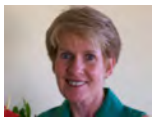
Veterans Connect @ the Library

Veterans Connect @ the Library

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Hosted by Infopeople

Introductions



Jacquie Brinkley

Karen Bosch Cobb

John "Buzz" Kraft

Why California public libraries are helping veterans

The California State Library has a Statewide LSTA grant **Veterans Connect @ the Library** to provide services to help veterans and their families.

The goals for this grant are to:

- Provide veterans benefits and local service information to veterans and family members, links to other local organizations serving veterans especially local County Service Offices, CalVet and the Federal VA
- Increase registered veterans in the CalVet Reintegration system through use of myCalVet
- Increase California veteran benefit claims
- Increase use of libraries by veterans and their families

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Veterans Connect @ the Library

Our Partner: CalVet

Why libraries when there are so many other agencies serving veterans?

"The skill sets, resources and dedication …can play a crucial role in positively changing the way that veterans return to their communities -- without …isolation, fear, pain and shame.

Libraries…safe places where people care and want to help, and where core professional values of respect and confidentiality are upheld."

-Jason Deitch, veteran and partner with Contra Costa Library

The facts about California Veterans

"Did you ever serve in the military" You are a veteran!

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The facts about California Veterans

1.7 million veterans in CA, highest in the US

300,000 veterans will leave the military in each of the next 4 years

40,000 of these veterans will be returning or moving to California

½ of all veterans in California live in five (5) Southern California Counties

The facts about California Veterans

Top Benefit Needs

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Utilization of services by Veterans in California

- Compensation and pension benefits:
  CA 15.7% - National 16.5%.
- Healthcare benefits
  CA 21.8% - National 24.6%
- Women veterans will constitute 15% of the California veteran population in 20 years.

6 Steps to services to veterans

During past two years 16 libraries have launched services based on our model.

Model is "service in a box" or what we call a "digital duffel bag:
http://caveterans.org/resources-for-librarians/

Step by Step approach

Step 1

Research, meet, and get to know your County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) and other agencies serving veterans in your community.

http://www.cacvso.org/

http://caveterans.org/resources-for-veterans/

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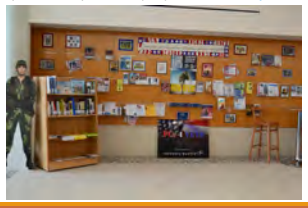
Step 2

Establish a collection of books and CD for your library
60+ recommended books and DVDs for veterans

Step 2 -continued

Setup up a display area: order posters and *pamphlets* *Order Form for Free Materials from CalVet*



Step 2 - continued

Develop an online list of your local resources for veterans and post on your webpage.

- *The four most important websites for libraries serving veterans*

1. *http://caveterans.org/resources-for-librarians/*
2. *https://www.calvet.ca.gov/*
3. *http://www.va.gov/*
4. ***Your list of local resources for Veterans***

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Step 3

Train Staff

1. This Webinar
2. Veterans and Public Libraries: What Every Public Library Should Know: Infopeople Webinar
3. Complete the CalVet online training module for staff and volunteers. Click here for a link

Step 4

Set up a Veterans Resource Center staffed by trained volunteers

Step 4 - continued

Get your volunteers on board. Everything you need is found here

- Recruit
- Interview
- Train volunteers

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Step 5

Present programs in libraries to attract more veterans

- Invite veterans to general audience programs
- 3 programs available on our website
- Book groups, author talks, etc.
- Samples from other libraries in PR toolkit on our website
- War Ink an online exhibit of stories told through tattoos of California Veterans is launching 11-11-2014
- Some libraries are already participating in Cal Humanities: *War Comes Home*

Step 6

Participate in evaluation of outputs and outcomes

- Usage counts monthly
- Postcard Surveys to measure the impact of services.

We invite you to participate

The California State Library is looking for more libraries to join this effort. LSTA funding is available.

Libraries which are selected will receive funding for collections, equipment, programming, staff support, supplies, and coaching from grant monitors.

- Interested: Contact Karen Bosch Cobb at karenboschcobb@infopeople.org
- Your library will be asked to complete a Letter of Commitment signed by your director and submit by July 31, 2014.

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Thanks

Contact us at:

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Infopeople helping libraries think differently

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