

REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

Residents of the Normandy, France, region release paper sky lanterns to commemorate those who died during the D-Day invasion on June 5, 2015



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
September 2, 2015**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dennis Guthrie, Chair Redmond
Trisa Kelly, Vice Chair Portland
Tony García, Secretary Portland
Al Herrera, Immediate Past Chair..... Beaverton
J. Ryan Howell..... Albany
Mike Jones Ontario
Jerry Lorang Portland
Mayer J. Mayer Portland
Kevin Owens..... North Bend

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Cameron Smith Director
Tracy Ann Gill Special Assistant to the Director
Edward Van Dyke..... Deputy Director
Cody Cox Veteran's Home Loan Program Manager
Nicole Hoeft..... Communications and Information Services Manager
Mary Jaeger..... Aging Veteran Services Director
John Osborn Facilities and Construction Manager
Julie Owens Human Resources Manager
Mitch Sparks Statewide Veteran Services Manager
Bruce Shriver Chief Financial Officer
Laurie Skillman..... Senior Policy Advisor
Peter Trnavskis..... Information Services Manager



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 2, 2015 | 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Hermiston Conference Center | 415 S Hwy 395, Hermiston, OR 97838

A G E N D A

I. WELCOME AND ADMINISTRATION

- Call to Order – Chair Dennis Guthrie
- Pledge of Allegiance – Mary Mayer
- Invocation – Tony García
- Installation of New Officers – Al Herrera
- Committee Members - Oath of Office
- Committee Member Introductions
- Audience Introductions
- Review and Approval of June 3, 2015 Minutes

II. ODVA DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Ed Van Dyke

III. SUBCOMMITTEES UPDATES

- Statewide Veteran Services – Chair: Gerard Lorang; Al Herrera; Trisa Kelly
- Veteran Home Loans – Chair: Kevin J. Owens; J. Ryan Howell, Michael Jones
- Aging Veteran Services – Chair: Mary J. Mayer; Dennis Guthrie; Al Herrera
- Finance – Chair: J. Ryan Howell; Gerard Lorang; Trisa Kelly
- Legislative Affairs and Policy – Chair: Dennis Guthrie; Kevin J. Owens, Tony García

IV. JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT MEMORIAL VA MEDICAL CENTER PRESENTATION (WALLA WALLA)

- Mr. Brian Westfield, Director

V. OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

- Annual Report
- Veteran Benefit Expo
- Lines for Life Tour

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- December Legislative Meeting/Training
- Next Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 | Time: 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: Hillsboro Civic Center Complex
150 E. Main St., Hillsboro, OR 97123

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (Speakers Limited to 3 Minutes)

Public comment time is set aside for persons wishing to address the Advisory Committee on agenda matters. Action will not be taken at this meeting on citizen comments. However, the Advisory Committee, after hearing from interested citizens, may place items on a future agenda so proper notice may be given to all interested parties. At the conclusion of the meeting, there will be a Town Hall forum for individuals to bring up broader veteran community issues. Members of the community may also submit written public comments to the Committee at the following email address: vaac@odva.state.or.us

VIII. BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNED

BREAK

VETERANS TOWN HALL

CONNECT WITH ODVA

FIND ODVA

WEBSITE	www.oregon.gov/odva
BLOG	www.oregondva.com
FACEBOOK	www.facebook.com/odvavet
TWITTER	@oregondva or www.twitter.com/OregonDVA

TALK TO US

ADVISORY COMMITTEE	vaac@odva.state.or.us
PUBLIC INFORMATION	ODVAinformation@odva.state.or.us
SUBMIT AN EVENT	www.oregon.gov/odva/INFO/Pages/index.aspx
SUBMIT A STORY	VetsNews@odva.state.or.us

SIGN UP

EMAIL SUBSCRIBE	www.oregon.gov/odva (Under "Connect with ODVA")
VETS NEWS	www.oregon.gov/odva/INFO/Pages/vetsnews.aspx 503-373-2389
LEGISLATIVE BILL DIGEST	www.oregon.gov/ODVA/Pages/VetsLeg.aspx

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS (ODVA)**

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training
4190 Aumsville Hwy SE, Salem

MINUTES

Al Herrera, Advisory Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Chair Herrera asked Jerry Lorang to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Herrera asked Dennis Guthrie to give an invocation.

Chair Herrera introduced himself and asked the Committee to make introductions:

Jerry Lorang - Portland

Dennis Guthrie – Redmond

Cameron Smith – Director, ODVA

Mike Jones – Ontario

Tony Garcia – Portland

Ryan Howell – Albany

Kevin Owens – North Bend

Trisa Kelly - Portland

Chair Herrera asked the guests to introduce themselves:

Robert Haltiner, MOPH, Dept Adjutant

Charles Upton, MOPH, Dept Commander

Charles Richards, Governors Commission on Seniors, NW Senior Services Board Member

Kevin Kalama, USDVA, Benefits Administration

Eric Belt, ODVA

Jay Lloyd, 1st Marine Division Association

Steven Price, Marine Corps League

Lois Price, Marine Corps League

John Stensland, MOAA

Ed Van Dyke, ODVA

Julie Owens, ODVA

Laurie Skillman, ODVA

Mary Jaeger, ODVA

Peter Trnavskis, ODVA

Cody Cox, ODVA

John Osborn, ODVA

Dan Herrigstad, VA Portland Health Care System, Public and Congressional Affairs

Van Moore, Westcare Management

Betty Herrera, Ladies Auxiliary, MOPH
Ron Morgan, President, VVA Oregon State Council
Dwight Holton, CEO, Lines for Life
Aimee Johnson, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Portland VA Medical Center
Tracy Ann Gill, ODVA

Chair Herrera asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the March 4, 2015 Committee meeting.

Dennis Guthrie motioned to approve the minutes.

Jerry Lorang seconded.

The motion was unanimously approved.

ODVA Director's Report

Director Smith thanked guests for coming and DPSST for hosting this event. He also thanked the Advisory Committee for traveling from as far as Ontario and North Bend to make the meeting and for their service on the Advisory Committee throughout the year.

ODVA is celebrating its 70th Anniversary as a department of the State of Oregon. The department was first stood up in the final year of WWII. The department serves veterans over 4 generations and 5 major wars, from WWII to today. Oregon has over 320,000 veterans with challenges and opportunities across policy issues for their health, wellness, education, economic opportunity, and housing.

In honor of the 70th anniversary ODVA has been featuring stories of across all generations on our social media sites, blog, website and with the state legislature. Seventy stories leading up to the actual anniversary date of June 16, 2015.

On June 16th ODVA will celebrate with staff and former ODVA employees at a BBQ luncheon and on June 24th the Veteran Benefit Expo will be held at the Salem Conference Center where we will celebrate with veterans and service providers and partners from around the state.

The legislature is in its final month and today we will hear from committee members with updates on legislation; policy bills, honor and recognition bills, as well as our budget bill.

Cameron applauded this committees' work over the past year and our work with the veterans' community; but there is still work to be done to raise our voice and deepen legislative relationships. Veterans issues have the best policy area and great concepts, but efforts need to continue to raise issues with the legislature.

Director Smith reported on the updated 2014 VA Statistics which reports \$2.5 billion dollars flowing back into Oregon, up \$300 million from 2013. Of that, an additional \$182 million is direct cash benefits to veterans and families for disability and compensation and low income pension. That speaks to both our state and county veteran service officers and national service organizations who advocate for Oregon veterans.

Subcommittee Updates:

Included with the briefing packet handed out to committee members and available on the website are updates from the ODVA staff on Financial Services; Veterans Home Loan Program; Legislative Affairs; Statewide Veteran Services; Communications, Facilities and Construction; Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home; and the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles.

Jerry Lorang shared information about the Veterans' Benefit Expo and encouraged everyone to attend and share information about the Expo with their respective organizations. State and county veteran service officers will be on-site and available to talk with veterans and provide services. There will be representatives from state, federal, and community benefits and resource programs. The Expo will be held on 24 June at the Salem Conference Center.

Kevin Owens thanked Cody Cox for his service and management of the Home Loan Program. Dennis Guthrie also thanked ODVA staff for preparing the reports.

Laurie Skillman reviewed the ODVA Bills Activity Report with the committee. Tony García talked to the audience about Veterans Preference and encouraged everyone read the legislation and talk with their respective legislators if they have any comments. A hard copy of the Bills Activity Report was given to Committee members and was available for guests.

Suicide Prevention Presentation

Director Smith stated one out of every ten Oregonians is a veteran, but veterans makeup 25% of suicides in the state; about 150 a year. Suicide affects younger and older veterans alike. Complex factors such as unemployment, family relationships, housing, access to mental health, health care and financial stress are all stressors. Our veteran service officers need to be the best trained and have access and information to organizations to help veterans.

Director Smith introduced Aimee Johnson, Suicide Prevention Lead Coordinator from the Portland VA Health Care System and Dwight Holton, CEO, Lines for Life.

Aimee Johnson works out of the Portland VA Health Care Center. Part of her job is outreach to educate the community, health care providers and veteran service officers. Another key roles is to respond to calls from the Veterans Crisis Line; a 24-hour hotline where people can call, text or chat online.

The call line was created in 2007 and has received over a million, close to two million calls. Another key role is to reach out to people and families and follow up after a crisis. They help veterans not feel so isolated during times of stress and encourage them to get continued help, whether at the VA or somewhere else. Call takers are knowledgeable about the services available so we can provide resources to veterans in need.

Dwight Holton is the CEO of Lines for Life. Lines for Life is a non-profit dedicated to preventing substance abuse and suicide. They work closely with the VA and suicide prevention for veterans is their core mission. Lines for Life grew out of a substance abuse and crisis service and added a military help line. They also partner with law enforcement who deal with mental

health disorders. Lines for Life gets calls daily where someone is in serious distress and asking for help. Sometimes these people are afflicted with mental health issues or just daily challenges or substance abuse.

About 35,000 calls were received last year and close to 14,000 of those calls were veterans and family members. They estimate this year that number is going to increase to 25,000. Lines for Life has over 125 volunteers who have gone through 60 hours of training and commit themselves to 200 hours on the lines. Lines for Life is available to callers 24 hours a day/ 7 days per week / 365 days a week ready to connect callers with help.

Veteran Suicide Challenge

Every 65 minutes a veteran takes his own life. In Oregon, veterans are more than twice as likely as non-veterans to die by suicide. Veterans are about 8 percent of the population, yet make up about 25 percent of the suicides in Oregon. For veterans under the age of 45, suicide is the leading cause of death. We have a unique challenge.

Mr. Holton handed out a packet for committee members and walked them through the presentation.

Lines for Life is one of four centers nationwide and takes crisis calls from the federal VA number. Callers are usually men; issues include substance abuse, financial stresses, relationship issues, and post-traumatic stress related challenges.

Lines for Life runs two help lines; they answer federal VA crisis line calls and in 2010 established the Military Help Line. Lines for Life and Director Smith hosted a Lines for Life telethon with the help of KPTV.

Another program they run is called Home Base. Home Base is a federal VA funded grant to help reach rural vets. Mr. Holton stated 30 percent of Oregon vets live in rural areas. This program will help connect veterans with services and crisis intervention information to veterans in rural areas. They are currently working with Tillamook and Umatilla counties in Oregon and three counties in Washington.

Lines for Life also has a partnership with law enforcement. Law enforcement encounters with mental health related issues has increased and encountering folks with PTSD and mental health incidents can be challenging. A partnership started 6-7 years ago where law enforcement gets hands on experience by working at the crisis line. They work with several agencies around the state to include the Portland Police Department and Marion County Sheriff's.

Mr. Holton said community partners need to get better identifying at risk veterans earlier. Lines for Life wants to have contact with emergency rooms - most suicide victims were in the emergency room within a year of committing the act. If you follow up with people who are in emergency rooms with suicide idealization, follow up calls at 10, 20, 30 days after should take place.

Mr. Holton said Lines for Life will continue to work with ODVA and is pleased to announce the State appropriation for a crisis line was up for consideration and confirmed with the legislation yesterday.

Jerry Lorang thanked Dwight and Aimee for their presentation and said the Advisory Committee shares their passion for resolving this crisis.

Mr. Lorang asked how often does it occur that there was no prior indication that a suicide may possibly happen? What are other key indicators?

Aimee Johnson stated most people, veterans and non-veterans, who die by suicide have been in the hospital or visited a primary care doctor within 45-90 days. Often there are not warning signs in a health care setting. There is not one theory, but many complicated factors when it comes to suicide.

The Federal VA prevention efforts include placing posters in VA primary care offices on firearm safety. The VA has mental health and behavioral care available at all clinics.

The Federal VA is working together with the Department of Defense to gather more formal statistics on veteran suicides. One statistic is that of the 22 veterans a day who are dying by suicide, 17 are not getting any VA health care services.

Mr. Guthrie commented that if you ask a veteran if he is going to commit suicide they are trained to mask pains and insecurities. It is just as important to train family members to detect indicators.

