to educate these service member that it would be in their best interests to wait until discharge to file a claim, as the fully developed claim process is currently quicker than the SHPE process.● VA is standardizing its claims process beginning March 15<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Currently a veteran can submit a claim written on any piece of paper○ Under this new initiative if the Veteran doesn't file a claim on the proper form it will not be accepted○ All the forms will be streamlined so there are fewer types of forms○ Strongly encouraging veterans use the e-benefits system to submit claims● VA 30/40 Choice Card program has gone into effect<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If a veteran has to wait more than 30 days for a medical appointment or lives more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility they may be authorized to see a civilian provider.○ Veterans must call the 1-800 number on the Choice Card they receive in the mail to receive prior approval
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These cards cannot be utilized for emergency care, as there are already mechanisms for a veteran to receive emergency care ○ CBOCs are included in the 40 mile calculation <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Office of Veterans Advocacy Director
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic H.	Veterans Education – GI Bill (Tom Byrns – Veterans Education Coordinator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compliance Surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will be traveling to Pocatello/Eastern ID and Lewiston/Northern ID in May for compliance surveys ● At the end of 2nd Quarter FY15, ahead of schedule for compliance visits 2. National Association of Approving Agencies mid-winter conference in Washington D.C. February 6-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Previous meeting discussed funding models for SAAs across the country 3. Funding and Mission Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does not bode well for the state of Idaho <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last year budget \$131,000 ○ This year budget \$125,000 ○ Next year’s budget is projecting as \$112,000 ○ Budget is based off the number of active facilities ○ 224 facilities are approved for Veterans to utilize their GI Bill, but only those with Veterans actively attending count towards determining the budget ● BPD and Idaho Corrections are both going to renew their VA approval for Veterans to utilize their OJT benefits while training to be an officer ● ~3300 Veterans are utilizing their GI Bill benefits in some shape or form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most are attending traditional college programs ● There is no room for growth for IHLs to enter the marketplace, but there is plenty of growth potential for Apprenticeship programs and OJT programs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Established a relationship with the US Department of Labor to expedite approvals of apprenticeship programs○ These programs can often be approved in less than 2 months <p>4. 224 Active VA approved Education facilities in the state of Idaho</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 24 Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL)● 46 Non-College Degree Programs (NCD)● 72 On-the-Job Training Programs (OJT)● 80 Apprenticeship Programs● 2 Flight Schools <p>5. Approximately 3298 Veterans Utilizing Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3125 attending IHL● 64 attending NCD● 62 in OJT programs● 44 in Apprenticeships● 3 attending Flight School <p>6. Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”) will take effect in July 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Requires VA to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty at public institutions of higher learning if the schools charge qualifying Veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students for terms beginning after July 1, 2015.● Qualifying veterans and their dependents as defined in the Choice Act is:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A Veteran who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more;○ A spouse or child using transferred benefits who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within 3 years of the transferor’s discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more; or○ A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located
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	<p>(regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the Service-member's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idaho's legislation regarding charging in-state tuition to veterans is more restrictive and will need to be updated to reflect the new federal requirements. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. No questions or comments.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Veterans Education Coordinator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic I.	Idaho Division of Veterans Services (David Brasuell – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest Directors had a meeting with the VISN Director <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Readily admitted that the Choice Card is a poorly conceived program • The Legislative Reception is January 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jointly hosted by AL, VFW, & DAV ○ Chance for Veterans stakeholders to discuss veterans issues with legislators ○ Workforce Development/Economic Development is one of the major talking points regarding encouraging veterans to move to Idaho after their military commitment is complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is an education deficit in Idaho that has led to jobs being unfilled ▪ Retirees bring valuable education and experience, and often spouses or children who are also college educated ▪ Representative Sims will be introducing a bill to provide a tax break to encourage military retirees to relocate to Idaho ▪ Idaho does well to attract veterans, but not so much military retirees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6th in the nation in attracting veterans

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 39th in the nation in attracting military retirees• DELT meeting is afternoon of January 15 <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Capacity study was completed and presented in Post Falls<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 200 people showed up for the initial presentation in July and approximately 50 attended in the fall.• The study presentation can be accessed at http://veterans.idaho.gov/images/stories/PDF_Files/Division/14_12-15%20IDVS%20Statewide%20Assessment%20Community%20Mtg_web.pdf• 9 acres has been proposed in Post Falls that a family wishes to donate<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The architects think that it is probably a suitable enough size, but to soon for anything definitive3. Southeast Idaho Cemetery<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Idaho State University has land that has been donated<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ISU may consider donating it for the purpose of a new cemetery○ A site visit is scheduled during the Spring4. FY16 Budget: Proposed a new Veteran Service Officer in Twin Falls<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The idea is to reduce some of the burden on the Boise office• Hoping to co-locate the service officer in the Twin Falls Idaho Department of Labor Office similar to arrangements in Post Falls5. Veterans Recognition Fund<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring options to move the Recognition fund monies into a quasi-endowment• Hope to place that \$20million in a higher yield account• Proposed meeting with Ron Crane• Higher interest could provide the necessary funds for an eventual replacement or major renovation of the ISVH-Boise, designed and built to modern standards6. ISVH's Music & Memory Program won a VA national award <p>Tamara Mackenthun:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inter-Agency Transportation Group<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looking to increase transportation programs for veterans in the state, specifically disabled veterans across the state
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary hopes are to divest the wheelchair program IDVS currently manages and transfer it to ITD <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. Commissioner Napier asked which Legislators were presenting veterans legislation.</p> <p>Tamara responded that Representative Sims of Coeur d'Alene would be presenting the bill regarding a tax break for military retirees, and that she anticipates that Senator Nonini of Post Falls will present a bill regarding the prospective fourth state veterans home in the Post Falls area.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Division Administrator
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting until complete.
Status:	INFORMATION

III. NEW BUSINESS:

Next meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
Idaho State Veterans Home – Pocatello
Main Conference Room

Commissioner Gimpel motioned that the meeting be adjourned; Commissioner Spurny seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am MST.

H. Melvin Napier, Chairman

David Brasuell, Executive Secretary