

Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission
April 16, 2014, 8:30 a.m.
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 (absent)
Debbie Spence, Financial Manager, IDVS
James Roberts, Administrator, ISVH – Boise
Kenneth Shull, Administrator, ISVH – Lewiston
Joshua Thompson, Administrator, ISVH – Pocatello
Bill Heyob, Supervisor, Office of Veterans Advocacy
James Earp, Director, Veterans Cemetery
Tom Byrns, Veterans Education Coordinator (absent)
Kevin Wallior, Administrative Assistant II, IDVS

Guests: Joyce Hudson, Assistant Administrator, ISVH – Boise
Rebecca Wallace, Administrative Assistant II, ISVH – Boise

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting began at 8:30 AM MST.

New Commissioner Thomas Prewitt, from Moscow, ID was welcomed to the Commission.

With Commissioner Riegel's passing, a new Chairman for the Commission needed to be elected.

8:32 AM MST. Commissioner Spurny nominated the Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Napier for new Chairman.

Commissioner Dub seconded.

8:33 AM MST. All commissioners voted "Aye." By unanimous decision Commissioner Napier was named Chairman of the Commission.

With the former Vice-Chairman elected to the role of Chairman, a new Vice-Chairman needed to be elected.

8:34 AM MST. Commissioner Gimpel nominated Commissioner Dub for new Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Spurny seconded.

8:35 AM MST. All commissioners voted "Aye." By unanimous decision Commissioner Dub was named Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

8:36 AM MST. Commissioner Gimpel officiated Commissioner Prewitt's oath of office and the re-oaths of Commissioners Dub, Napier, and Spurny.

8:37 AM MST. A photo was taken to commemorate the occasion.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Topic A.	Minutes of Last Meeting (10-17-13):
Information/Data Discussion:	Minutes were sent electronically to the Commissioners for review prior to this meeting. There were no changes offered.
Action/Decision/ Conclusion:	8:38 AM MST Commissioner Spurny 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.	Financial Report (Debbie Spence – Financial Manager):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. Proposed New Charges for the Idaho State Veterans Homes The proposed 3% charge in monthly rates will still leave the Idaho State Veterans Homes rates lower than the \$226 per month average of other nursing care facilities.</p> <p>Chairman Napier opted to read all four proposed changes consecutively and vote on all of them at once.</p> <p>The proposed changes are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maximum Monthly Charge for Idaho State Veterans Home Private Payers, Nursing Care, Admitted On or After July 1, 2000: Pursuant to IDAPA 21.01.01.916, I move that the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission adopt to increase the maximum monthly charge for nursing care for veterans admitted to Idaho State Veterans Homes on or after July 1, 2000. The charge will increase to \$168.00 per day plus ancillaries effective June 1, 2014. • The Maximum Monthly Charge for Idaho State Veterans Home Private Payers, Nursing Care, Non Veteran Spouses: Pursuant to IDAPA 21.01.01.916, I move that the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission adopt to increase the maximum monthly charge for nursing care for non-veteran spouses admitted to Idaho State Veterans Homes. The charge will

increase to \$168.00 per day plus ancillaries and current VA per diem rate effective June 1, 2014.

- The Maximum Monthly Charge for Idaho State Veterans Home–Pocatello Private Room, Nursing Care:
Pursuant to IDAPA 21.01.01.916, I move that the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission adopt to increase the maximum monthly charge for private room nursing care for veterans admitted to Idaho State Veterans Home – Pocatello. The charge will increase to \$197.00 per day plus ancillaries effective June 1, 2014.
- The Maximum Monthly Charge for Idaho State Veterans Home-Pocatello Private Room, Nursing Care, Non Veteran Spouses:
Pursuant to IDAPA 21.01.01.916, I move that the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission adopt to increase the maximum monthly charge for private room nursing care for non-veteran spouses admitted to Idaho State Veterans Home – Pocatello. The charge will increase to \$197.00 per day plus ancillaries and current VA per diem rate effective June 1, 2014.