Mr. Lorang asked if there a concern about deaths that are not identified as suicides? Ms. Johnson commented that a suicide is usually determined by a local county medical examiner or coroner. Federal VA knows death by suicide is underreported given other possible events like single car auto accidents or substance abuse. Most people who commit suicide don't want to die, they just want the pain to end.

Ms. Johnson showed a firearm safety video and shared with the group there are firearm safety locks available today.

Video:

<http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Resources/Videos.aspx?v=-fGHTvTsApq>

Tony García thanked Aimee and Dwight for their presentations and asked they please pass on the Advisory Committee's gratitude for all their work and the work of the front line staff, especially those who answer the phones.

Director Smith and the Advisory Committee requested a tour of Lines for Life. Mr. Holton will work with Mrs. Gill to set up a meeting and tour. Director Smith also made the recommendation that suicide prevention training be embedded in CVSO/VSO annual training.

Chair Herrera thanked Ms. Johnson and Mr. Holton for their presentations.

Officer Elections:

The nominating committee met and makes the following recommendations for executive committee positions:

Chair: Dennis Guthrie
Vice Chair: Trisa Kelly
Secretary: Tony García

Chair Herrera asked the committee if there were any other nominations; there were none.

Per the Committee bylaws, elections can be made by voice vote if there is only one candidate for a position.

Jerry Lorang made a motion to approve the executive committee nominations.
Kevin Owens seconded.
The motion was unanimously approved.

Cameron Smith thanked Chair Herrera for his service as Chair over the past year. He stated effective July 1st incoming executive committee members begin their term at which time Chair Guthrie will review and recommend changes if needed. It is still the role of the former Chair to submit the Advisory Committee annual report to the Governor in September 2015.

Old Business:

Annual Report and Timeframe:

Included in the Committee packet is a draft outline and structure for the annual report for review and consideration. A draft report will be ready in August. The report will be submitted to the Governor in early September.

New Business:

Veteran Benefit Expo:

The Veteran Benefit Expo is scheduled for June 24, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Salem Convention Center and is free for veterans and their family. The event will provide a “one stop shop” experience and bring together state and federal benefits and programs as well as valuable community resources. There will be more than 50 different state and federal benefits representatives and more than 30 community resource organizations.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting:

The next Advisory Committee will be held at the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, 415 S. HWY 395, Hermiston, on Wednesday, September 2, 2015.

Public Comment:

Charles Upton, MOPH, Dept Commander stated HR 2036 passed and signed by the governor. HR 2036 is related to the Purple Heart Trail. The Purple Heart Trail an interstate that now stretches from Mexico to Canada and makes Oregon a Purple Heart State, one of 14.

John Stensland, MOAA commented he had the privilege on 15 April of going to Washington DC and represent MOAA in front of our congressional delegation. MOAAs main concern was to address the Presidents 2016 budget and military benefits. MOAA want the advisory committee to be aware and stand up and partner with MOAA to present concerns to elected officials.

Mr. Stensland also noted Representative Julie Parrish is proposing a constitutional amendment to allocate for 5% of lottery dollar to veterans programs and veterans support.

The United Veterans Group of Oregon which represents all 11 service organizations has stood behind this bill by gathering signatures and is anticipating getting the amendment on the 2016 ballot.

The Advisory Committee Business Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cameron Smith

The 78th Legislative Session adjourned in July after kicking off in February. With a solid budget and a number of significant policy bills, we are very thankful for the legislative support for our veterans and military families.

The department's biennial budget drives much of our efforts to serve and honor Oregon's veterans. This year, we were pleased to continue an additional \$1 million in funds above base budget to support County Veteran Service Offices. At the statewide level, we also doubled our training capacity for veteran service officers.

The Legislature also invested in essential resources to coordinate outreach to underserved veterans. We now have an Aging Veteran Services Director who is focused on how to better support the 52% of our veterans that served in Vietnam, Korea and WWII, and who have unique needs as they age. We'll also be hiring a Women's Veterans Coordinator to improve outreach to women veterans, the fastest growing demographic in our veterans' community.

We were able to pass a number of legislative bills to further honor our veterans. Interstate 5 was named to recognize our Korean War Veterans and also declared as the Purple Heart Trail. We now also have a law that all public buildings will fly the POW-MIA flag. We stand together to remember a forgotten war and to never forget those who have served and sacrificed for our state and country.

Other bills had significant policy and program impacts for our veterans. These included preference in public contracting for service disabled veteran owned businesses and priority enrollment for veterans at Oregon's community colleges and universities. We also continue to invest in suicide prevention efforts and linking veterans to crisis resources.

This summer, we marked the 70th anniversary of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). To celebrate, we proudly hosted a Veteran Benefit Expo to connect veterans to their earned benefits. The number of providers and partners dedicated to serving our veterans was impressive.

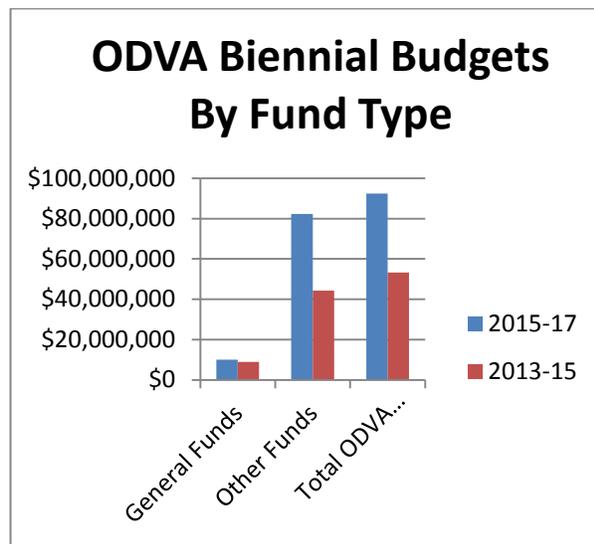
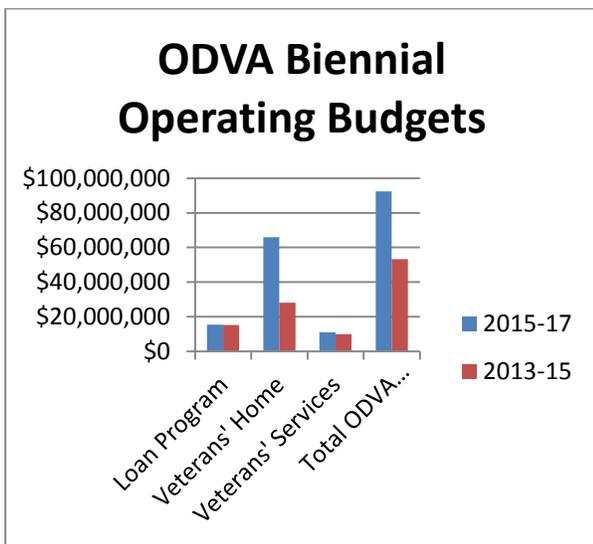
As we look forward, we want to build on our momentum to better serve our four generations of veterans. With the legislative session wrapped up, we'll be getting out across the state and engaging the veterans' community in conversation to develop a policy agenda with recommended strategies in key outcome areas.

