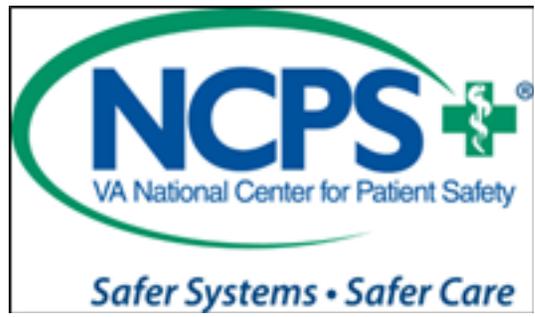


Award Recognizes FY16 Patient Safety Program Excellence

Boise VAMC recently earned a Silver Root Cause Analysis (RCA) Cornerstone Award for FY16 from the VHA National Center for Patient Safety. The award acknowledges the quality, timeliness, and quantity of RCAs completed by the facility. Essential parts of a Culture of Patient Safety, RCAs are formal, objective studies of adverse and close call patient events that are reported by BVAMC staff, in order to learn what happened, why, and how to change systems to prevent future problems. Multidisciplinary teams spend hours to intensely study the patient's event, identify system issues at the root of the problem, and determine the most effective and efficient ways to correct and/or improve our systems and processes to keep patients safe. The Cornerstone Award also recognizes the numbers of safety reports and the overall quality of the management of the patient safety program.

2016 is the eighth straight year that Boise VAMC has received this award!

Congratulations to all of the staff who reported their patient safety concerns, RCA team members, our FY16 Patient Safety Managers Kelly Winward RN and Tammy Sanchez RN (acting), and all of our BVAMC staff who make healthcare and environmental safety and excellence for our Veterans their top priority!



CFC Chili Feed 11/29/16



CONTEST WINNERS

22 Chili recipes entered

9 Cornbread recipes entered

BEST OVERALL - Jeff Entringer

HOTTEST - Randy Helland

MOST ORIGINAL - Jeff Entringer

BEST CORNBREAD - Jeff Entringer



CFC Bake Sale *12/7/16*

OVER \$500 RAISED!!!

Special thanks to all who contributed:

**Jerramy Stinnet, Carol Anderson, Deb Mueller,
Allison Stephens, Eileen Twomey, Judy Wolfe, Daisha
Jensen, Julie Vanty, Taylor Shaffer, Emily Konecky,
Hannah Sackett, Joyce Reagan, Tim Santos, Kennedy
Meyer and Jeremey Lemro & Family**

Volunteers:

Celia Baker and Sandi Denson





PARADISE AT WORK - PM&R
Damonica Dixey WINNER

HAPPY CAMPER - HAS
Selia Palomo WINNER



GAME NIGHT - Medical Imaging
Beckie Wilson WINNER



SPORTS BASKET - Medical Imaging
Shari Hunter WINNER



LOTTER MANIA - PALMS
Kat Vergara WINNER

XMAS WAKE UP - Pharmacy
Margaret Doucette WINNER



DATE NIGHT - HR
Shari Hunter WINNER

\$879 RAISED!!!
*Thank you to everyone
who participated and
purchased tickets!*

CONTEST WINNERS

1st Place - PALMS
425 tickets

2nd Place - PM&R
216 tickets

3rd Place - HAS
149 tickets

CFC Basket Raffle
12/12/16 - 12/15/16

Service Pin Award Ceremony



10 Year



15 Year



25 Year



30 Year



Special Recognition

What's Happening in Mental Health - It's all about Hope and Recovery!

HOLIDAY SELF-CARE

- ✓ **Have an attitude of gratitude.**
- ✓ **One golden rule to getting along with family....be responsible for how you behave. You certainly have no control over how your relatives behave.**
- ✓ **If you're feeling depressed and lonely, volunteer with any number of groups.**
- ✓ **Decide upon your priorities and stick to them.**
- ✓ **Remember, no matter what your plans, the holidays do not automatically take away feelings of aloneness, sadness, frustration, anger, and fear.**
- ✓ **Be careful about resentments related to holidays past.**
- ✓ **Don't expect the holidays to be just as they were when you were a child.**
- ✓ **Plan unstructured, low-cost fun holiday activities.**
- ✓ **Do not let the holidays become a reason for over-indulging.**
- ✓ **Give yourself a break.**

Source - <http://mentalhealth.about.com/od/familyresources/a/hoildaysichel.htm>

Know what your resources are:



Boise VA Behavioral Health Department: 422-1145 or 422-1108 and for more information on Behavioral Health Groups, visit www.boise.va.gov





VA | Boise VA
Medical Center

Ivy Merrell

Behavioral Health Employee of the Month
December 2016



Ivy Merrell worked in the community as a psychosocial rehabilitation specialist for a number of years between graduating with her bachelor's degree in social work and eventually attending the master's program at Boise State University. This gap in time is noteworthy for her role that she now fills at the VA. Ivy brought with her a vast knowledge of community resources and mental health conditions, a unique set of skills incredibly valuable to outpatient social work and the veterans we serve.

Ivy is consistently thorough in her engagement with veterans offering every veteran the time and quality they need to walk away with their needs met.

There are many occasions that find us impressed by Ivy's knowledge, but one case in particular comes to mind. A veteran was not seen for a long period of time due to a medical provider's absence. Ivy partnered with Dr. Brotman, and then patient was finally re-assessed by a new medical provider. Ivy has worked side by side with Adult Protection to ensure he has access to all resources available and that he is as safe as possible. Currently, the veteran maintains frequent contact with Ivy and throughout each encounter she validates his concerns, offers him resources and critically evaluates his needs. While veteran's medical diagnoses and mental health symptoms remain a concern, had Ms. Merrell not remained a constant in this veteran's life a far worse outcome could have occurred.

Ms. Merrell's calm, caring and competent manner helped veteran to gain trust with her and he still reaches out her on a regular basis. While of course, we hope that someday he will elect to treat his diagnoses and symptoms, she is the lifeline that keeps him engaged in care.

The DAISY Award

The DAISY Award is a nationwide program that rewards and celebrates the extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care given by nurses every day. The Boise VAMC is proud to be a DAISY Award Hospital Partner, recognizing one of our registered nurses with this special honor every quarter.

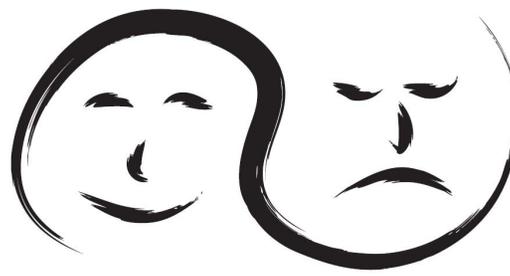
Each DAISY Award honoree will be recognized at a public ceremony in her/his unit and will receive a beautiful hand carved stone sculpture entitled 'A Healers Touch'. Additionally all staff on the honorees unit will celebrate with cinnamon rolls - a favorite of Patrick Barnes, the patient to whom the award is dedicated after. The Barnes families hope was that whenever nurses smelled the cinnamon rolls they would stop and reflect on how important they are to others.

Kjeranne Rummel, RN is the Qtr1 FY17 Daisy Award recipient. Ms. Rummel has gone above and beyond by obtaining ACLS certification to be better prepared to work in the OR. She has been a surgical nurse for eight years and finds serving veterans very rewarding work!

PHOTO: Rummel in center



Hello's



Goodbye's

The Boise VAMC would like to welcome our
new employees who came aboard:

Lona Inthathirath

Facility Management Service

Michael Hughes

Facility Management Service

Sheila Bolinger

Psychiatry

Michael Babinski

Sterile Processing Service

Beverly Aslett

Psychiatry

John Chapman

DIS

William Merriman

Facility Management Service

Devin Wilfong

Facility Management Service

Chris Jammerman

Facility Management Service

Sara Gibson

Facility Management Service

Niccolaus Dockstader

Facility Management Service

Jason Anderson

Facility Management Service

Isabel Bruce

Nursing Service

Jason Anderson

Facility Management Service

The Boise VAMC would like to say goodbye to
the employees who left us:

