LEE WRIGHT WILL RETIRE!

After fifty years of government service Lee Wright has decided to retire. Lee has worked at the Boise VAMC for 27 years and served in the US Air Force for 23 years.

During his 27 years at the Boise VAMC Lee has worked in housekeeping, supply/logistics, and for the local VA Transportation Program, responsible for picking up patients at their residence and taking them to VA appointments, and taking them back home. As a driver Lee also delivered mail within the VA campus and to the off campus VA sites.

In his 23 year military career in the Air Force Lee was stationed in the US and abroad. He served at Izmir, Turkey two different tours; at the Udorn Royal Thailand Air Force Base and in San Vito, Italy. In the US his assignments included Lackland AFB Texas; Homestead AFB Florida; Vandenburg AFB California; Robins AFB Georgia, Seymour Johnson AFB North Carolina; and last Mountain Home AFB Idaho.

When asked about his 50 years of service Lee said “It was/is very rewarding working with and serving military veterans.”

In his retirement Lee plans on doing some travel, camping, gardening, wood cutting, and spending more time with his granddaughters!

Congratulate Lee during his retirement party on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 1:30pm in the HAS conf. room.
Hello’s  

We welcome the new employees joining our ranks:

White, Crystal, Fiscal  
Lloyd, Kevin, FMS  
Nave, Docia, FMS  
Zollinger, Bradley, FMS  
Zechmann, Xena, HAS  
James, Jennifer, HAS  
Layne, Pamela, HAS  
Marker, Jennifer, HAS  
Whalen, Emily, HAS  
Rainey, Michael, HAS  
Mather, Robert, HRMS  
Bischoff, Joann, MSO  
Streicher, James, P&SS  
Huntington, Alexandra, PM&RS  
Byrd, Stephen, Psychiatric  
Miller, Stephen, Surgery  
Carnes, Robert, FMS  
Coombs, Rebecca, Nursing  
Dean, Sara, Nursing  
Gould, Jamee, Nursing  
Lambe, Andrea, Nursing  
McMillen, Soledad, Nursing  
Sarver, Chad, DIS  
Tish, David, Voluntary  
Wisecarver, Ryan, Nursing  
Manning, Kevin, FMS  
Deschene, Karen, HAS  
Schneider, Emily, HAS  
Asdell, Alyssa, HAS  
Bareither, Margaret, HAS  
Burke, Danielle, MSO  
Clark, Shanna, Nursing  
MacConkey, Audrianna, VCS  
McPherson, James, Voluntary  
Rohr, Chad, HRMS  
Sanchez, Jose, HAS  
Shaffer, Taylor, Pharmacy  
Tallada, Judy, HAS  
Carlson, Whitney, PALMS  
Wentzel, Elanor, PALMS  

Goodbye’s  

We say goodbye to those who left:

Moore, Illaria, COS  
Truxal, Linda, DIS  
Gordon, Timothy, Directors  
Powers, Benjamin, MSO  
Parker, Rhonda, Nursing  
Hedrick, Angelita, Nursing  
Crawford, Alisha, Nursing  
Harris, Clifton, Fiscal  
Rogers, Benjamin, Telehealth  
Mackey, Warren, Nursing  
Whitfield, Joseph, Psychiatry  

The University of Washington Department of Medicine honors Boise VA’s own Moe Hagman, MD with the Richard M. Tucker WWAMI Excellence in Teaching Faculty Award. Dr. Douglass Paauw Professor of the UW presented the award at the end of grand rounds on February 2nd, 2017.

The award is based on medical student nominations and committee selection from more than 260 UW clinical faculty members in the Department of Medicine from the states of Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