Commissioner Gimpel moved to vote. Commissioner Spurny seconded. 8:39 AM MST All Commissioners voted “Aye.” By unanimous consent all proposed new charges for the Idaho State Veterans Homes were accepted.

2. Year to Date Nursing Per Diem Costs as of March 2014
 - Boise – \$265.92
 - Pocatello – \$328.78
 - Lewiston – \$310.91
 - Average – \$290.74
3. Occupancy Rates as of April 14, 2014
 - Dom/Res Care – 91/7%
 - IDVS Nursing – 84.8%
 - Idaho Statewide Nursing – 66.0%
4. FY13 Single Audit
 - FINDING – \$110,000 payment for suicide prevention hotline not specifically allowable to the Veterans State Nursing Home per diem grant.
 - AGENCY ACTION – implemented changes so these expenditures are automatically removed in the Division cost allocation to the Veterans State Nursing Homes; Veterans State Nursing Homes resubmitted VA claims.
5. FY 14 Budget
 - Fiscal year end coming fast
 - Closely watching revenue and cash flow

- No foreseeable issues
- 6. FY 15 Budget Appropriation – \$30,155,400
 - Percentage Breakdown
 - Miscellaneous Receipts
 - 47.5%
 - \$14,321,300
 - Federal Funds
 - 47.2%
 - \$14,226,800
 - General Funds
 - 3.2%
 - \$964,300
 - Endowment
 - 2.1%
 - \$643,000
 - Monetary Breakdown
 - \$428,900 Change in Benefit Costs
 - \$205,700 Inflationary Adjustments
 - Medical & contract inflation
 - \$627,900 Replacement Items
 - Medical equipment
 - Kitchen equipment
 - Laundry equipment
 - Furniture
 - Computers
 - Etc.
 - \$726,900 Agency Funded DPW Projects
 - \$293,200 Change in Employee Compensation (CEC)
 - 1% ongoing
 - 1% one-time
 - \$158,300 plus \$300,000 transfer from operating to personnel Additional Staffing
 - 11.3 FTPs – 1.6 HR Associates and 9.7 CNAs
 - \$60,000 Basic Cable TV
 - \$401,300 New Capital Outlay and Operating
 - Therapy
 - Medical Equipment
 - Lawn Equipment
 - Patio Furniture
 - Etc.
 - \$110,000 Suicide Hotline
 - \$50,000 Veterans Treatment Courts
 - \$356,900 Salary Equity All Staff
- 7. Executive Order #2014-03
 - Governor Otter issued Executive Order #2014-03 requiring all state agencies to include in their FY 16 budget request the agency’s plan for operating if there is a reduction of 10% or more in the federal funds that the state agency receives.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IDVS will develop its plan at the July 2014 DELT meeting. The plan will include non-critical items and services. <p>8. FY 16 Budget Request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The process starts in May 2014 ● It will address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Future requirements ○ Objectives ○ Veterans Recognition annual allocation plan ○ Executive Order #2014-03 ● IDVS will submit agency budget request by September 1, 2014 <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments.</p> <p>Commissioner Gimpel inquired about using the details of the fiscal briefing to justify ISVH costs to concerned veterans or families.</p> <p>Debbie Spence and David Brasuell both answered in the affirmative. It is completely appropriate to use the facts discussed in the fiscal briefing as justification for ISVH costs.</p>
Action/Decision/Conclusion:	As above; information update as available.
Responsible Party:	Financial Manager
Target Completion Date:	Update each meeting.
Status:	INFORMATION
Topic B.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Boise (James Roberts – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. The numbers are straight forward. There hasn't been a lot of change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Getting delayed payments from the VAMC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pharmacy ○ Per-diem ● 7 Service connected veterans has increased to 21 service connected veterans as a result of work with Congress to get their care covered. ● ISVH-Boise generally holds at 92% occupancy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doesn't fluctuate greatly from month to month. <p>2. Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DPW vendors/contractors did an outstanding job with the fan coil project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They were very respectful to the veterans. ○ Did their best to minimize the disruption. ● Cabling Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nearing completion. ● Bathing Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete renovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Includes public restrooms ○ 1st Phase is winding down

