

Florence Town Hall Meeting Notes

There was a number of hearing impaired veterans who stated that they had tried to get VA medical care, but were over income and denied. Some of these veterans met with Tom Mann after the meeting to discuss filing claims for service connection for hearing loss and then getting access to VA medical care as service-connected veterans. (NOTE: Tom followed up with the Lane County CVSO so these veterans could file their claims).

One gentleman was rather disgruntled and spoke many times throughout the evening. Apparently, he had been approved for Fee Basis but recently his approval had been revoked. Access to care is an issue for communities not located near a VA clinic or facility. This gentleman was very upset at the entire VA system.

The Task Force was told that the DAV driver system in Florence was very good, but confirmed it could not accommodate wheelchair bound veterans.

Paul Evans determined that all the participants did receive electric billings from the county and that it would be feasible to mail information to veterans via the county bills. This mailing could include a list of all the services available to veterans.

There was a question regarding how the County Veterans Service Officers are connected to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Task Force explained the process.

The participants asked that veterans' services budgets be stabilized. The discussion also involved how the VA Health system does not fund category 8, which is the category for veterans who are currently over income for VA health care.