Dr. Hagman was a WWAMI medical student 1997-1998, Boise track medical resident in 2000-2001, and returned to the Boise VA in 2011 as faculty educating and serving as a role model for medical students and residents. Dr. Moe Hagman is the UW Boise Internal Medicine Program Director since 2016.
Jodi serves homeless veterans in south central Idaho. She is pretty much a one-woman show in Twin Falls. Despite our best efforts to support Jodi’s work, she is often called upon to fill in gaps in service. This means her standard service to veterans is far beyond standard. Going the extra mile is both literal and figurative for Jodi’s work. She covers hundreds of miles in a week as she drives between seven different counties ensuring housing stability to our rural veterans. Jodi has an amazingly positive attitude and does not seem effected by hurdles. She is a creative problem solver and the embodiment of a “can do” attitude. Jodi is lightening quick at returning calls and easy to work with. Our rural homeless veterans are lucky to have her and we should be proud to have her representing social work in an upstanding way. Not only does Jodi work hard for the veterans she serves, but also represents the VA Homeless Team in working with community partners and through participating in veteran community events. She has built strong positive relationships with providers in the community and is an excellent steward of VA representation. She is always ready for a challenge and keeps an optimistic attitude even in the face of difficult situation. Jodi navigates a complex system of community resources – often times helping create the resource to fill a gap. She was instrumental in helping plan the community-wide homeless Stand Down event (a first in Twin Falls) with community partners. During the CARF survey, one of the veterans Jodi has worked with told the surveyor that without her he wouldn’t be as well-off as he is now. During the previous CARF survey one of Jodi’s veterans told that surveyor that without Jodi’s support he would have died. Hearing directly from veterans the impact that one individual can have is stunning and a true testament to the work Jodi does and the above and beyond support she provides!
So much of our jobs require paper notifications and records, so when someone finds a way to reduce paper and ink consumption we like to highlight it.

Recently, Jared Bybee noticed that paper slated for mass mailings was often thrown in the waste basket without ever being used. The reason for this is that the address area on the paper did not match the window on the envelope. When this happens the letters must be reprinted or hand folded which wastes paper, ink and/or time.

Jared developed a template to ensure that the address area on the paper is in the right spot. This simple fix saves time and paper. Please contact Jared if you need a template—he has one for you.

Now that’s “Green” thinking!
Patient Safety Essentials:

Do you wear gloves at work? FDA has Banned Powered Surgical and Patient Exam Gloves and Glove Powders

National Center for Patient Safety has received notification that the Food and Drug Administration has issued a final ban for powdered surgeon’s gloves, powdered patient examination gloves, and absorbable powder for lubricating a surgeon’s glove because these devices are associated with potentially serious adverse events, including severe airway inflammation, hypersensitivity reactions, allergic reactions (including asthma), lung inflammation and damage or post-surgical bands of fibrous scar tissue that form between internal organs and tissues (adhesions).

Patient Safety Alert: Inpatient orders may not be reinstated when a VistA patient movement is deleted

VHA medical centers report several incidents in which deletion of a Veteran Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) patient movement (i.e., admission, discharge, ward transfer or treating specialty transfer) do not automatically reinstate all of that inpatient's electronic orders. Orders affected include, but are not limited to, Medications, Laboratory, Nursing, Radiology, Consults, and Diet. This can/ will result in needed inpatient medical services not being provided at appropriate times or at all, or medical services being provided without an appropriate medical order.

In the event of a patient movement that will result in deletion of inpatient orders:
1. Ward clerk prints current orders.
2. HAS clerk highlights and prints all current orders in patient chart (from the Orders Tab), deletes patient movement, and notifies inpatient nurse and ordering provider.
3. Automated Pharmacy alert is generated: “Medication Orders Automatically Reinstated” via the pharmacy email group and printer making printout available to inpatient nurse and/or ordering provider.
4. Inpatient nurse and/or ordering provider use HAS current orders printout to reconcile orders, entering any not reinstated, back into the patient chart.
5. The Admit, Discharge, Transfer functions allowing deletion of a patient movement are restricted to HAS staff.
Privacy & Information Security

Have you ever wondered what the connection is between privacy and information security? Or perhaps you’ve heard the expression “there’s no privacy without security”? Some may think they’re one in the same …

Privacy and Security work closely together but have different roles in protecting our information. A simple way to differentiate the two is to think of privacy in association with data, and information security in association with an IT system (that houses the data).

As VA employees, we have all been entrusted by the Veterans and their beneficiaries to care for them and their information. One of the most important jobs we have is to respect and safeguard that information. We manage vast amounts of personally identifiable information that if breached could do significant harm. Keep in mind, information routinely collected about Veterans and Employees can also include information about beneficiaries, friends, relatives, and former colleagues that were contacted for security clearances.

Even with numerous privacy mandates, we know that no one is perfect. Privacy incidents occur. However, it is important that the VA prepare and acknowledge all deficiencies and work to improve them. Employees are directed to protect Veterans and their co-workers by reporting all incidences or problems within one hour of discovery to their Privacy Officer, Information Security Officer or Supervisor. Please contact us if you have any questions.

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