With your advice and counsel, we will continue to chart out, advocate for and realize the essential support to ensure veterans thrive in Oregon.

FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION
Bruce Shriver, Chief Financial Officer

Legislative Approved Budget 2015-17 Biennium

The 2015 Legislature Session has now come to an end. Prior to adjournment, the Legislature passed the Department’s operating budget for the 2015-17 biennium and is presented below in graphical form along with the 2013-15 operating budget. The most significant difference between the two operating budgets is in the Veterans’ Home Program, reflecting the operation of the Lebanon Veterans’ Home for the entire 2015-17 biennial period.

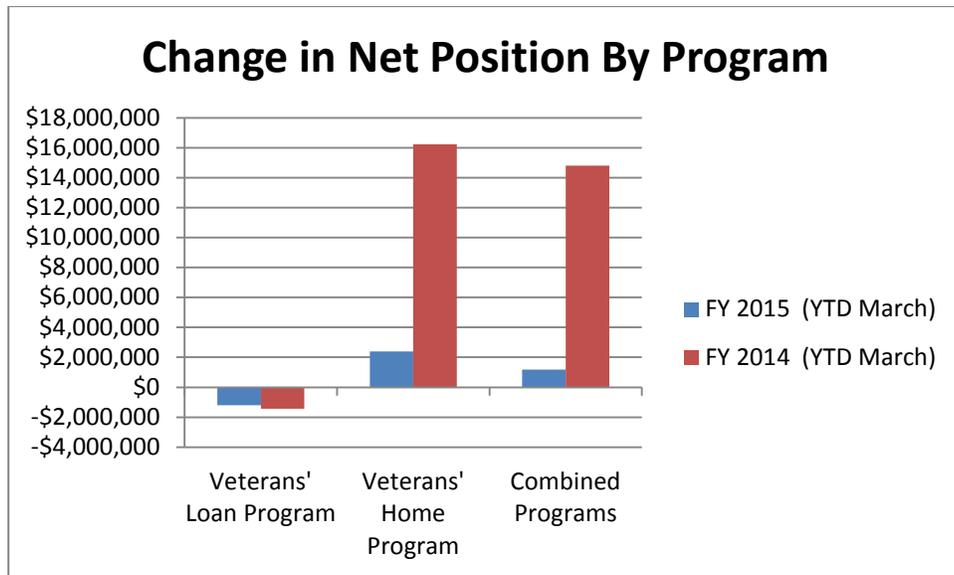


Unaudited Quarterly Financial Statements

The March 31, 2015 unaudited financial statements show a fiscal year to date reduction in net position in the Veterans’ Loan Program of approximately \$1.2 million. This figure does not include year-end adjustments such as updated arbitrage rebate calculations, but did include the impact of the issuance of the 2014 Series G & H bonds. The same period for the prior fiscal year also showed a decrease in net position of approximately \$1.4 million.

The Veterans’ Home Program shows an increase in net position of approximately \$2.4 million for the fiscal year to date, compared to an increase in net position of approximately \$16.2 million for the same period of the prior fiscal year. Included in these figures were transfers and capital contributions into the Veterans’ Home Program from the Veterans’ Home Trust Fund and federal grant monies which totaled approximately \$4.4 million for the first nine months of fiscal year 2015 compared to approximately \$13.9 million in the first nine months of fiscal year 2014.

The Changes in Net Position for both the Veterans' Loan Program and Veterans' Home Program are:



Other Financial Services Division Activities

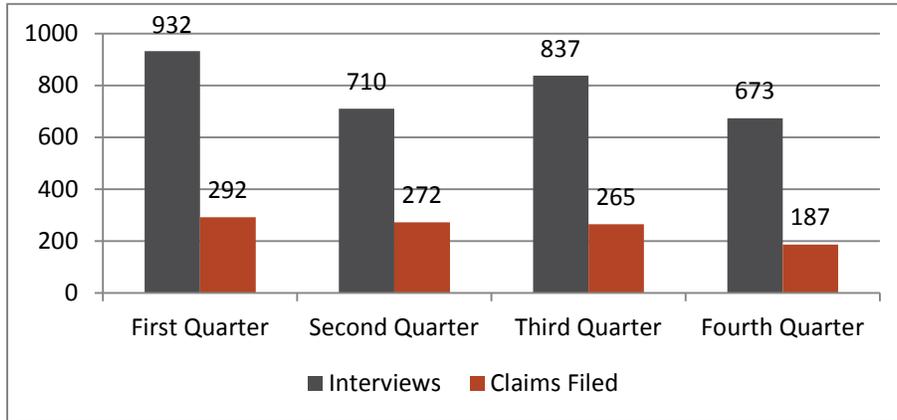
Over the past several months, the Financial Services team also worked on contracting & procurement efforts, implemented “positive pay” fraud prevention processes, help submit federal grant requests, processed federal grant reimbursements, worked on fiscal year 2015 financial statements and prepared for upcoming independent financial statement audits, participated in risk assessments, prepared arbitrage rebate calculations and conducted other post-issuance bond compliance activities, began planning for a fall bond sale to raise funds for new veteran home loans, and performed other related financial activities.

STATEWIDE VETERAN SERVICES
Mitch Sparks, Interim Manager

PROGRAMS

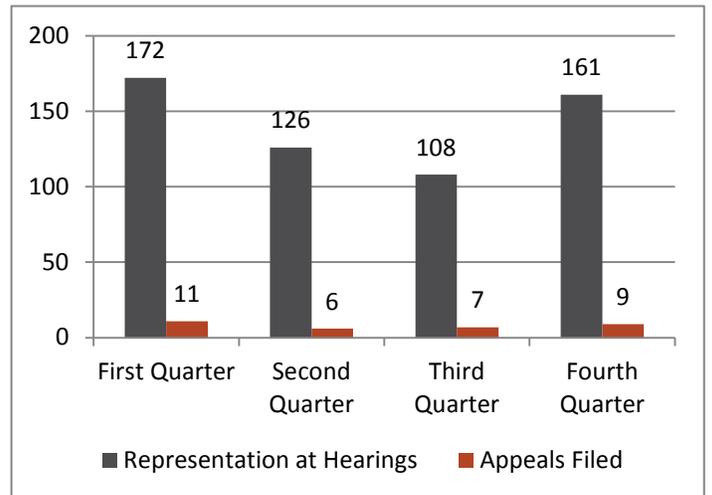
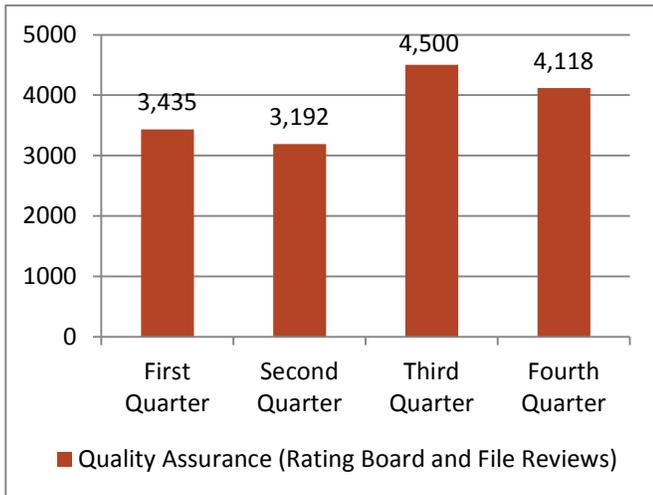
Statewide Veterans’ Services, Salem Office—Joe Glover, Manager

Mission – Providing general reception service for the agency and direct service to veterans, dependents and survivors for Marion and Polk Counties.



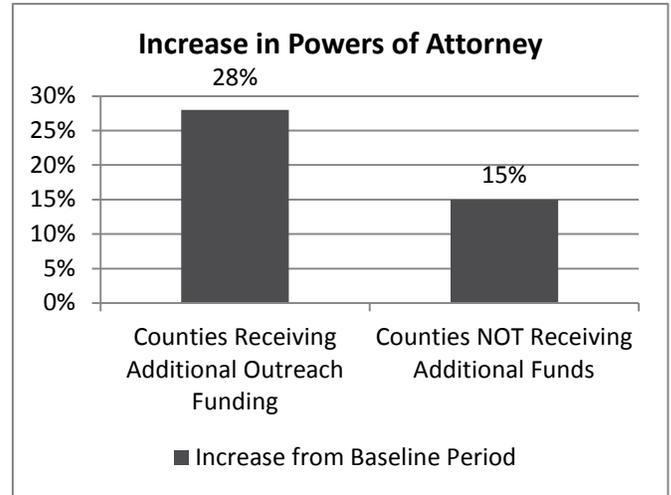
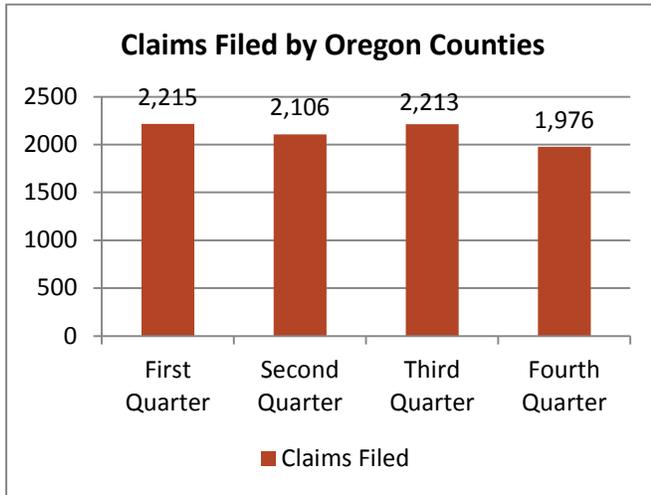
Statewide Veterans’ Services, Portland Office—Martin Ornelas, Manager

Mission - Support of the County Veterans Service Officers through guidance, quality assurance, and appellate representation, as well as interoperability with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Portland Regional Office.



County Veterans’ Service Offices

County Veterans’ Service Officers provide face-to-face interaction with veterans across Oregon, filing claims for earned federal benefits under ODVA’s Power of Attorney, assistance with guidance to local services, and a myriad of other functions in 34 of our 36 counties. To encourage outreach to unserved and underserved veterans, a competitive grant was offered for creative outreach solutions. Twenty-six counties proposed plans that were recognized with financial awards, ranging from \$2,300 to \$74,877. The grant period closed June 30, 2015.



Training Certification and Outreach—Mitch Sparks and Gus Bedwell, Program Analysts
 Klamath County VSOs Kathy Pierce and Kim Burk attended refresher training in Salem. Gus Bedwell, joined by Jeremy Woodall and Megan Eddy from the Edward C. Allworth Oregon Veterans’ Home, provided OSU staff and administrators with an overview of the home and veterans in Oregon. Lastly, Jeremy Woodall from the Edward C. Allworth Oregon Veterans’ Home and Pat McGuffin from Statewide Veteran Services – Salem Office became accredited Veteran Service Officers bring the total of accredited VSOs under ODVA’s Power of Attorney to 64.

Grants Management—Dave Cooley, Program Analyst
Emergency Financial Assistance

Fourth Quarter 2014-15 (Apr – June), 79 applications for grants were received, with 36 of those approved for a total of \$50,000. The average grant was \$1,389. Most approved grants continue to be for mortgage/rent and utility payments.

Highly Rural Transportation Grant

The grant is active. Eight rural counties with a population density of less than 8 residents per square mile, (Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Wallowa and Wheeler) are transporting veterans to VA and non-VA medical appointments.

Reported for April through June:

3,204.75	Hours of time expended on medical trips
1,018	Trips completed (one way: home to appointment)
82,052	Total miles driven
266	Veterans served

Lines For Life

The grant is active. Lines For Life provides 24 hour phone and text services to at-risk veterans and their families. 404 calls were logged for the period April 1 – June 30, 2015, an increase of 60 calls over last quarter, with an average wait time of only 14 seconds. Referrals were given to 40% of the callers for mental health appointments, drug and alcohol treatment, and assistance with the VA.

