

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

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April 2015

Congressional Meetings

This month representatives of the VAC will be meeting with Congressman Dold and Hultgren on May 11th. Topics of discussion include the spending of advertising dollars by Lovell FHCC and the force out of military retirees age 65. In addition the VAC has asked repeatedly on the status of the VA Secretarys Program – Blue Print for Excellence and in particular Strategy Nine the partnership with the local veterans community.

State Accreditation

Again, we have asked Senator Duffy and Representative Sullivan to forward our request to the Director of IDVA asking for state accreditation for County Veterans Service Officers. A new excuse has been brought forth and that there is a liability. We counter that there is no liability as the County Service Officers are Certified by the VA General Counsel. We now have asked the Lt. Governor to include our request in her task force report on consolidation of government efforts. The Lt. Governor;s office has asked that we make a formal request for her to visit with the VAC of Lake County.

Drop In Center

The Drop In Center at 2323 Greenbay Rd continues to increase in usage. Co located with the Midwest Veterans Clothes Closet the center allows veterans to come in and have a cup of coffee and meet with other veterans in a relaxed atmosphere. I believe that the drop in center can reduce the stress on our veterans with PTSD as it gives them other veterans to meet with and discuss mutual issues. If, the VA will work with the local community we should add peer to peer counselor to be available at the center to monitor not intrude on the veterans and if needed offer help. If Lovell implements Strategy 9 the veterans committee now co chaired by Al Lynch and Maj. Gen. Jim Mukoyama can look at formalizing the center as a Lovell FHCC asset.