Tegan Taylor

Veterans Canteen Service

Doug Burgan

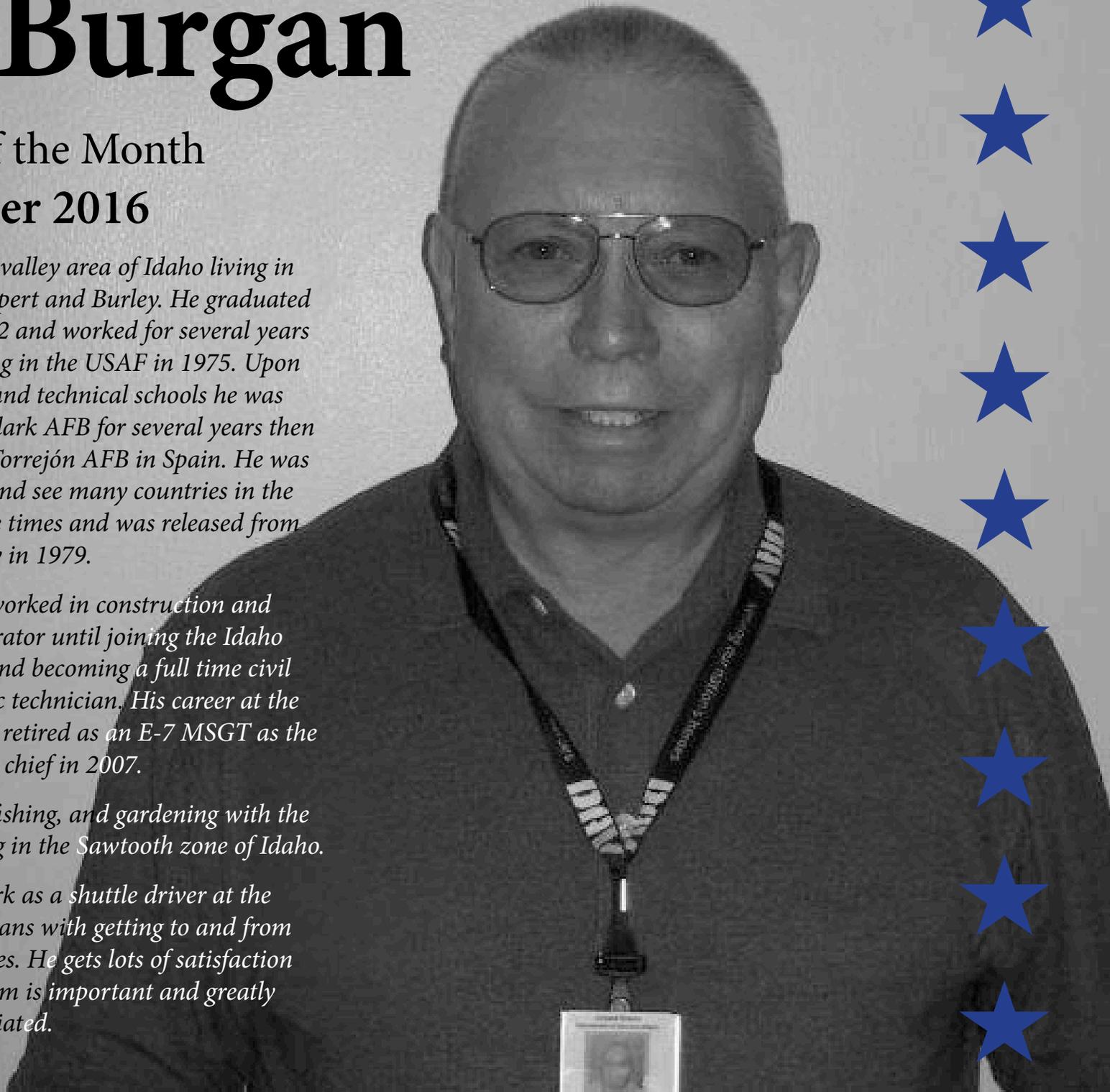
Volunteer of the Month
December 2016

Douglas grew up in the magic valley area of Idaho living in towns of Twin Falls, Jerome, Rupert and Burley. He graduated from Burley High School in 1972 and worked for several years at Ore-Ida foods before enlisting in the USAF in 1975. Upon completion of basic training and technical schools he was stationed in the Philippines at Clark AFB for several years then had a follow on assignment to Torrejón AFB in Spain. He was fortunate to be able to travel and see many countries in the orient and Europe during these times and was released from active duty in 1979.

He returned to Idaho and worked in construction and warehousing as a forklift operator until joining the Idaho Air National Guard in 1983 and becoming a full time civil servant as an aircraft hydraulic technician. His career at the IDANG lasted for 20+ years. He retired as an E-7 MSGT as the Hydraulic Shop chief in 2007.

His main hobbies are hunting, fishing, and gardening with the focus mainly on big game hunting in the Sawtooth zone of Idaho.

Douglas truly enjoys his work as a shuttle driver at the Boise V.A. helping fellow veterans with getting to and from their appointments and vehicles. He gets lots of satisfaction in knowing his service to them is important and greatly appreciated.



2017 Boise LEAD Participants

Congratulations to the following individuals for their selection to participate in the 2017 Boise LEAD:
Leadership Fundamentals program:

Melissa Ball - Registered Reparatory Therapist

Karen Bermensolo - RN Ward 2MS

Ben Biery - Step Down Unit Manager

Dan Bodam - HVAC/Plumbing Shop Supervisor

Michael DiGiacomo - Transportation Assistant / Patient Travel

Greg Giddens - Supervisory Budget Analyst

Gretchen Hoyt - Nurse Manager CLC

Jan Hyono - Staff Audiologist

Karyn Morehouse - Medical Support Assistant / Choice Champion

Adam Mundy - HR Specialist, Employee and Labor Relations

Amos Nava - Medical Support Assistant

Tara Nyborg - Registered Nurse

Michael Parker - Bed Staffing Coordinator

Kerry Punches - HR Specialist

Veronica Roberts - Medical Support Assistant

Heather Spero - Physician Assistant

Nikole Watkins - Social Worker

The course officially kicks off in January, but the participants have a lot of work to do between now and then just to get ready. In the coming weeks, they will submit information to the National Center for Organizational Development (NCOD) that will initiate the process to have a 180 Degree Assessment completed by their

2017 Boise LEAD Participants Cont.

peers and supervisors (several of the participants will actually complete a 360 degree assessment that involves their direct reports also). In early December, they will complete a “DiSC” self-assessment of their leadership styles. This assessment identifies leadership traits they tend to use when pressed into stressful situations. When combined, the results of the 180/360 Degree and DiSC assessments help to give the participants a much better understanding of their current leadership style preferences. This creates a starting point from which the participants will base their leadership development for the duration of the program and beyond.

In a few weeks they will meet with their mentors and begin working on that relationship. The mentor/mentee relationship component of LEAD is a crucial piece to the success of the program. The mentor helps to make sense of much of the course and put it all into perspective. The mentor will also serve as a sounding board for career guidance and professional development.

The actual classroom sessions will start in early January and continue through the end of June. Classroom topics will include System Redesign, LEAN Process Improvement techniques, Project Management, Leadership Foundations, Time Management, Presentations, Work/Life Balance, Conflict Management, Writing, Space Allocations, Fiscal, Performance Measures, Oversight, and much, much more.

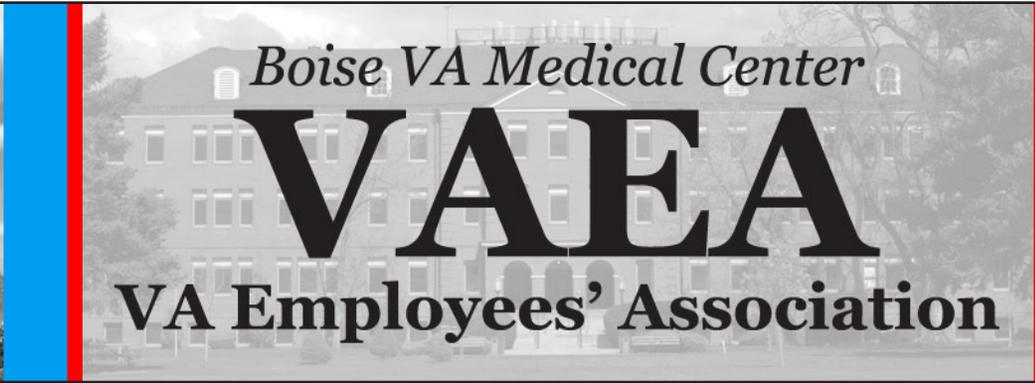
If you see these folks, please congratulate them and wish them well in their leadership development.

Look for more LEAD program updates in the coming months!



Bose VA Medical Center Holiday Party 12/15/16





Congratulations to the newly elected 2017 VA Employees' Association Board:

Officers:

Beckie Wilson, President
Nicole Amideo, Vice President
Kathleen Nesbit, Treasurer
Judith Wolfe, Secretary

Board Members:

Carol Zografos
Cindy Rosen
Cindra Goldenstein

THANK YOU to those who participated in voting, and **THANK YOU** to the individuals listed above for their willingness to serve in this wonderful capacity!!