

## **Astoria Tour, Leadership and Town Hall Notes**

### **Camp Rilea Meeting –**

- ◆ Who the Task Force is.
- ◆ What the Task Force has done so far.
- ◆ VFW is helping collect DD-214's from new veterans.
- ◆ Camp Rilea CBOC having trouble recruiting staff.
- ◆ Camp Rilea CBOC would like equal pay with Portland for FTE to help bring in and keep qualified employees.
- ◆ List of medical services that Camp Rilea CBOC provides.
- ◆ “Almost no vets qualify for VA dental coverage.”
- ◆ There needs to be more funds in the ODVA Emergency Fund to help veterans.

### **Warrenton Leadership Meeting –**

- ◆ Where Task Force has been and why.
- ◆ Anecdotes of how the Emergency Fund has helped veterans.
- ◆ Considering imbedding VSO's into military units.
- ◆ Transportation to clinics is an issue.
  - All volunteer driven.
  - Cost of gas is too high.
  - No shows at clinics is costly.
- ◆ Vets Night at the Elks.
- ◆ Filling vacancies at Camp Rilea is difficult.
- ◆ New vets are blogging and chatting instead of joining service organizations because their communities are online. Older veterans needed vet centers.
- ◆ Work with Habitat For Humanity to create an identifiable structure to be built on campuses and used as a vet center.
- ◆ Female veterans have special assistance needs.
  - Campus locations could be good for them.
- ◆ Some state university campuses are creating vet centers now.

**Continued...**

## **Astoria Town Hall –**

- ◆ Who, What and Why of the Task Force.
  - ◆ \$1.2 billion is coming into the state from Federal VA benefits to veterans.
  - ◆ There needs to be a local newsletter or webpage on what benefits are available to veterans.
  - ◆ Needs to be better communication around the state regarding veterans.
  - ◆ ODVA has website and newsletter with vet related information.
  - ◆ Some veteran benefits are time sensitive.
  - ◆ State should have access to Federal VA records.
  - ◆ Military health records should be available to the VA.
  - ◆ TRICARE reimbursements are too low. No incentives.
  - ◆ Wish list of what people would like to see:
    - Need transportation for wheelchair users regardless of if it is service-connected.
    - Help for dementia-affected veterans.
    - Dental assistance.
    - More homeless outreach.
    - “Oxford Housing” similar to Washington’s
    - Give docs who take TRICARE a tax incentive.
    - Too much paperwork to process a vet.
      - Make it more uniform between state, federal, etc.
    - Access to dental care.
    - TBI patients need immediate help.
    - Educational benefits.
    - Military almanac needs to be given to servicemembers.
  - ◆ There is plenty of housing for criminals and the insane, but not for vets.
- TBI – soldiers are surviving trauma that would have killed them in the past.