

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**



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"Serving Those Who Served"

VETERAN VOICES

January 2018

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the Director



January 20, 2018

The start of a New Year also signals the beginning of the legislative budget cycle and the 2018 Legislative Session. This year, WDVA has some pretty significant ? asks? of the Governor and the Legislature. We are fortunate that Governor Inslee has included our budget requests in his version of the budget. Now we are working hard to share information with legislators serving on the Ways and Means, Appropriations, and Capital Budget Committees in the hopes that these items will be included in their budget versions as well. Our budget requests include:

- \$8.8m to fully fund the 2017 salary increases included in last year?s statewide collective bargaining agreements. WDVA received the authority to earn those dollars in federal and local funds, but there is no way for us to bill Medicare and Medicaid more than the allowable amount.
- \$6.5m to fill in gaps caused by lower than projected census at the Soldiers Home and Walla Walla Veterans Home.
- \$150,000 for our new veterans case management system.
- \$340,000 to hire a clinical compliance nurse who can help our homes navigate the new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid nursing home regulations.
- \$301,000 to manage compression and inversion issues in our pay scale caused by the salary increases in the first bullet.

We are also monitoring many pieces of legislation that have been carried over from the 2017 Legislative Session and introduced in the 2018 Session. You can track those on our website at: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/legislative-updates>

I am looking forward to a great 2018 with you, our friends and partners, as we work together to serve veterans and their families! -**WDVA Director, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos**

Holiday Party at Washington Soldiers Home

Holiday spirit was in the air at the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting on December 20, 2017. Residents first

enjoyed holiday cookies and snacks and are now meeting Santa for their Christmas and holiday presents. We would like to thank the many volunteers for assisting with today's event. [#WeLoveOurCommunity](#)

[MORE PHOTOS](#)



Veterans In-State Service Share Leave Program (VISSLP)

The Veterans In-State Service Share Leave Program (VISSLP) is now fully up and running. This is a new shared leave pool that WDVA is administering. VISSLP was created to allow general government and higher education employees to voluntarily donate leave to be used for a veteran to attend medical appointments or treatments for a service-connected injury/disability, or for employees whose spouse is a veteran that requires assistance while attending medical appointments or treatments for a service-connected injury or disability.

If you are interested in donating any excess leave or are in need of receiving any leave, please review the link below for eligibility criteria.

For more information, please visit the website at www.dva.wa.gov/benefits/veterans-state-service-shared-leave-program or contact your local HR consultant.

Washington State Legislative Update on Veterans Bills

The first day of the Regular 2018 Legislative Session was January 8, 2017 and the session will last 60 days.

You can find more information on each of the bills we're tracking, including updated hearing information, by clicking on the bill number below, or by visiting www.leg.wa.gov. Or if you have questions about a particular bill, you can e-mail heidia@dva.wa.gov.

Check the [WDVA Legislative Updates page](#) for updated information throughout the week!

VA Announces Rollout and Application Process for New Veterans ID Card

VA Announces Rollout and Application Process for New Veterans ID Card.

On November 28th, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that the application process for the national Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is now available for Veterans – yet another action honoring their service.



This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor Veterans, and today's rollout of the ID card fulfills that overdue promise.

Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services

where offered to Veterans.

"The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most Veterans to show proof of service," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "With the card, Veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain Veteran discounts and other services."

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, Veterans must visit vets.gov, click on "Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card" on the bottom left of the page and sign in or create an account.

Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov. A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December.

VA Decision Ready Claims Program Expands to Include More Types of Claims

As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) ongoing efforts to modernize and improve Veterans' experience with the disability claims process, VA unveiled its latest enhancements to the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) program, which will expand the pool of Veterans, surviving spouses and service members eligible to participate in the program.

"These enhancements are another key step in modernizing VA's benefits delivery to Veterans to a fully digital operating environment," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "With electronic claims processing as a foundation, VA's innovation will improve service to Veterans, their families and survivors."

[Read more](#)

Volunteers Needed - Point-In-Time Count on January 26th, 2018



The [Homeless Housing and Assistance Act](#) requires that each county in Washington State [conduct an annual point in time count](#) of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons.

This census is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The 2018 point in time count (PIT) will take place on January 25, 2018.

The Department of Commerce provides survey forms for counties and agencies to use for their counts. Counties can opt to use their own forms as long as the count is compliant with state guidelines linked [here](#).

Interested in volunteering? Visit

<https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/ls9mjm0ciqm1ddd4e07zf212vdrwv1td> for a list of point of contacts in each participating county.

Spokane and Fairchild Air Force Base Direct2Apprenticeship Event

APPRENTICESHIPS

Spokane and

Fairchild Air Force Base Direct2Apprenticeship Event

Apprenticeship & Nontraditional Employment for Women (ANEW) in partnership with Camo2Commerce, Washington State of Veteran Affairs, and Spokane Community College conducted its first Direct2Apprenticeship event in Spokane. This event focuses on informing service members, currently transitioning and veterans, on the career opportunities through apprenticeship. The event served as both an information session and a job fair. The event included industry speakers talking about apprenticeship opportunities in their fields as well as information on how the GI Bill® works with apprenticeships. The industries ranged from construction to aerospace manufacturing to information technology. After the information session concluded the networking began. Each service members was provided the opportunity to talk to over 15 different organizations representing various industries.

[Read more](#)

Veterans Training Support Center now part of WDVA

We are pleased to announce the [Veterans Training Support Center](#) (VTSC) is now a part of the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs Behavioral Health program.

The resources and reach of WDVA will allow VTSC to grow to new heights, and as the migration of administration, fiscal and operations from one agency to another is underway, we look forward to announcing our new director in January.

VTSC will continue to offer high quality and relevant trainings, and 2018, as in years... past, contains new and exciting workshops, including a brand new training on serious mental illness (SMI). Register often and see you soon!

<http://veteranstrainingsupportcenter.org/> or PeterS@dva.wa.gov



WDVA Hot

Jobs

[Nursing Assistant Residential Living \(WWWVH\)](#)

[Registered Nurse 2 \(WWWVH\)](#)

[Registered Nurse 3 Resident Care Manager Walla Walla](#)

[Registered Nurse 3 MDS Coordinator Non-permanent Orting](#)

More Info: recruiters@dva.wa.gov

Recently Hired a Veteran?

Join [YesVets!](#)

After you've notified us that you've hired a veteran, we will contact you to arrange delivery of your YesVets decals, to be prominently and proudly displayed at your place of business.

Thank you for your support of those who served!

Visit www.YesVets.org for more information and to sign up!



****Veterans
Hired through**

YesVets since 2016**
2167 Veterans Hired

Upcoming Events

View our WDVA Calendar to stay updated with upcoming events to attend

[02/24 - WA Patriotic Day](#)

[02/07 - Operation GoodJobs Networking Event](#)

[02/21 - Military Spouse Career Event on JBLM](#)

February 2018						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

WDVA Web Calendar: www.dva.wa.gov/calendar

WDVA Facebook Calendar: www.facebook.com/WSDVA/Events



Learn more about the Max Impact Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Mobile Application by visiting:
<http://dva.wa.gov/benefits/traumatic-brain-injury-tbi>

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