From:	Scurr, Sheri
To:	Art Widhalm; Bill Willing; Brian Becker; Bruce Knutson; Christian, Clayton; Connie Lasalle; Cooney, Mike; Dan Bernhardt; David Boyd; Deb Matteucii; Denny Lenoir; Doug Brown; emvh; Gary Sorensen; Gary White; Harry Lafriniere; "J. Underahl"; Jason Smith; Jim Heffernan; Joe Foster; Joe Parsetich; Joe Walsh; John Keefe; Johnathon Kenneway; Larry Jent; Lee Hyslop; Luke Petriccione; Mary Creech; Matthew Quinn; Michael Hagenlock; Mike Clouse; Pete Gardzina; Peter Olson; Randy Martin; Roger Hancock; Ryan Lachau; Sarah Price; Shawn Backbone; Slyvia Beals; Tim Gavin; Tim Peters ; Trena Bonde; Luchau, Ryan; Price, Sarah
Cc:	Sen. Dee Brown ; Rep. Bryce Bennett
Subject:	Veteran outreach legislative request
Date:	Tuesday, September 02, 2014 1:03:14 PM
Attachments:	17Nov-2014.pdf
Importance:	High

All Veterans Affairs Interested Persons –

I am sending this email on behalf of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee (SAVA) of the State Legislature. On Aug. 15, SAVA instructed me, as the committee's staff, to contact stakeholders and any interested persons concerned with providing outreach, services, or benefit claims help to veterans and their families in order to solicit a "wish list" of ideas for state legislation to promote two things:

1. community outreach to help veterans and their families learn about and navigate the range of services and benefits available and to connect them to what they may need (housing, employment, mental health treatment, benefit claims help, etc.); and

2. statewide technical assistance for this community-based effort.

This "wish list" of ideas for state legislation could encompass three types of legislative approaches:

1. legislation that would establish a policy framework in statute for this community-based effort and statewide technical assistance (i.e., to place in statue a "who, what, where, when, how" as a map for community-based efforts and to designate or establish a statewide coordinator)";

2. legislation that would provide for specialized changes or additions to state statutes concerning certain programs (e.g., selected changes to statutes concerning veteran-related programs in the areas of housing, employment, mental health, benefit claims, the role of veteran service officers, the scope of the mission for the board of veterans affairs, etc); and

3. legislation that would provide funding (e.g., a state grant program to assist community-based efforts).

The committee would like anyone with legislative ideas in these areas to send their ideas to me at sscurr@mt.gov . I can then forward your ideas to the SAVA members. SAVA members will then review the ideas submitted and instruct me to draft any bills they would like to consider as potential committee bills for the 2015 Session. ***Your ideas need to be***

submitted to me by October 1st. SAVA will discuss the forwarded ideas and bill drafts at its final meeting on Monday, Nov. 17, in Room 137 of the State Capitol. A tentative agenda will be posted on SAVA's website at www.leg.mt.gov/sava. In the meantime, a working, unofficial draft of the agenda is attached with this email.

The discussion on veteran-related bill drafts is tentatively scheduled for 3:15 p.m., Nov. 17, but please stay tuned for any changes and continue to check the SAVA website for any updates. The website will be updated throughout the weeks leading up to the November 17 meeting to provide access to all meeting materials as they become available. Public comment is invited during the meeting. Written public comment is encouraged. Also, please feel free to sign up at the following link for email notification of any changes to the agenda or website. http://leg.mt.gov/css/Lyris/email_logon.asp

I have not received return phone calls from the following organizations and do not have an alternative point of contact or email for them:

1st Marine Division Association (did reach the listed president, but he is not actively engaged)

American Legion Auxiliary (phone call not returned)

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary (phone call not returned)

40 & 8 (phone call not returned)

Vietnam Veterans of America (phone call not returned)

1st Special Services Force (phone call not returned)

Also, I have not located anyone associated with an the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA).

If anyone has recent contact information or an email for an active representative of these groups, please forward the information to me, and

PLEASE FORWARD THIS E-MAIL TO THEM AND ANY OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND INTERESTED PERSONS YOU KNOW.

Thank you.

Sheri Scurr

Research Analyst

Montana Legislative Services Division

(406) 444-3596