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point Click Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making good progress ○ Transition period is almost complete • Migrated Pharmacy to QS1 program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pharmacy data can be backed up to the cloud ○ In the process of transitioning from the old to the new • Retrofitting old elevators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are some ups and downs to the project. <p>3. New Maintenance Crew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Dave Challe retired, much of his staff moved on to other positions. • Ron Coleman is the new foreman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He has hired a tremendous crew. ○ They have a great attitude and reflect well on ISVH-Boise. <p>4. Collaboration with VAMC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have curb-side and on-site collaboration with VAMC credentialed doctors • VAMC is considering a collaboration regarding therapy. <p>5. Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losing staff for a variety of reasons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pay is one of the major reasons ○ Continuing education ○ Relocation • Ongoing staff are doing a good job with career development and bettering their skills. • Overall James is pleased with his staff <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. Commissioner Spurny: How is Phil Hawkins doing? Phil is recovering well. He has been very active during recuperation.</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 C.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Pocatello (Joshua Thompson – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. Numbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA Pharmacy receipts, per usual, are delayed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New pharmacy company • Laundry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New laundry and housekeeping company • New Psychiatric consult

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocatello has a lot of admissions and a lot of discharges because they have an excellent therapy program that rehabs veterans to a point that they can go home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is great for community outreach and positive publicity. <p>2. DPW/Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabling project • Painting project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Done by the second week in May. ○ New Art, new paint, new floors. <p>3. Community Outreach/Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field of Heroes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISVH-P has been helping with that event • American Legion has been very generous with their time and volunteering at ISVH-P • Belly Dancers have visited the residents of ISVH-P. • ISVH-P has been hosting a Wii Bowling League every Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IVAL purchased bowling shirts for all participants ○ Every Friday at 2:30pm ○ Residents and Staff are involved • Josh has been working with Pocatello community leaders to get their Airport renamed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In honor of Pocatello native, and Medal of Honor recipient James E. Johnson. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. Commissioner Gimpel reminded Josh about a new therapy bike. Josh told the commission about a \$5000 therapy bike IVAL donated. Josh provided an anecdote about a resident who utilizes a powered wheelchair. He has been unable to walk. The therapy bike helped strengthen his weak side allowing him to walk a little.</p> <p>Josh also talked about a commercial they filmed to change a community perception that ISVH-P has a three year waiting list.</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 D.	Idaho State Veterans Home - Lewiston (Kenneth Shull – Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. Numbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like the other two ISVH VA payments are inconsistent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISVH-L, unlike ISVH-P or ISVH-B, has to report to two VA facilities one in Walla Walla and one in Spokane.

- Energy, food, etc. are consistent with past numbers.
 - Nursing home hours were effected by a high incidence of overtime due to training on the new electronic records management system.
 - In-service hours, over 300 hours. Training is a big emphasis for ISVH-L.
 - Satisfied that internal operations have been cleaned up, ready to increase community outreach.
2. DPW/Projects
- Wiring program has almost been completed
 - Learned from ISVH-P and ISVH-B and avoided some of the hiccups the other homes suffered.
 - Point Click Care rolled out and the State Survey went smoothly.
 - 85% paperless records
 - The staff has gotten up to speed quickly.
 - Shower Room project
 - The second one is almost complete.
 - The third one will be started after the second is complete.
 - Approval was received and the bidding process will begin to add 51 spaces to the parking lot.
 - New railings were installed in the building.
 - New carpeting has been installed.
 - New chillers were installed.
 - A control panel will need to be added.
 - Will help regulate temperatures to better serve residents.
3. Community Outreach/Events
- Went to the theater
 - VFW Breakfast at the local VFW Hall
 - Went to the local high school to watch a play.
 - Resident Council is given three options to vote on for the monthly special meal.
 - It was easier for the Veterans
 - Given options like shrimp or steak
 - 20 year Anniversary for ISVH-L will be this summer
 - Planning a 4-5 hour event
 - Have a kids carnival
 - Inviting local VSOs to participate
 - Running ads in a 75 mile radius in newspapers.
 - Like ISVH-P combatting perception that ISVH-L is full and has a waiting list.
 - They will be filming a commercial later this year, as well.
 - Youth Challenge kids have visited the facility a couple times.
4. Staffing
- Staffing has stabilized.
 - Hired a retired Air Force Master Sergeant as the Director of Nursing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has a psych background. ● Hired a new Senior RN who was the director of nursing at several other nursing facilities. ● Rocky and Bob, the service officers at ISVH-L, have been doing an excellent job. <p>5. State Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12 cites ● 6 surveyors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 in training ● They were digging and looking for issues; went down a checklist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inspected 398 bowls and found four with scratches and they received a deficiency for that. ● Complimented Nursing staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They didn't receive any complaints regarding staff from residents. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. David Brasuell commended Kenneth on his leadership during a trying year and transition bringing ISVH-L up to expected standards.</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 E.	Idaho State Veterans Cemetery (James Earp – Director):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● James Earp assumed the responsibilities and duties as the director of the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery. Previously, he served as a service officer in the Office of Veterans Advocacy. ● Donna Bruck a retired Navy flag writer with experience working for multiple Secretaries of the Navy was hired as the new AAI, and Tori Powers, a US Army veteran who served two tours in Iraq as a transportation and logistics officer was hired as the new AAI. Darin Sorensen has been a great help in assisting during the staff transition. 2. As of end of month of March 4723 interments. 53 in March, increase over the 47 in January and 47 in February. Anticipate regularly having 50 or greater interments during the summer months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 55 pre-registrations in March. 170 for the quarter ○ 56 columbarium wall interments ○ 15 in-ground cremation interments ○ 2 scatter garden ○ 24 casket upper ○ 49 casket lower

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2 disinterment, both were at the request of family. One was to move the veteran's remains to a California cemetery. The other to the national cemetery in Oregon.● Volunteer Hours<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 446 volunteer hours in the quarter <p>3. Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Server room expansion is on track.● Forms have been updated.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Application for interment and pre-registration have been revised to reduce confusion and ensure accuracy.○ Marker applications have been updated to avoid mistakes. <p>4. Memorial Day Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Warhawk museum will be providing a P-40, P-51, Bi-plane and Cessna flyover.● Tom Ressler will be the keynote speaker this year. <p>5. Cemetery Construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Change order has been signed and currently in early stages of construction at the cemetery. Primary focus will be increased capabilities of security cameras throughout the cemetery and pump house. Construction is scheduled to be concluded by May 26.● Improvements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Automated reader board○ Booster pump upgrade for upper interment site irrigation○ Flag Assembly area improvements○ Fallen Service Member Statues: Currently on site and Guho construction is working with the Cemetery to expedite installation in place by Armed Forces Day. <p>6. Capital Outlay Purchases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Received 1 of the 2 requested new lawn mowers and have received the new Tool Cat with the assortment of attachments.● Request for improvements to fuel point is out for bid.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Project will include reconditioning of the existing fuel tank, addition of digital fuel pumps and wireless monitoring capability. <p>7. Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● DAV Annual Convention in Burley, ID James will be attending● Division Fiscal Review May 12-15● Memorial Day May 26● Retiree Day Briefing Gowen Field May 28● Flag Day June 14● ALA Syringa Girls State Tour June 19● Independence Day July 4 <p>8. Volunteer Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● When James came on board there were only 2 regular volunteers.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled a volunteer training event February 13 and was well received. • There are now 6 new volunteers. • Jerry Feil donated his time and materials to provide an updated reader board sign to greatly improve the aesthetics of existing reader board and to act as a viable alternative if when the new reader board is inoperable due to technical difficulties. <p>9. Administrative Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacted by a few funeral homes about providing continuing education training for funeral directors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funeral directors are required to obtain several hours of continuing education as part of a state requirement. This requirement has been obtained by working with other cemeteries in the Treasure Valley. ○ We would like to participate in providing this training for the funeral directors by providing detailed information about the VA’s eligibility process, required documentation, our cemetery scheduling policy, and interment operations. ○ James will be working with his team to put together a training plan to ensure that the program meets the State requirements for continuing education. ○ Great opportunity to foster professional relationships and educate the funeral directors on the policies and procedures to ensure our Veterans and their families receive the best possible service during their difficult time. • On a sad note, longtime volunteer Kenny Smith passed away. Kenny was a very important part of the State Veterans Cemetery and beloved by the staff, service organizations, and honor guard community. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. There were 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 F.	Office of Veterans Advocacy (Bill Heyob – Director):
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>1. Personnel Moves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Service Officers in OVA Main office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With James’ departure, Hired Doug Jacobson - Retired Army Lt Col

