



2650 LaFRANIER ROAD • TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49686-8972  
PHONE (231) 995-6070 • FAX (231) 929-1983 • TDD: (231) 922-4412  
EMAIL: veterans@grandtraverse.org



## Director's Report - Leelanau

September 10, 2019

I would like to start off my saying thank you for allowing our office to assist Leelanau County veterans! The 2019-2022 Memorandum of Understanding that started in January of this year outlined a couple changes for services that were provided. It was added that the Grand Traverse County Department of Veterans Affairs would provide a monthly outreach event in Leelanau county.

### **MVAA – Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency**

New Director - The new MVAA Director Zaneta Adams was in town for the Northern Michigan Fair on August 5. Her office staff had made a morning appointment with me to go over key issues for veteran in our area and across Michigan. I had given them a couple issues to talk about and they had already taken action prior to our meeting. On combat related license plates (Purple Heart, Disabled Veteran, etc) I stated it was a disservice to have veterans pay extra for plates due to their injuries. They stated the Secretary of State agreed and they are crafting legislation to do away with those extra fees. I also asked about offering free or reduced cost hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans with a 10% or greater. They spoke to the DNR and they stated that the DNR was not as agreeable to change the fee structure as the amount of money that would be lost could not be made up elsewhere. The last item about changing property tax exemptions was met with conversations of where the money would be made up and the state wants to lower the exemption already.

**MVAA County Grant** – The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has a County Veterans' Service Grant that will provide a base of either \$25,000 or \$50,000 and then additional monies depending upon the veteran population in each county. I have talked to Chet and provided MVAA with a letter of intent for the grant. The main focus will be on advertising and possibly dental grants.

The MACVC board continue to meet with MVAA to work on reshaping the new County Veterans Grant. Our monthly meetings help build a better relationship between our two agencies. The governor and legislature are still at an impasse of \$2.1 or \$4.2 million.

### **Veterans Treatment Court**

We are in the beginning phases of forming an official Veterans Treatment Court for the 86<sup>th</sup> District. This week Justice for Vets will be traveling to Grand Traverse to train our team members for the court.

### **Outreach Strategy 2020**

We are looking at changing our outreach model for 2020. Currently, every third Friday of the month, we are in the basement of the government building for a Veterans' benefit forum, with little to no visitors. We also have a table the Leelanau and Grand Traverse Senior expos. With the assistance of the MVAA grants, advertising and moving our forum around to various locations, I am hopeful that we will continue to see an upward trend in client visits to the office.

### **Peshawbestown**

Neal Horning from Eagletown American Legion and I met with GT Band Chairman about the having a Veterans' Forum at least once a month in their administrative offices to help native veterans. This is something that has been talked about for a while, but we are finally seeing progress.

### **Office Statistics**

*As you see by the graph provided, that our outreach is growing the number of clients that come into the office.*

## LEELANAU OFFICE VISITS

■ 2018 ■ 2019