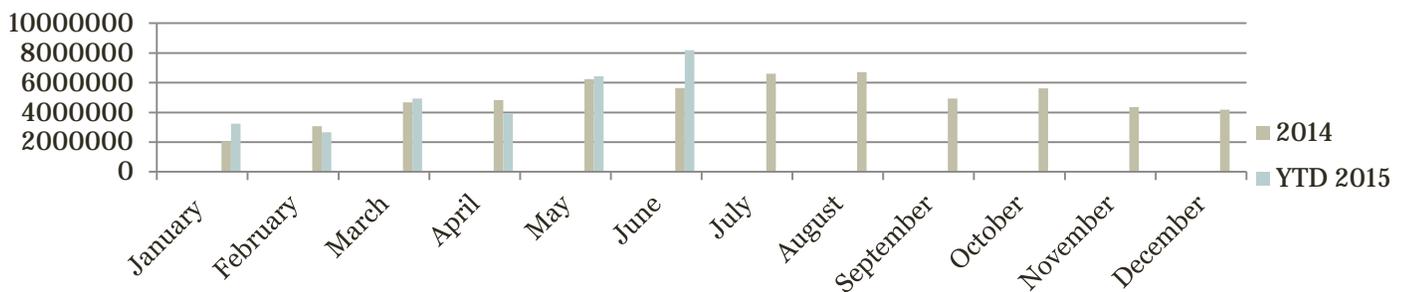
VETERANS' HOME LOAN PROGRAM Cody Cox – Home Loan Program Manager

Production Review

- For the 2nd Quarter 2015, the Home Loan Program closed 82 loans for a gross dollar volume of \$18,541,382. For the same period in 2014, the Home Loan Program funded 77 loans for \$16,714,647. This represents an increase of 6.5% in the number of units, with a 10.93% increase in dollar production.

With 6/30/2015 representing the fiscal year end, the Home Loan Program funded 264 units representing \$61,762,347. For 2014, we funded 261 units for \$53,815,480. This increase in dollar volume of \$7,946,867 is a 14.77% increase of the year end fiscal 2014. While the 264 units funded in fiscal year 2015 is the 4th highest in unit volume since 1998, the total dollar amount funded is the highest since 1998.

- The chart below shows a 2014 and 2015 Year-to-Date comparison of dollar volume funded for the OrVet Home Loan program.



- At the end of the second Quarter 2015, the ODVA has a total of 1881 loans in portfolio, with a total dollar amount under servicing of \$237,975,166. Of these, 1274 units and \$219,731,333 are new loans. Old loans were at 607 units totaling \$18,243,834. At the end of the second Quarter 2014, the ODVA had a total of 1934 for \$214,816,033 under servicing, with 1172 units at \$192,641,765 as new loans and 762 units at \$22,174,268 as old loans. **The total dollar amount of loans in portfolio grew \$23,159,133, or 10.78%**

Loan Delinquency Review

- For the reporting period of 06/31/2015, there were 2 State Owned Properties/Real Estate Owned (SOP/REO) in inventory, down 2 from the prior quarter. Of these 2 properties, 1 is pending sale on a lease with option to purchase providing an income stream to the Agency, and the remaining property was under contract but not sold at the end of the quarter.
- There were 4 loans in a Foreclosure status, unchanged from the last report date.
- The number of loans in Bankruptcy remains at 11.

- ODVA continues to experience reduced delinquency rates as compared to both Conventional and Government Residential Loan Programs. The Mortgage Bankers Association publishes a quarterly National Delinquency Survey and the following represents Oregon specific comparative data from the most recently available Second Quarter 2015 report.

The delinquency rate expressed as a percentage of total loans (units) past due for the Federal Veterans Affairs home loan program in Oregon was 3.03%, FHA home loans in Oregon were at 5.68% and Conventional Prime home loans Oregon were at 2.09%. Comparatively, the total delinquency for the ODVA home loan program was 1.8% at 34 units.

Quarterly Staffing News

- The OrVet Home Loan Program added one new person to staff in the 2nd Quarter 2015. We welcomed Diana Sullivan as our new Account Services Technician. Diana responsibilities include issuing payoff requests, transfers and satisfaction documents.

LEGISLATION, ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND AGENCY POLICY

Laurie Skillman, Senior Policy Advisor

The Oregon Legislature adjourned July 6, 2015. Of the 71 pieces of veteran-related legislation ODVA tracked, 28 veteran-related bills were passed, including ten that honor veterans, six that provide new state veteran benefits, four resolutions to Congress, and 12 that relate to the statewide services ODVA provides to veterans and their families.

Legislative honor and recognition bills include:

- HB 2036 designates Oregon highways as veterans' memorial highways: WWI Veterans Memorial Highway, Hwy 395; I-5 as both the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway and the Purple Heart Trail; Highway 101 as the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.
- Oregon is now officially a Purple Heart State (HCR 30).
- The POW/MIA flag will be displayed on public buildings (HB 2892) Beginning January 1, 2016.
- The Legislature individually honored six fallen members of the Armed Services.
- House Bill 2389 will streamline the process for Fallen Hero roadside memorial signs.

Highlights of veteran benefits legislation include:

- Veterans, active members and dependents given priority enrollment at public universities (HB 2645).
- Gold Star siblings will be able to obtain a Gold Star license plate (HB 2658).
- Public employers will be able to pay an employee, who is on leave to perform military duty, the pay the employee was entitled to prior to leaving (HB 2763).
- State will certify service-connected disabled veteran business for contracting (HB 3303).

Four resolutions urged Congress to recognize a presumption of service connection for Blue Water Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange (HJM 9); to support efforts to improve access to health care for veterans in rural areas (HJM 14); to change veterans' health care from discretionary to permanent (HJM 18); and to improve efforts to bring health care to veterans in rural communities (SJM 11).

Legislation relating to ODVA's efforts to provide services and benefits to veterans and their families include:

- ODVA will contract for a statewide study on healthcare services for women veterans (HB 2539).
- ODVA will be part of a task force on incarcerated veterans (HB 2838).
- ODVA and the county veteran offices will be able to appoint volunteer veteran guides (SB 89).

Legislation provided ODVA with two new veteran coordinators. A new women veterans coordinator will provide statewide outreach to women, address women's issues and coordinate an annual statewide conference (HB 3479). This fall, Oregon will become the first state in the country to have a coordinator for LGBT veterans who will help veterans discharged because of their sexual orientation change their discharge status and access benefits and help LGBT vets navigate other benefits allowances (SB 946).

Another key bill protects veterans by exempting ODVA from disclosing veterans personal information, (names, addresses, birth dates, driver license numbers, phone numbers, electronic mail addresses, marital status, dependents, the character of discharge from military service, and military rating or rank (SB 253).

ODVA has an email subscription service for Legislation and Rulemaking. Interested parties may subscribe by going to the ODVA website www.oregon.gov/odva and selecting "eSubscribe" on the right-hand side of the home page.

AGING VETERANS SERVICES
Mary Jaeger, Director
Conservatorship – Kelly Breshears, Manager

Mission: The central role of the conservatorship program is to manage the financial affairs of disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors who are unable to manage their finances.

