

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT  
Michael Peck

February 2015

Disabled Veterans Homestead Exemption

In December we had over 782 veterans in Lake County receiving the Disabled Veterans Homestead Exemption. Sherry Kruse has been reviewing the list of 2,500 veterans (50% or greater disability) who are eligible for the exemptions and sending them a reminder notice with instructions on how to apply for the exemption. This exemption requires annual renewal and we have placed the recipients on our e-mail blast program.

**Move To Lovell**

We have successfully moved a part time office to Bldg 133 at the Lovell FHCC in Rm 1D 112. Lisabeth Risley has been manning the office in the morning with Superintendent Peck meeting with clients by appointment in the afternoon. Many thanks to the DAV, VFW and American Legion in helping with the move.

Midwest Veterans Closet

On Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> we held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Veterans Closet. With Lovell providing shuttle bus service the closet is now operating as a drop in center. We urge all veterans post in the county to support this important addition to our veterans resource team. At present over 3,700 items of clothing have been given away to veterans and their families members in need. Again, here in Lake County we have over 4,000 at risk veterans.

Annual Training For VAC Staff

Mike Hiley and Sherry Kruse will be going to Nebraska in April, while Mary Ann and Mike Peck will be in Appleton, Wisconsin in June. This split will keep the office open at both locations. We will need volunteers to assist, please let us know if you can help us answer the phones. Our office receives over 3,000 calls a month and most are for the federal VA with the veteran or dependent needing information on who to contact.

Town Hall Meeting and Patient Advisory Committee

The January 29<sup>th</sup> Town Hall meeting at Lovell was well attended. Vice President Nick Konz presented the position of the VAC and in particular addressed VA Secretary MacDonald's Strategy Nine on including community veterans in discussions with transparency on the mission of the VA. To date, we have not had an answer to our queries on the implementation of strategy nine. Nick also addressed problems with the Green Houses.

The Patient Advisory committee will continue to meet as presently formed according to Captain Buckley. The committee is still looking to the Lovell FHCC Staff on our mission statement. A draft statement from Gray Rathers was submitted but we are waiting on Lovell to respond.

The VSO's met on February 10<sup>th</sup>, again Vice President Konz brought up Strategy Nine implementation. Our concerns is that a partnership must exist between Lovell and the Community VSO's to help with the Veterans Drop In Center and Veterans Closet, both need support of Lovell FHCC and the VAC.