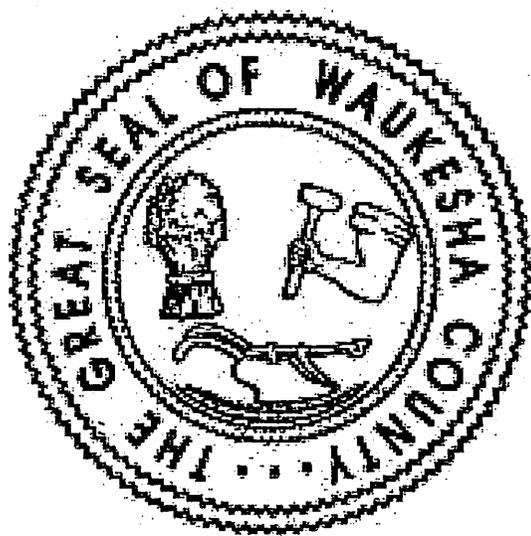


Waukesha County

Veterans Service Office



Annual Report
2014

WAUKESHA COUNTY DEPT. OF VETERANS SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

June 24, 2015

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Waukesha County, Wisconsin

Total number of veterans in Waukesha County as of September 30, 2014, per VA figures was 27,035. This does not include the number of dependents of veterans which, when added with the veteran population, can easily triple this figure. Per Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) data the veteran population in Waukesha County is 92% male and 8% female. Only 41% are in the working ages of 17 to 64 years old.

We no longer receive the Recently Discharged Veteran's listing from WDVA. WDVA states that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Dept. of Defense (DOD) and WDVA prevents WDVA from sharing the recently discharged veteran's lists. It would appear that the MOU is in conflict with the State Statute. Wisconsin Statute 45.04(b)(2) states that "Separation documents and copies of separation documents evidencing service in the armed forces of the U.S. are confidential and privileged. Examination of these records in the possession of the department or service office is limited to authorized employees of the department or service office and information entered in these records may be disclosed only to veterans and their duly authorized representatives or to interested governmental agencies for the purpose of assisting veterans and their dependents to obtain the rights and benefits to which they may be entitled."

We can access copies of the veteran's DD214 in the WDVA VBATS Database. However, we need the veteran to sign for the document and therefore need to know that they have returned to the county.

We did obtain a list from the VA of Waukesha County veterans who were discharged between January 2012 – December 2014. We received 617 names of which we had previous contact with only 94. After editing the list for duplicates we mailed out 505 letters to establish contact. We received 112 responses. Most of those responses were from veterans discharged within the last six months of 2014.

In 2014, there were 8,695 incoming phone calls, 9,037 e-mails, 1,821 pieces of mail received via e-mail transmission and 4,116 client visits to the office. A total of 60 appearances on behalf of veterans were made during the year. The Milwaukee Vet Center, had 960 client contacts in our office in 2014.

The degree of economic impact that veterans' programs have on our county may be revealed by the following totals of state and federal benefits paid to Waukesha County veterans and their dependents or survivors.

BENEFITS REPORTED BY FEDERAL & STATE AGENCIES

Veterans Administration (VA) payments for the last fiscal year are as follows:

VA Guaranteed Home Loans	\$ 83,734,290
Medical Expenditures *	60,613,000
Compensation and Pension	57,247,000
Education Benefits	9,835,000
Insurance and Indemnities	3,246,000
Total Federal Benefits:	<u>\$ 214,675,290</u>

* Medical expenditures are federal VA dollars expended to provide care for Waukesha County veterans at VA facilities.

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) payments are as follows:

Property Tax Credit (327)	\$ 1,231,741
Education Grants (3)	10,422
Retraining Grants (2)	6,000
Subsistence Aid Grants/ANV (1)	3,000
Health Care Aid Grant (7)	4,320
Total State Benefits:	<u>\$ 1,255,483</u>

The Property Tax Credit (PTC), numbers do not reflect the 61 Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) that we processed in January 2015 for widows that were eligible for the credit in 2014. The report from WI-DOR comes out in November of each year. Hence, it did not reflect recent additions.

Based on the current average PTC return of \$3,766.79, the 61 DIC cases will generate an additional \$229,774.19 in monies returned to these widows. Currently 81% of widows in receipt of DIC in Waukesha County are also in receipt of the PTC.

Additional educational benefits for the Wisconsin GI Bill are not reported by either the University of Wisconsin system or the Wisconsin Technical schools.

TOTAL FEDERAL AND STATE BENEFITS: \$ 215,930,773
(Received by Waukesha County veterans and/or their Dependents)

WISCONSIN VETERAN'S HOMES

The numbers of veterans, spouses and/or widows/widowers from Waukesha County residing at the Wisconsin Veteran's Homes are:

King - 10
Union Grove - 5

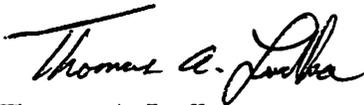
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

The amount of expenditures by the Veterans Service Commission in 2014 was \$5,908 for Veterans Relief. Administrative expenditures for the Veterans Service Commissioners were \$838. The Commission met five times in 2014. Funding from other Veterans Service Organizations provided an additional \$3,490 in financial assistance. Total direct assistance to veterans was \$9,398 of which 37% was funded by Veteran Service Organizations i.e. American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, Waukesha Kiwanis Club and private individuals.

The Veteran Service Office is a very cost effective operation of county government. The 2014 Budget of \$287,074, of which \$274,074 was from the tax levy, resulted in a return of \$215,930,773 federal and state dollars to Waukesha County veterans and their dependents. This equates to \$787.86 return for every levy dollar invested.

There were no inquiries for Indigent Veteran Burials in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. Ludka
Veterans Service Officer

TAL/msm