

Veterans' Committee Minutes
November 5, 2012 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Rowland, Kinowski, Hargrave, Wright and Collyer; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Andrew Davis, Veterans' Director; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Rowland the minutes of the October 1, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Davis said there are currently 126 registered and paid runners with an additional 65 people from GE coming. He said common advice is that we can expect to see a third to half of those same numbers in same day registrations. He said the goal is to reach 200 runners.

Mr. Davis said all expenses for the Veterans Run have been covered by sponsorships, so every registration fee has gone to the Veterans Trust Fund. In addition, there have been 20 runners registered in the last two weeks where money has not been received yet.

Mr. Davis said there is a need for water jugs that will be put out on the running course. He asked if anyone had one and was willing to donate it, to let him know.

Mr. Davis said they will take runner registrations up to the last minute. Extra T-shirts were ordered to accommodate last minute registrations and they can be purchased for \$15/ea. With all the proceeds to go to the Veterans Fund.

Mr. Davis said the women in Schuylerville from the Legion who decided to do a walk for the trust fund raised approximately \$1,800.

Mr. Davis said he will be talking to Public Health as well as other committees this month with regard to the Peer to Peer Program. He said he met with Senator McDonald and Senator Zeldin's staff and all four counties that are doing this program, and was advised that the State has suggested that the money be spent by March 2014. He said the sooner it is spent and results are shown the better for the long term sustainment of the programs. A copy of the organization plan for the Peer to Peer Program was distributed to all committee members for their review.

Mr. Davis said there has been a high volume of Military Veteran suicides with Long Island in the last 90 days losing 9 Veterans to suicide that were all suffering from PTSD or some sort of military trauma. He said the State came forward and said if the traditional resources such as the VA are not working completely, with approximately 30% of Veterans interfacing with the VA, then what should we do. This program was then initiated. It is found that Peer to Peer

mentoring solves some of these problems, with each county having the freedom to design their own program.

Mr. Davis said the program in Saratoga County revolves around an actual mentor Peer to Peer Program where if you are a Veteran you are matched with a Veteran who has already successfully navigated the systems. The work is very similar to a sponsor in an AA program or to a College guidance counselor, he said. The first event to train the mentors will take place in January.

Mr. Kinowski asked if the organization plan for the Peer to Peer Program had been sent to all local Veterans' organizations. Mr. Davis said, no. Mr. Kinowski made a recommendation to do that so they are aware of it and can pass it on to as many Veterans organizations as possible.

Mrs. Johnson reminded the committee that this month is the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. This month they are doing a groundbreaking to add an education center at the wall, which will tell the story of each person's name on the wall including photographs, narrations and biographies.

Mrs. Johnson thanked all who attended the Bridge Dedication in Schuylerville.

Mrs. Johnson said there was an article in the Saratogian about the Warhorse Program, stating that they are going to make the program available throughout the entire United States.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom