

Board of Veterans' Affairs - Montana Veterans' Affairs Division

July 2017

Agency Overview - Highlights

For the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

Board of Veterans' Affairs

The Board of Veterans' Affairs is an independent state entity that oversees the Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD), which is administratively attached to the Department of Military Affairs (DMA). DMA has no role in providing veteran services other than to provide administrative support to the Board and MVAD.

Board members are appointed by the governor to 4-year staggered terms. Board members are limited to 2 terms.

Overview:

- 20 members (11 voting, 9 nonvoting)
- Not compensated, except for travel, meals, and lodging expenses.
- Meets at least 3 times a year.
- Hires its own staff, including an administrator who serves as the board secretary and represents the board in all communications with the governor. (See Section 2-15-1205, MCA.)

Voting members:

- 5 regional representatives, must be honorably discharged veterans;
- 1 member at large, must be honorably discharged veteran;
- 1 tribal member, who must be an honorably discharged veteran; and
- 3 members with training, education, or experience related to veterans' issues, including but not limited to health and medical care, mental health care, chemical or drug dependency, homelessness, or job training and placement.

Nonvoting members:

- 1 representative of the Office of State Director of Indian affairs;
- 1 representative from the Department of Public Health and Human Services;
- 1 representative of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
- 1 representative of the Veterans' Employment and Training Service Office in the United States department of labor;
- 1 representative of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee;
- 3 members, each representing a member of Montana's congressional delegation; and
- the director of the Department of Military Affairs.

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Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD)

Administrator, Joseph Foster, (406) 324-3741, jofoster@mt.gov.

Website: <http://montanadma.org/montana-veterans-affairs>

MVAD's Responsibilities

Benefit Claims Assistance

- Operates 10 statewide service offices: Belgrade, Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, Miles City, and Missoula.
- Prepares and file benefit claims for veterans and their families.
- Represents veterans and their families in the claims and appeals process of the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Provides regularly scheduled veterans outreach services throughout the state.
- Advises veterans and their families on veterans benefits, and assist in obtaining legal and medical documentation to support claims.
- Obtains military service records and awards.
- Coordinates assistance with other veterans service organizations and government agencies.
- Educates, advises and assists the general public and government agencies on veterans affairs and issues.

State Cemetery Program

- Administers, operates and maintains 3 State Veterans' Cemeteries: Ft. Harrison, Miles City, and Missoula
- Receives donations for State Veterans Cemeteries.
- Represents the State of Montana as a member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

Optional Duties under section 10-2-102(1)(e), MCA):

- development and distribution of a services and benefits directory;
- regular public service announcements through various media;
- information to assist veterans and their family members in obtaining federal benefits and treatment services related to depleted uranium exposure
- an Internet website with information and links relevant to veterans and their families and including information about board meetings and activities related to veterans' affairs; and
- a quarterly newsletter, which may be printed or electronically distributed by e-mail or by posting it to an appropriate website.

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Programs, FTE, and Budgeted Funding: FY 2018-19

Source: Legislative Fiscal Division

Programs	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Revenue	Proprietary	Total Biennial Funds	% General Fund
Veteran's Affairs	26.12	\$2,370,358	\$1,616,880	\$0	\$0	\$3,987,238	59%

Budget Highlights based on LFD Fiscal Report

The Legislature approved an increase of 9.9% (or approximately \$360,000) compared to the 2017 biennium. Significant changes included:

- Reductions to general fund and state special revenue appropriations of 5%, which included personal services funding related to 0.88 FTE.
- Reductions to general fund and state special revenue appropriations due to an additional 2% vacancy savings.
- Increase in general fund allocation to personal services for 1.00 FTE for a Veteran Service Officer position.

Statutory Advisory Councils

- None.