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ With Gina Stamper's departure, Hired Jim Medwick - from Idaho National Guard○ Both have already attended VFW Service Officer Training in Annapolis Maryland <p>2. Currents Stats within OVA Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Extremely busy since new year began<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Submitted 500 more claims than previous quarter. Outreach efforts seem to be successful○ Few first time WWII, Korea, and Vietnam era veterans have been seeking help from OVA service officers○ Emergency Grants Denials out pace acceptance due○ State Service Officers have not been receiving a copy of award letters for Veterans since the shift to VBMS. A VBMS glitch is being worked to alleviate the issue.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bill and Boise VARO developed a work around so that the state of Idaho can be informed while the VBMS glitch is worked.● OVA Annual Training will occur May 7-8● County VSO/POST SVO Training August 27-29 <p>3. VA Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 95% of a claims have been scanned into VBMS (VA electronic claims system).● Current VA backlog reduced to 40% nationwide● Priority order for claims<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Traditional Claims December 2013 and older○ Fully Developed Claims December 2013 and older○ Claims filed now will sit for now until priority claims are worked completely● Fully Developed Claim initiative<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 5 Aug 2013 and 5 August 2015○ 1st time claim○ One year retroactive effective date○ This program seems to be working● Dependency claims<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Between 9 months and 15 months to process○ Planning on bringing in civilian contractors to help reduce dependency claim backlog○ eBenefit/Simple dependency claims● Working towards a national Work Queue<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Consolidated mail collection sites<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Designate 3 locations▪ Open and handle all mail▪ Scan electronically▪ Sent to DC and sits in hopper▪ No pending claims in regional VAROs▪ When a claim meets the priority marker to be worked it will be sent to a regional office to be worked within 48 hours
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Speed up Appeals Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appeals was on the backburner for a time to focus on Claims backlog ○ Consolidated FOIA Processing at some point in the future (through eBenefits) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently takes 8 months, because only 1 employee at Boise VARO handles this ▪ St Louis would become FOIA processing central ▪ Ultimately, have every Veteran to be able to access C-file through eBenefits site ● Brokered claim in Boise VARO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 450 from Portland VARO ○ 50 from Cheyenne VARO ● Blue water navy Agent Orange registry has been updated. ● Institute of Medicine made a decision not to add any new presumptive conditions to the registry ● Delta Dental is now available to Veterans who are enrolled in VAMC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Effective January 1, 2014 ● Tricare Prime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Window between 15 May to 30 June ○ Re-enroll into Tricare Prime ○ If not enrolled in mail order pharmacy, veterans will begin being charged. ● Vietnam Traveling Wall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September 17-24 will be hosted by Cloverdale Cemetery ○ August 8-10 in Jerome <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. There were 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 G.	Veterans Education/GI Bill (Tom Byrns – Veterans Education Coordinator) Presented by Tamara Mackenthun in his absence:
Information/Data Discussion:	<p>Tom Byrns is in Muskogee for Training, as such, Deputy Administrator Tamara Mackenthun presented the Education briefing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2014 is the 70th Anniversary of the GI Bill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An extremely important benefit for Veterans 2. Remaining VA Contractual Obligations prior to 30 September 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compliance Surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) – 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CWI○ Non-College Degree Programs (NCD) – 9<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Boise (2)▪ Meridian (3)▪ Nampa (1)▪ Chubbuck (1)▪ Blackfoot (1)▪ Rexburg (1)○ On the Job Training Programs (OJT) – 4<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Meridian (1)▪ Blackfoot (1)▪ Coeur d’Alene (1)▪ Sandpoint (1)○ Licensing/Certification<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 20 sites3. Upcoming State Approving Agency (SAA) Training and Travel<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14-18 April: Compliance Training, Muskogee, OK• 28-29 April: Heroes 2 Hired, Fort Hall and Twin Falls, ID• 20-26 July: WAVES Conference, Arlington, TX• 3-7 August: National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) Mid-Summer Conference, Albuquerque, NM• 6-10 October (T): NTI Training, St. Louis, MO4. Approximate Number of Active Facilities<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apprentice, 115• OJT, 93• NCD, 64• IHL, 23• Flight Schools, 25. Approximate Number of Veterans Utilizing Benefits<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total 3376<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ IHL, 3236○ NCD, 64○ Apprentice, 37○ OJT, 35○ Flight School, 46. Issues/Concerns<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boise Police Department (BPD)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 26 March, we sent an email to the VA regional processing office, in Muskogee, OK, referencing Chief Masterson’s formal letter explaining BPD’s reasons for discontinuing participation in the GI Bill program for Veterans conducting on-the-job training.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A response is expected the week of 14 April○ Tom Byrns is meeting with Chief Masterson and George Nickel the week of April 21 to discuss options and steps required for them to rejoin the program.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If met with a negative response from Chief Masterson, Tom will provide additional recommendations for moving forward. i.e.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engaging the Mayor’s office ▪ Contacting the Governor’s office ▪ Etc. ○ The education office is prepared to engage additional non-profit veteran’s organizations for assistance in applying pressures to the involved parties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Veterans Network ▪ Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves ▪ Veterans of Foreign Wars ▪ American Legion ▪ Etc. ● Idaho Department of Corrections is in a similar club and the Education Program will be working to resolve that issue next. <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. There were 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 H.	Idaho Division of Veterans Services (David Brasuell Administrator):
Information/Data Discussion:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IDVS Administrative Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FY15 Budget treated our organization well <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capital Outlay was generous ● IDVS continues to support Inter-Agency Employment Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Every four or five months ○ Essential to keep all organizations apprised of initiatives to help Veterans with employment issues ● Congratulations to Debbie and Sonya in Fiscal for being one of the few state agencies keeping up to date on deadlines ● Veterans Coordination Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First meeting 22 April ○ 10 to 15 organization represented ○ Consolidate veterans services to provide more efficient and effective service to Idaho's veterans ● Capacity Study upcoming for ISVH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting 23 April ○ Identify demographics and needs around the state ○ Determine a 20 year strategic plan to best support veterans moving forward ○ Leadership and community partners will be involved

