



Waushara County Veteran's Services Annual Update

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Office Priorities

- Offer assistance to Veterans and their survivors in gaining access to needed benefits and programs.
- Actively pursue outreach opportunities to educate the Veterans population on State and Federal benefits and germane legislative changes.
- Attend offered training in order to maintain National & State accreditation (required to legally represent Veterans)



2010 – 2011 Comparison

- CY 2010

81 New Compensation decisions

915 Client Visits

163 New Veterans

\$650,970 in Back-pay

- CY 2011 To Date

53 New Compensation decisions

450 Client Visits

113 New Veterans

\$504,302 in Back-pay



Success Stories

- Review of AO presumptives for Survivors Benefits
- Veteran deceased in 1997 – Widow submitted a claim but was denied service connection for cause of death.
- Widow was living on \$654 per month
- Identified her, convinced her to resubmit with our assistance.
- We won the claim, and they went back to the original date of claim.
- Bottom line: \$263,394.52 in back pay, \$1400 per month for life, and covered under health care.



Success Stories

- NSC Disabled Veteran (Laryngeal Cancer)
- Veteran called with tax lien of \$310,000
- Due to cancer, he had no earned income from 1991 – Present, however WI DOR “estimated” his earnings and placed the lien.
- Contact with SSA showed no earned income from 1991
- Working with IRS, SSA and WI DOR removed the lien and cleared the debt.
- Expanded presumptive service for Korean DMZ opens the opportunity to gain compensation, and change financial future.



Success Stories



- Homeless Veteran suffering from potentially life-threatening health concerns
- Got him into VA treatment within 24 hours
- Applied for ANV Grant for dental care to fix a hurdle to employment.
- Referred him to VAP, and, working with the HVRP coordinator, got him into the program at King.
- This has now led to full time employment and living in his own apartment.

Legislative Efforts

- **Veterans Trust Fund**
 - Would have been insolvent by July 2012
 - Actively lobbied local Government & Legislators
 - JCF included \$5M bailout
- **Post 9/11 vs WI GI Bill**
 - UW system mandated that Federal Benefit must be used first & each semester used of the Federal benefit would remove a semester of the State benefit.
 - JCF included Full Restoration in Budget Repair Bill.



Legislative Efforts

- **SB 96 / AB 97**

- Secretary of WDVA is now a Governor Appointed Position.
- Removed “Head of Agency” authority from Board of Veterans Affairs and placed them in an advisory role only.
- Increased from 7 – 9, the number of Members on the BVA (one from each district, and one Member at Large)



Outreach Success

- Creating Veterans Reference Section in the Redgranite Correctional Library
- Previously, access to Veterans was in an “Educational” role only (Classroom setting)
- Can now interact one on one with exchange of information and materials
- HVRP Coordinator now attends monthly meetings at RGCI
- Increased Meal Site visits to 3x per year at each site
- Job Fair in Appleton 115 veterans = 23 job offers that day.



Office Efficiencies

- Benefits Specialist is now a Nationally Accredited representative
- Making progress towards a “Mobile Electronic Claims” ability
- Evaluating Programs to assist with the “Paperless” claims initiative
- Attempting to reduce our paper footprint through scanned archives



Summary

- Bottom line, the office continues to evolve & we are changing lives
- Pretty big bang for the buck
(Office Budget – Approx \$170K
Financial impact – Approx \$16M)

QUESTIONS?