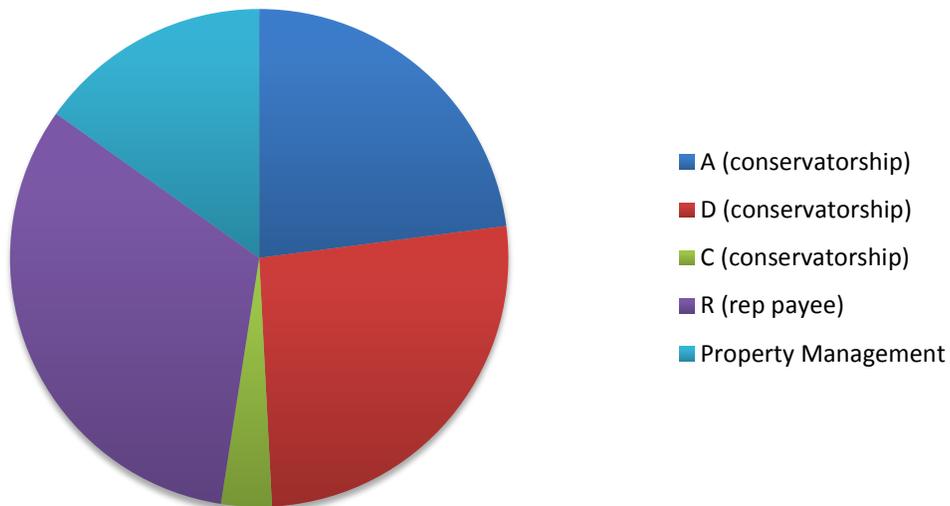
Interviews/Motions:

48	Field Interviews conducted
52	VA inquiries/responses
2	Incoming court inquiries
51	Annual/other Motions filed by ODVA
3	USDVA Claims filed

Current Status:

137	Protected persons currently under conservatorship
4	New conservator case gained this quarter
4	New conservator cases, pending court approval
79	Total Representative cases
5	Representative cases gained this quarter
4	Representative cases pending appointment

Caseload Distribution



AGING VETERANS SERVICES

Mary Jaeger, Director

Oregon Veterans Home, The Dalles - Dallas Swafford, Program Director

Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation

On August 4th, a group of veterans who live in the Oregon Veterans' Home, The Dalles, were honored to participate in the Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation program. Residents were given the opportunity to take flight in a Boeing Stearman Model 75 Biplane that was used as a World War II Navy training plane. The event took place at the airport in Dallesport, Washington, across the Columbia River from The Dalles. The local Fire Department assisted in seating our veterans in the cockpit and several OVHTD staff and community members came together to assist in making the event a magical experience for all the veterans who participated. One resident of the Veterans' Home in The Dalles who was a US Navy fighter pilot in WW II even had the opportunity to "take the stick" and fly the plane on his own. As it turns out, the Stearman is the same plane he trained on in the US Navy.



Casino Night

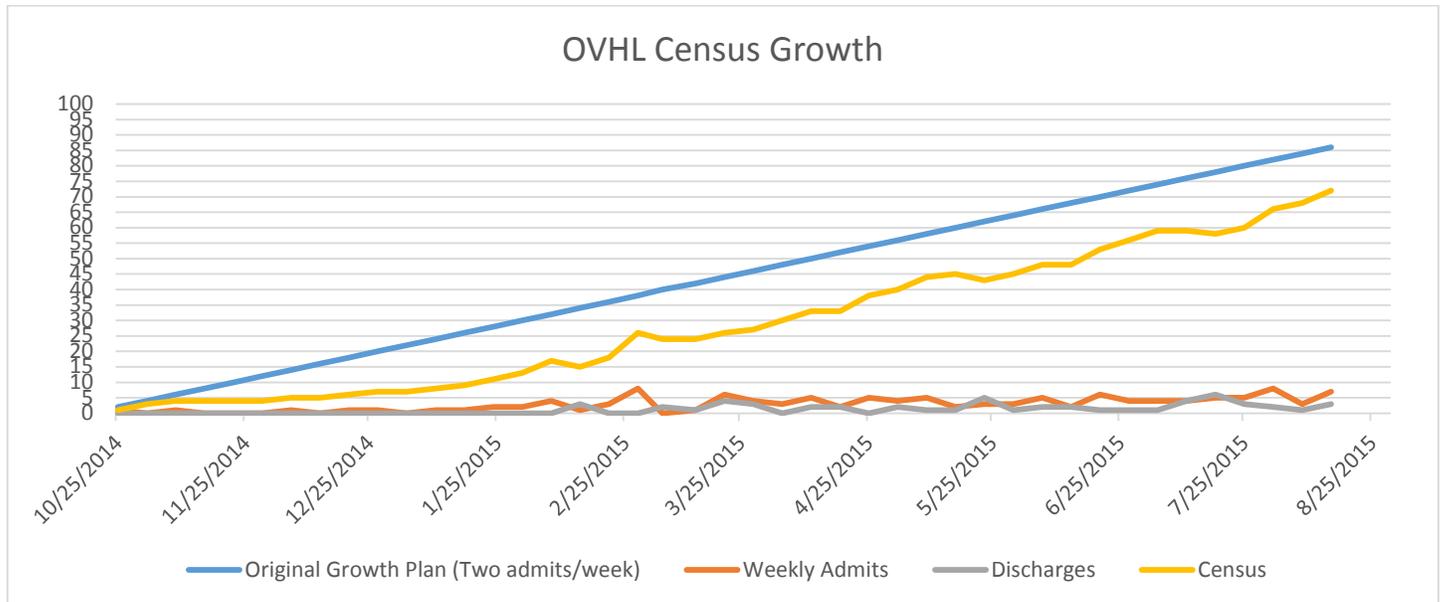
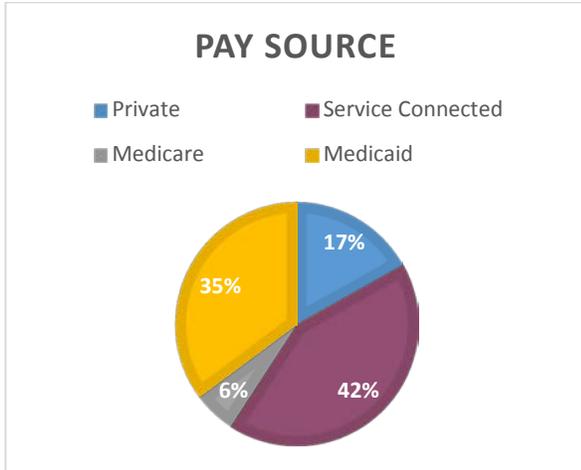
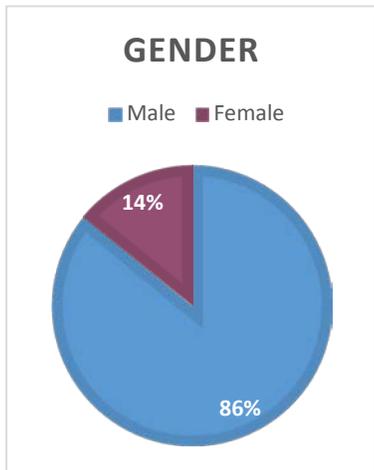
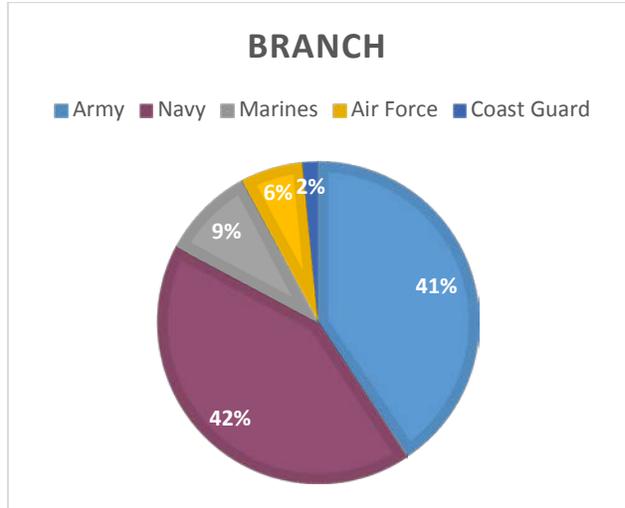
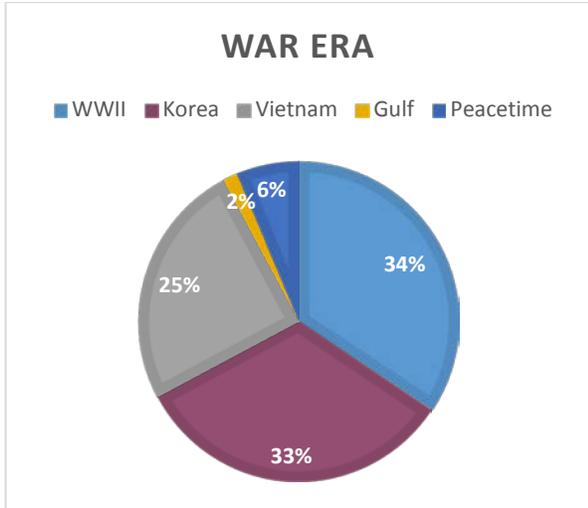
There has been an increase in the activities available to the veterans and spouses of veterans living in The Dalles. One reoccurring event that has been exceptionally successful is the monthly Casino Night held in the community center. Stan's room in the community is setup with poker tables, a roulette table, horse racing and there is even live music. To make the event even more exciting, a local group who call themselves the Floozies wear costumes like the clothing worn in Speak Easy's during the prohibition era and come up to the home and danced, oftentimes with the residents, which really gives the event a lively feel. Casino Night is something the residents really look forward to and goes a long way to enriching their lives at The Dalles.