Statutorily Required Reports

- Biennial report - 10-2-102(1)(i), MCA

Most Recent Legislative Audits

- None. (Financial compliance audits included with DMA)

Veteran-related Bills That **PASSED** During 2017 Session

* denotes By Request of SAVA

- [HB 118](#) *- Windy Boy (D) - Revise and fund state suicide prevention program (includes veteran suicide prevention).
- [HB 159](#) - Cook (R) - Designate Shelby veterans' memorial.
- [HB 271](#) - Cook (R) - Establish honor and remember medallion for military service.
- [HB 279](#) - A. Rosendale (R) - Revise period for retention of unclaimed veteran remains.
- [HB 308](#) - Schreiner (D) - Apprenticeship tax credit with increased credit for veterans.
- [HB 311](#) - Peppers (D) - Veteran preference for hunting access on certain block management areas on Veterans' Day.
- [HB 485](#) - Manzella (R) - Revise drivers license laws related to veterans.
- [SB 303](#) - Buttrey (R) - Revise Montana veteran home loan laws.
- [SJ 32](#) - Olszewski (R) - Study emergency care provider training and scope of practice, including establishing a community veteran emergency care provider license endorsement type (see HB 538 and HB 612).

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Veteran-related Bills That FAILED During 2017 Session

- [HB 14](#) - Keane (D) - State infrastructure bonding, included appropriation for construction of a Southwestern Montana veterans' nursing home.
- [HB 71](#)* - McKamey (R) - Require certain licensed health professionals to be trained in suicide prevention.
- [HB 117](#)* - Windy Boy (D) - Appropriation for grants to local veteran suicide prevention efforts.
- [HB 162](#) - Peppers (D) - Provide appropriation for purple heart scholarship program.
- [HB 259](#) - Webber (D) - Help veterans with startup costs for micro businesses.
- [HB 260](#) - Webber (D) - Generally revise state's veteran home loan program.
- [HB 538](#) - Hopkins (R) - Revise laws related to emergency care providers for veterans.
- [HB 589](#) - McKamey (R) - Extend benefits for purple heart veterans to certain additional military honor recipients.
- [HB 605](#) - G. Hertz (R) - Tax credits for businesses on or adjacent to Montana Indian Reservations and for employing tribal member or a veteran.
- [HB 612](#) - Hopkins (R) - Revise laws related to emergency care providers and veterans.
- [SB 322](#) - Connell (R) - Revise vehicle registration fee laws related to veterans.
- [SB 354](#) - Caferro (D) - Revise cigarette and tobacco taxes and other related laws.

SAVA Activities Since 2013

- 2013-14 Interim: Veteran outreach.
- 2015-16 Interim: Veteran suicide prevention.

Hot Topics of 2017 Session

- Veteran suicide prevention.
- Bonding for construction of a Southwestern Montana veterans' nursing home.

ATTACHMENTS

Board Members Directory
MVAD Staff Directory
MVAD Facilities and Addresses

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**STATE OF MONTANA
VETERANS AFFAIRS DIVISION**

**Term
Ends Qualifications**

6/5/2017

VOTING MEMBERS

MILAM, Ronald	701 Rollins St.	Missoula, MT 59801	(406) 529-2499	Hc7helomech@msn.com	8/1/2018	Region 1
SORENSEN, Gary	3023 Martinwood Road	Missoula, MT 59802	(406) 728-3278	gas35@q.com	8/1/2019	Experience with Veterans Issues
ERICKSON, Byron	12450 Clarkston Road	Three Forks, MT 59752	(406) 285-6562	Prosperity12345@yahoo.com	8/1/2018	Region 2
JOURDAN, Casey	1302 24th St. W. #194	Billings, MT 59102	(406) 579-8497	casinda@gmail.com	8/1/2018	Region 4
WILLING, Bill	300 Hemlock St.	Anaconda, MT 59711	(406) 563-0040	colonelwilling@bresnan.net	8/1/2019	Experience with Veterans Issues
BACKBONE, Shawn	P.O. Box 159	Crow Agency, MT 59022	(406) 839-4719	Shawn.Backbone@crow-nsn.gov	8/1/2019	Tribal Council Rep
OLSON, Peter	P O Box 729	Culbertson, MT 59218	(406) 787-5215	paolsonfh4@yahoo.com	8/1/2020	Region 5
JUVIK, Dick	418 Latigo Lane	Helena, MT 59602	(406) 594-2248	ohmswtohm@msn.com	8/1/2019	Veterans at Large
BOYD, David	P.O.Box 1239	Poplar, MT 59255	(406) 650-7777	mtresmn@yahoo.com	8/1/2019	Tribal Rep
YORK, Brenda	20 Robins Nest Lane	Belgrade, MT 59714	(406) 994-5329	byork@montana.edu	8/1/2018	Experience with Veterans Issues
SIVERTSEN, Clancy	P.O. Box 137	Belt, MT 59412	(406) 868-0760	clancy@3rivers.net	8/1/2021	Region 3

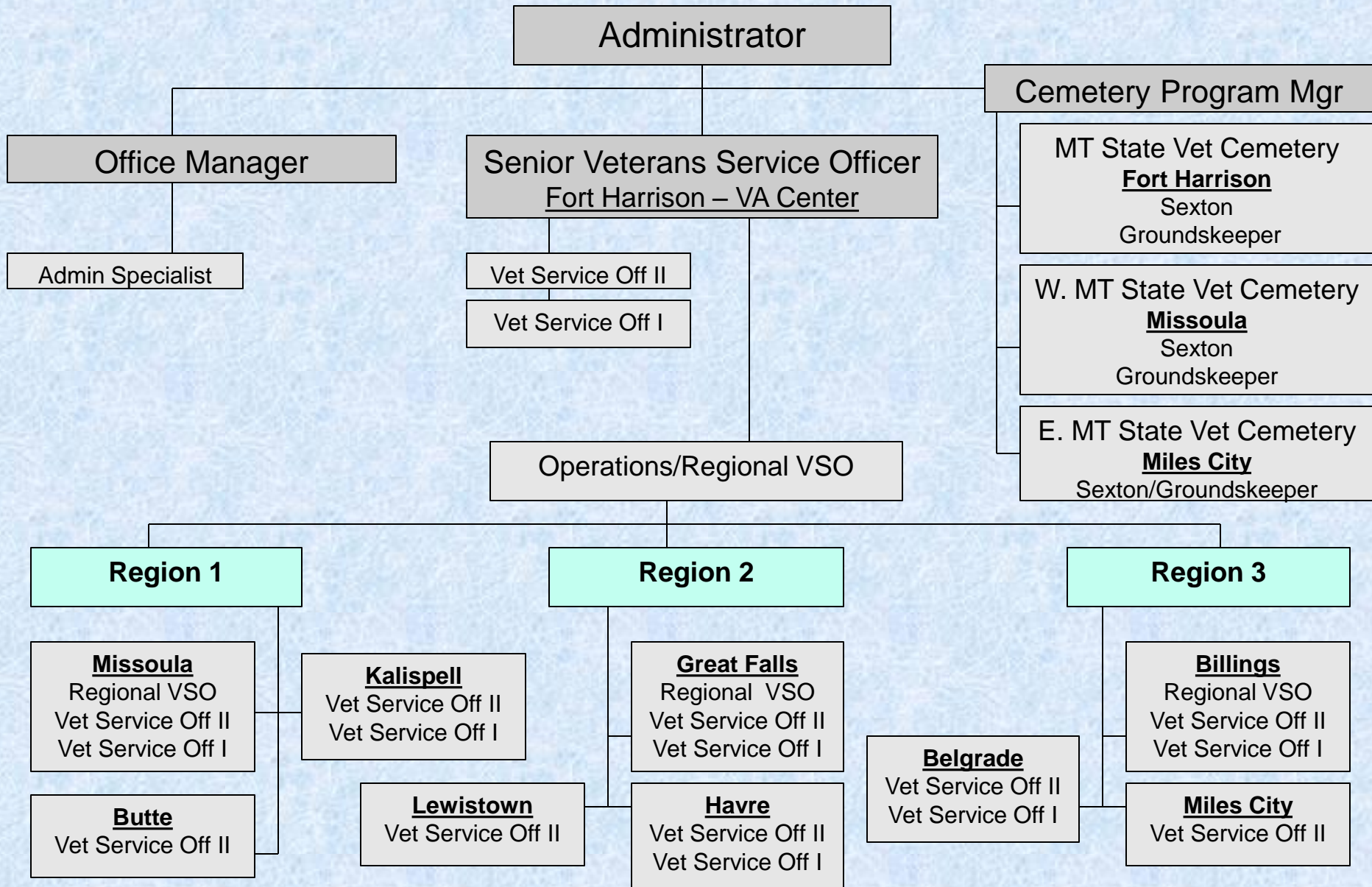
NON VOTING MEMBERS

SMITH, Jason	P. O. Box 200503	Helena, MT 59620-0801	(406) 444-3713	jsmith@mt.gov	1/1/2021	Office of Indian Affairs
BERNHARDT, Dan	715 Front Street	Helena, MT 59601	(406) 447-3239	Bernhardt.daniel.I@dol.gov	8/1/2017	US Dept of Labor
BONDE, Trena	3687 Veterans Way	FT Harrison, MT 59636	(406) 422-3605	trena.bonde@va.gov	8/1/2018	US Dept of Veterans Affairs
QUINN, Matthew	P. O. Box 4789	FT Harrison, MT 59636-4789	(406) 324-3010	mquinn@mt.gov	1/1/2021	Military Affairs Director
UNDERDAHL, Joren	P.O. Box 250	Columbia Falls, MT 59912	(406) 249-3229	junderdahl@mt.gov	8/1/2018	Public Health and Human Services Rep.
SWANSON, Kathy	308 E. 6th	Anaconda, MT 59711	(406) 563-5312	Kswansonhd86@gmail.com	8/1/2018	State Adm/Veterans Affairs Committee
KNUTSON, Bruce - Senator Tester	208 N. Montana, Ste.202	Helena, MT 59601	(406) 449-5401	bruce_knutson@tester.senate.gov	8/1/2020	Senator Tester's Office
Congressman Gianforte	910 B North Last Chance Gulch	Helena, MT 59601	(406) 502-1435		8/1/2020	Congressman Gianforte's Office