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting Far West District Directors of NASDVA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Montana, Utah will be attending ○ April 28 <p>2. Events/Important Date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70th Anniversary of the GI Bill this year • 100th Anniversary of WWI • 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War • House Commemorative Resolution 51 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30 May is Vietnam Remembrance Day <p>Tamara Mackenthun:</p> <p>1. Legislative Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax break for Military Retirement failed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encouraging military retirees to move to Idaho will increase our employee pool for the state ○ Many veterans have critical skills in areas that Idaho is struggling to produce, especially STEM career skills ○ Many veterans bring 2 and 4 year STEM degrees and wealth of work experience • Portion of I-84 was renamed as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway • Law to allow parent to stay in ISVH whose child died while serving in the armed forces failed <p>2. Changes in IT Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trent Hansen was hired away by Microsoft • Clinton Dale is now the lead IT • David Comstock came on board • Chris Weston is an IT Customer Service Representative <p>3. DPW Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY15 will be mostly about ISVH-Pocatello • Lewiston Boiler Equipment System • Lewiston and Pocatello Roofs • Pocatello Cosmetic and infrastructure <p>Floor opened for questions and/or comments. There were no questions or comments.</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, July 23, 2014
Idaho State Veterans Home – Pocatello
Conference Room**

Commissioner Dub moved that the meeting be adjourned; Commissioners Gimpel and Spurny seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am MST.

H. Melvin Napier, Chairman

David Brasuell, Executive Secretary