AGING VETERANS SERVICES

Mary Jaeger, Director

Oregon Veterans Home, Lebanon – Jeremy Woodall, Program Director

The Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon celebrates its One Year Grand Opening Anniversary in September. Below are some snapshots showing where we are as of August 17, 2015.



FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION

John Osborn, Manager

The Dalles Veterans' Home

Construction on the new C wing garden is now complete. The D wing garden redesign is finished, however because of scheduling conflicts the contractor will not be able to start work until the end of September or first of October. The design change will ensure we provide a safe and accessible outdoor experience for all our residents in our memory care wing.

The low voltage contractor has completed all work on the new nurse call system, camera security system and the door access system. Staff training on these systems was also completed and commissioning of all systems has been finished.

On July 25th ODVA submitted a grant request to USDVA for a variety of small projects across The Dalles campus, they include; new flooring, painting public areas and resident rooms, new wall protection and handrails, remodel of nurse station and nutrition stations, replace furniture, remodel therapy/ rehab area, upgrade all interior lighting, remodel main kitchen, construction of a new storage building and activity room for the memory care unit. With matching funds in place we should be in priority group one when the priority list is published in January 2016.

Lebanon Veterans' Home

The Lebanon home at this writing has 66 residents. The facility is trending for 95% occupancy by May 2016. Westcare management, our home operator, is continuing to match staff to resident admissions in adherence with the staff to resident ratios prescribed by the Department of Human Services.

The architects and engineers have completed the construction drawings for the sidewalk canopy between C wing and D wings. Our general contractor is currently working on the final "not to exceed cost proposal" and a comprehensive work schedule. We will execute a change amendment to the contract once all documents are received and approved by DOJ. We will also be performing some adjustments to the memory care garden area in recognition that some original elements may pose a fall risk to our residents.

In addition, we are ordering the furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) that were not part of the original purchase when the home opened last October. These FF&E items will provide the final components necessary for the operation of the facility.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Nicole Hoeft, Manager

On June 24th, the agency drew attendance of an estimated 400 veterans to the state's first Veteran Benefit Expo. ODVA partnered with more than 50 representatives from state and federal agencies and more than 30 community providers that provide veteran benefits or administer veteran programs. The event was designed to introduce benefits and resources to veterans and their families by resource area, rather than by organization. This approach was well received by veterans and the feedback from both the partners and community was positive and encouraged a continued annual event.

In effort to amplify awareness of resources and build the Oregon veterans brand, a professional photographer was at the event to capture pictures of Oregon's veterans, families and the people who deliver services. We plan to use these images and stories to promote a positive image of veterans and their families across the agency's communication platforms.

STILL AT WORK

Eddie Shannon Black
 Veteran Service Officer
 Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
 Eugene, OR

OUR WORK BEGINS

Jennifer Borne
 Veteran Service Officer
 Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
 Eugene, OR

OUR WORK BEGINS

Jimmy Mayo
 Veteran Service Officer
 Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
 Eugene, OR

OUR WORK BEGINS

Carol Mayo
 Veteran Service Officer
 Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
 Eugene, OR

We all have a story.
 Even in unique as our individual service,
 we have a shared experience and bond.
 A brother and sisterhood that stretches
 the gender and generation gaps.
 We trained together and lived together.
 We were the ones on the left and the right.
 After our service, our life details differ,
 but the struggles and triumphs are similar.

OUR WORK BEGINS

Jerry Glesmann
 Veteran Service Officer
 Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
 Eugene, OR