LENOIR, Denny-Senator Daines	30 W. 14th St. Suite 206	Helena, MT 59601	(406) 443-3189	Denny_Lenoir@daines.senate.gov	8/1/2020	Senator Daines' Office

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

WILLING, Bill, Chair	300 Hemlock St.	Anaconda, MT 59711	(406) 563-0040	colonelwilling@bresnan.net
OLSON, Peter , Vice-Chair	P O Box 729	Culbertson, MT 59218	(406) 787-5215	paolsonfh4@yahoo.com
FOSTER, Joe, MVAD Administrator	P.O. Box 5715	Helena, MT 59604	(406) 324-3741	jofoster@mt.gov

Montana Veterans Affairs Division Organizational Chart



Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center
 1956 MT. MAJO
 PO Box 5715
 Helena, Montana 59604
 Phone - (406) 324-3740 Fax - (406) 226-7459

Administration Offices

FOSTER, Joe - Administrator
 HALL, Lee Ann - Budget Analyst
 RYCHALSKI, June - Admin Support/Benefit Tech

Fax (406) 226-7459
 Phone (406) 324-3741
 Phone (406) 324-3740
 Phone (406) 324-3743

jofoster@mt.gov
lehall@mt.gov
jrychalski@mt.gov

Cemetery Offices

HALL, Tom - Cemetery Program Manager
 WIGERT, Shawn - Groundskeeper
 HOLMLUND, Kurt - Cemetery Sexton
 AASVED, Curt - Cemetery Sexton
 PAUL, Brady - Groundskeeper

