

Veterans' Committee Minutes

June 6, 2011 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Mary Ann Johnson; Supervisors Collyer, Lucia, Thompson, Wright, Yepsen, Southworth, Daly, Wood, and Sausville; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Sam Pitcherale, Treasurer; Kathy Marchione, County Clerk; Andrew Davis, Veterans; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Gene Corsale, Veterans Volunteer; Press.

Chairman M. Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Thompson the minutes of the May 2, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Johnson requested a few seconds of silence in honor of the 67th Anniversary of D-Day.

Mrs. Marchione said the FAVOR Program is moving along nicely and on schedule. The County Clerk's office is ready to handle Veterans, and equipment has been finished. The room has been remodeled to handle the increased traffic that is expected, and a press conference has been scheduled for July 5th at 10:00 a.m. The Veterans continue to call, interested in signing up for the program. This is going to be an award winning program, a way to say "Thank You" for all that they have done for us, she said. The business community has participated as anticipated, with the goal of having 100 businesses signed up by the time the program kicked off. As of today, there are 101 businesses signed up and more coming in each day.

Mrs. Johnson said the grand opening and ribbon cutting for the Guardian House for homeless Veteran women, will be held on June 23rd at 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. Southworth said they are really working through the process now with the upgrades that are needed for the home. The project is on schedule and a number of area businessmen and women have contributed.

Mrs. Yepsen said the facility would house eleven women. Mrs. Johnson asked if that was the maximum the house would hold? Mrs. Yepsen said, yes, it is all based on the VA Federal grant, which was applied for twice and received after raising \$140,000 grassroots dollars. In two years we have come a long way and many people are recognizing that, she said. There was a grand opening in Saratoga Springs recently where one of the businesses donated their revenues for the first day to the Guardian House. Mrs. Yepsen thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support with the project.

Mrs. Johnson said there would be a Local Law Public Hearing held on June 15th with regard to protests during and after Military Funerals. Mr. Dorsey said the Draft Local

Law was done after last months Veterans meeting. There is one correction that will be made the to law clarifying the times when the demonstrations would be prohibited, to two hours before the funeral and two hours immediately after the funeral.

Mrs. Johnson said the Coast Guard Band will be playing at the Veterans' Concert on Saturday, September 17th at 2:00p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. The cost to the county will be approximately \$6,000. The budget total is \$45,000, and the proposed expenses to date total \$33,275.

Mrs. Johnson said she would request that Mrs. Van Ort proceed with an RFP for price quotes for the backstage food and report back to the committee.

Mrs. Johnson said at next month's meeting, discussion would take place with regard to the post cards, flyers and advertising.

Mr. Davis said Veterans Assistance Night and the Korean War Veterans Ceremony will take place on October 4th at the City Center in Saratoga Springs. This year there will be two events in one night, with the first being a two-hour benefit and job fair combined with an onsite benefits briefing, onsite healthcare enrollment and onsite e-benefits and enrollment from the VA. The night will close with a Korean War Veterans' Ceremony.

Mr. Davis said Empire State College has paid for all of his advertising for the program. Additionally, the Korean War Veterans outreach is approximately 50% complete and accurate, meaning, that every service organization has been contacted throughout the county including the VFW, American Legion, and Elks, to get their Korean War listing. The one piece to this is that the medal that will be given out is equivalent to the Korean War Service Medal, meaning that someone had to set foot in Korea or the waters adjacent to it to get this medal. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 300 to 400 awards given. The timeline is 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. for the benefits, job fair and briefing; and 8:30p.m. to 10:00p.m. for the Korean War Veterans Ceremony. Doors will open at 5:30p.m.

Mrs. Johnson said Supervisor Daly has requested that a Trust Fund be setup through the County Administrator to accept donations that would be used to solely enhance the lives of Saratoga County Veterans. This request has made in recognition of and as a tribute to her father, Benjamin Canfield, a WWII Veteran.

Mrs. Johnson commended Supervisor Daly for proposing this initiative, as it gives those who have lost their loved ones in the service, their families and also those who just have an affection for Veterans to give monetary gifts to be used solely for the benefit of our Veterans.

Mr. Dorsey said a request for a resolution will be made and then moved to the Law and Finance Committee for approval. He said there are some details that will need to be considered such as guidelines on what the money can be spent for.

Mrs. Johnson said that the committee would work on some suggestions, in conjunction with the Veterans' Director.

Mr. Wright said that if this is going to be on a case by case basis then you don't have to get too refined.

Mrs. Johnson said any recommendations will come from the Veterans Committee and then onto the full Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Yepsen said to raise the funds you want to be as general as possible, and to spend the funds you want to be specific.

Ms. Daly said the Veterans Committee should be able to make decisions with regard to any requests that are made.

Mr. Pitcherale said the checks should be made out to the Veterans Memorial Fund or the Saratoga County Treasurer, where the funds will be deposited into a trust account. There will be specific names from each of the checks that come in and they will be logged as well. If the check is marked, "In Memory Of", that information should be on the copy of the check. A report can be formed at the committee's request of where each of the checks has come from, and once the money has been put into the trust fund it will not come out until there is a resolution approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Pitcherale said what has happened so far is either Pam Hargrave or the family has been given the information for a thank you or official recognition from the Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Johnson said the Thank You should be administered through the Clerk of the Board on Board of Supervisors letterhead.

Mrs. Johnson said she would like to have the resolution ready by the July Veterans meeting. She requested that the Veterans subcommittee meet with the County Attorney to draft the resolution.

Mrs. Johnson read and distributed a letter and card from the Dart Family stating their appreciation in honoring father and husband, Clarence Dart.

Ms. Daly presented a print of the WWII Memorial from Washington D.C. to Mr. Davis, Veterans' Director for display.

On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Wright the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom