



**SARATOGA COUNTY**  
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY  
152 WEST HIGH ST., BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

SC-VSA

May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Executive Summary, Saratoga County, Veterans' Service Agency (VSA)

Subject: Events and Activities Summary for May 19<sup>th</sup> through May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Executive Summary Intent: The purpose of this document is to provide situational awareness and understanding to subordinate and adjacent leaders and staff of the Veterans' Service Agency (VSA). This document does not by itself dictate official policy or decision.

Summary:

1. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, I met with Amy Amoroso, Veterans Business Advisor, Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), to discuss the progress of the of the groups employment survey, crowd funding for our Veterans Trust fund, and how to integrate the VBOC with the Veterans Employment Task Force.
  - a. Lisa Scaccia, Saratoga County Employment and Training, and Amy Amoroso have finalized the survey and released the survey to the Task Force for comments. The survey and introduction will be finalized by May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in order to keep with our original time frame to send out the survey on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.
  - b. Amy shared with the name of a "Crowd Funding Specialist" that will help bolster our Veterans Trust Fund. As I briefed the Veterans' Committee in May; I will schedule time to discuss this initiative with Ryan.
2. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, we conducted the monthly, Honor Deceased Veteran Ceremony. The item that caught my attention was that PFC Smith was already Italy fighting the Germans months before he became part of the 10<sup>th</sup> (Alpine) Division. He is someone to be proud of for his own record not the record of his unit.
3. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, I met with Dianna Rios, American Red Cross and Amy Clinton, United Way to discuss the details regarding President Obama's Joining Forces, a nationwide initiative that mobilizes all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned, and to raise awareness of military families' unique needs as pertains to employment, education and wellness. For Saratoga County, we are moving in the right direction with Veterans' Employment Task Force, and as we develop our Veterans' Alliance in the weeks to come.
4. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, I met with Lisa Scaccia to develop a rough "Hiring Conference" process map. During this planning session we reached out to local businesses and to military recruiting firms for advice and assistance. The team is preparing to meet with a council of HR representatives in mid-June and would like share the concept for their "buy in."
5. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, I met with Erica Choi, US Small Business Administration and Amy Amoroso (VBOC).
  - a. We discussed ways for Erica to assist the Veterans of Saratoga County. She is a fellow Veteran and lives

in the County. She has agreed to join the Veterans Alliance and to volunteer as a Peer to Peer mentor. (Yes! Thank You, Erica).

- b. We also discussed the many ways the VBOC can assist the TF in coordination with the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce. This is very exciting for the team – we are bringing the expertise and desire of Denise Romeo and Amy to leverage an area that I would not have ever considered prior to joining the team.
6. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, I met with Don Tallman, Alumni Ambassador, Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) and Elizabeth Donovan, VA Stratton Medical Center. The intent of the meeting was to serve as a “Meet and Greet” and also begin to build a partnership between the Peer to Peer Teams and the Wounded Warrior Project. By building this partnership we will be able to combine our limited resources to sponsor social events for our Veterans and Programs.
7. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, I attended and marched in the Saratoga Springs Memorial Day Parade. I was given the task to speak and focused my time specifying the locations and names of those service men and women who lost their lives serving in combat.
8. On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, I had breakfast with Jim Peluso and Roy McDonald. We discussed our current initiatives and methods to sustain these initiatives. Of highlight we discussed in detail the Peer to Peer program and the Veterans’ Alliance. Mr. McDonald has made himself available to the team and we will be corresponding on frequent basis. At some point during our meal we began chatting about our experiences while serving overseas. This was refreshing; to have a conversation with a Combat Veteran that is still interested in assisting.
9. This morning, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, I attended the Memorial Day Ceremony with the family of SGT Elijah P. Willete. This is an honor that I do not take lightly. Elijah’s mother and family are open to assistance and I will coordinate this effort with Elizabeth Donovan from the VA Medical Center.
10. This afternoon, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013, I attended the Town of Charlton’s Memorial Day Event. I was given the task to speak and focused my time specifying the locations and names of those service men and women who lost their lives serving in combat.
11. Veterans Outreach.
  - a. May’s 2013 Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 in the Board Room. The honoree was Harold Irving Smith from the Town of Corinth.
  - b. June’s 2013 Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 in the Board Room. The honoree will be from the Town of Waterford.
  - c. The Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency van transported 18 Veterans to the VA hospital this week. Ridership derived from the following towns:
    - 1) Saratoga Springs – 5
    - 2) Ballston Spa – 3
    - 3) Stillwater – 4
    - 4) Clifton Park – 1
    - 5) Wilton – 2

- 6) Mechanicville – 1
- 7) Milton – 1

- d. Frank represented the team at the Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce Retire Right Expo at the Desmond Hotel Conference Center in Albany. 25-30 Veterans, Veterans' family member and service providers contacted Frank regarding Veterans Benefits. A majority of the discussions centered around Health Care, Pension with Aid & Attendance benefits, and Service-Connected Disability Compensation with an emphasis on Vietnam specific information.
- e. The team coordinated for the wreath at the Saratoga County Veterans Memorial at the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery. Through Supervisor Tom Wood, Frank coordinated with the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 13 from Schuylerville to coordinate the laying and care of the wreath over the holiday weekend.

## 12. Veterans Service Officer Actions.

- a. Frank processed 4 new claims at an average of 1.25 hours per claim.
- b. Frank conducted 6 open claims follow up engagements at an average of 1.0 hours per engagement.
- c. The team scheduled 3 claims appointments at an average of 1.25 hours per scheduling.
- d. The team served 11 walk-in clients at an average of 25 minutes per visit.
- e. The team processed 87 phone call inquiries at an average of 7 minutes per inquiry.
- f. The team received 1 referral from within from County DSS resulting in 1 scheduled appointment for next week.

## Upcoming Events:

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

- Visit Mount McGregor Correctional Facility

May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

- Meeting with Amy Clinton, Manager, Public Policy & Grants, United Way of the Greater Capital Region.

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

- Meeting with Congressman Paul Tonko and other Veterans service organizations.
- Meeting with Dan Perkins, NYS DOL Veterans Counselor and NYS DOL Business Service Representative.

Conclusion: This week many of you reached out to me with the concern that I may get burned out. Actually, If I was doing all these great and awesome things alone – I would. The ability to reach out to one Veteran or Veteran's family in need is a team effort. At the end of the week – if we positively impact just one Veteran or family – we have made the difference to go at this again next week.

Felipe C. Moon/Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency at (518) 884-4116 or fmoon@saratogacountyny.gov.