



## Director's Message

*A Monthly Update  
From Your WDVA*



*John E. Lee*  
[john@dva.wa.gov](mailto:john@dva.wa.gov)  
360-725-2152

May 4, 2009

### AGENCY BUDGET UPDATE

The WDVA budget team is in the process of analyzing the final legislative budget document. As we conduct the complete budget analysis, I did want to share some general information on what changes have been made to our veterans programs and services:

- \$500,000 to replenish the Veterans Innovations Program account. This funding provides emergency assistance to returnees from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- \$261,000 transferred to the Eastern Washington State Veterans Cemetery from the Veterans Stewardship account. These funds are generated through the sale and renewal of Armed Forces license plates.
- Reduction of \$822,000. This is the legislature's anticipated savings of our cut-backs in hiring, travel, equipment purchases and our overall agency efficiencies.
- \$1.6 million increase in Federal Funds and \$1.6 million reduction of State Funds. As described in last month's message, it is expected that the State Veterans Homes will earn more federal revenue through the Medicaid and Medicare programs to offset the decrease in state dollars.
- \$150,000 from King County to support County specific Operation Military Kids outreach through our PTSD program.
- \$200,000 increase in State Funds to replace the Orting phone system which has been failing.
- \$659,000 increase in Federal Funds and \$421,000 decrease in State Funds for the Building 9 Transition Housing expansion from 40 beds to 60 beds. (This is a net increase of \$247,000 in Federal Funds.)
- Reduction of \$210,000 in State Funds for positions working on special projects.
- Reduction of \$1 million in State Funds for the Veterans Conservation Corps Academy stipend program. The VCC Academy stipends were not funded because of changes made to the federal GI Bill which will provide a similar stipend program.

This budget takes effect on July 1, 2009. WDVA will need to continue our budget saving measures and we may need to do more to stay within our budget over the next two years. I will continue to keep you informed as we move forward.

### FLU INFORMATION

As a precautionary measure to keep our staff and residents healthy, WDVA engaged its Continuity of Operations Plan Team or COOP Team on April 29 to talk about the swine flu and its potential impact. (COOP is an effort within state agencies to ensure the continued performance of vital services during a wide range of potential incidents and emergencies.)

As a part of our heightened awareness, you will see the following activities and actions being taken if you visit any of our facilities:

- Flu information outreach such as letters to resident families, notices on doors and information centers in reception areas. (These letters and notices ask individuals not to visit if they are sick.)
- Ordering extra supplies, masks, gloves, etc.
- Regular cleaning of reception area countertops.
- Required use of interview rooms in Service Centers and Building 9.

We will continue monitoring the situation with our state and local health departments. If you or your Veterans Service Organization need any information, please contact us or visit: [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov) and take a look at this [Checklist](#) provided by the U.S. Department of Health.

### VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

In preparation for Memorial Day, the Department of General Administration is coordinating several projects at the Capitol Campus Vietnam Veterans Memorial. There may be times when visitors will have limited access to the memorial during the next several weeks. We ask for your patience as we complete this important work by May 19. The work will include:

- Repair and re-lamp light fixtures
- Remove, clean, replace glass blocks in bench
- Clean granite surfaces, finish polished granite
- Re-caulk all seams, add weep holes
- Re-caulk expansion joints in concrete plaza floor; pressure scrub concrete floor
- Replace azalea plants at front of memorial; trim overhanging shrubs
- Add one new name to wall and touch up in-painting in certain inscriptions and names

A Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 25 at 12:30pm.

[Flyer](#)