Phone (406) 324-3742
 Cell (406) 202-0530
 Cell (406) 202-1297
 Cell (406) 951-1325
 Cell (406) 396-8009
 Fax (406) 232-2019
 Fax (406) 543-2360
 Phone (406) 721-2995

thall@mt.gov
kholmlund@mt.gov
caasved@mt.gov

Veteran Service Offices

OFFICE LOCATION	COUNTIES	OFFICE LOCATION	COUNTIES		
<u>BELGRADE</u> Mahn, Janine - Service Officer II Edmonds, Earl - Service Officer I 350 Airport Road Belgrade, MT 59714 Phone (406) 388-4601	jmahn@mt.gov eedmonds@mt.gov Fax (406) 388-4602	Gallatin Park S. Madison Sweet Grass	<u>KALISPELL</u> Keeler, Ryan-Regional VSO Collins, Carolyn-Service Officer I Zipp, Bryan, Service Officer I 2989 Highway 93 North Kalispell, MT 59901-9801 Phone (406) 755-3795	rkeeler@mt.gov carolcollins@mt.gov bzipp@mt.gov Fax (406) 755-1039	Flathead Lincoln Lake
<u>BILLINGS</u> Heald, Cheryl - Regional VSO Berge, Lindsay-Service Officer I Love, Amanda-Service Officer I Keehn, Shane-Service Officer I Vacant-Service Officer I 2795 Enterprise Ave. Billings, MT 59102 Phone (406) 656-0584 Phone (406) 248-8579 Phone (406) 259-5419	cheald@mt.gov lberge@mt.gov alove@mt.gov skeehn@mt.gov Fax (406) 656-0617	Big Horn Carbon Stillwater Treasure Yellowstone Mussellshell Garfield	<u>LEWISTOWN</u> Foster, Sue - Service Officer II 505 W. Main, Ste. 217 Lewistown, MT 59457 Phone (406) 538-3174	suefoster@mt.gov Fax (406) 538-3186	Golden Valley Meagher Wheatland Fergus Judith Basin Petroleum
<u>BUTTE</u> Muhammad, Saajid, Service Officer II 600 Gilman Avenue Butte, MT 59701 Phone (406) 533-0910	smuhammad@mt.gov Fax (406) 494-1273	Beaverhead Deer Lodge Granite S. Jefferson N. Madison Powell Silverbow	<u>MILES CITY</u> Olson, Keith-Service Officer II VA Primary Care Clinic 210 S Winchester Miles City, MT 59301 Phone (406) 232-1203	keitholson@mt.gov Fax (406) 233-1217	Carter Custer Dawson Fallon Powder River Prairie Wibaux McCone Richland Sheridan Daniels Roosevelt Rosebud
<u>GREAT FALLS</u> Arnold, Dan - Service Officer II Brunken, Kari - Service Officer I Hering, Candice-Service Officer I 600 Central Plaza #300 Great Falls, MT 59401 Phone (406) 452-2265	danarnold@mt.gov kbrunken@mt.gov chering@mt.gov Fax (406) 453-5871	Cascade Chouteau Pondera Teton	<u>MISSOULA</u> Hahn, Kate - Service Officer II Cornelius, Peter-Service Officer I Hale, Steve-Service Officer I 1911 Tower Street Missoula, MT 59804 Phone (406) 542-2501	khahn@mt.gov pcornelius@mt.gov shale@mt.gov Fax(406) 543-2360	Mineral Missoula Ravalli Sanders
<u>HAVRE</u> Loendorf, Judy - Regional VSO Mulonet, Steve - Service Officer I 232 1st St. W. Havre, MT 59501 Toll Free 1-877-265-VETS (8387) Phone (406) 265-4225	jloendorf@mt.gov smulonet@mt.gov Fax (406) 265-2666	Liberty Blaine Glacier Hill Phillips Toole Valley	Lewis & Clark Broadwater N. Jefferson	SEASONAL EMPLOYEES	Missoula Veterans Cemetery Helena Veterans Cemetery
<u>HELENA</u> Ackerman, Kelly-Senior VSO Ingraham, Tim, VSO II Baranyai, Krystelle, VSO I Veterans Service Center Building 3633 Veterans Drive, Rm 110E PO Box 1007, Ft. Harrison, MT 59636 Phone (406) 495-2080 Phone (406) 495-2081 Phone (406) 495-2082 Phone (406) 495-2083	kelly.ackerman@va.gov timothy.ingraham@va.gov krystelle.baranyai@va.gov Fax (406) 495-2003				