



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

SC-VSA

December 6th, 2013

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

Subject: Events and Activities Summary for November 11th, 2013 through November 30th, 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.

Mission: To fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.

Vision: We will accomplish this by providing quality service, advocacy and counseling for the Veterans of Saratoga County and their families. In coordination with other Saratoga County departments, non-government organizations, community based partners and affiliates, we will make sure our Veterans receive the right services, external assistance and benefits through outreach. The most essential portion of our charter is to ensure that our Veterans, especially those we come in contact with, are treated professionally with dignity and respect.

Summary:

1. Veterans Self Sufficiency.

- a. On November 22nd, 2013, a portion of the Task Force met in order to review our latest activities and discuss future events. In attendance was Spencer Hellwig, the Saratoga County Administrator.
- b. We agreed that the VA Veterans Career Fair was a great success with 18 Veterans earning jobs. We also recognized the several lessons learned from the Malta Job Fair:
 - There is a difference between a Veterans Career Fair vs Veterans Resource Fair.
 - Inviting schools to the event is counterproductive.
 - Employers need to attend with open positions and committed to interview Veterans at the event.
 - There needs to be a concerted effort to follow up with the employers and Veterans with regards to expected results.
- c. The group decided to move forward with planning our Veterans Hiring Conference to take place on March 12th, 2014. Time and location is still to be determined.

2. Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO). On November 20th, 2013, Stephen Doresy, President of the Saratoga Bar Association, and Erica (Nic) Rangel and I met to discuss the idea of developing a Veterans Legal Support initiative partnership between the Veterans Service Agency, the Saratoga County Bar Association and the Albany Law School.

- a. The group agreed that our Veterans deserve better legal representation than that provided by LSE/LSC.

- b. The vision of this partnership is to provide pro bono legal assistance to Veterans in need of criminal and/or civil legal assistance in order to support our Veterans for sacrifices for our nation.
 - c. We are hoping to develop a vetting process that will begin at the Veterans Service Agency (VSA) to confirm/deny the candidates Veterans status, income, and legal assistance need. The VSA will then be able to refer the Veteran to the Saratoga County Bar Veterans Legal Assistance Program.
 - d. December 31st, 2013 – Steve will established the Saratoga County Bar Association Veterans Legal Assistance Committee.
 - e. January 2014 – Steve will introduce an April Veterans Legal Assistance Day to The Saratoga County Bar Association Law Day Planning Committee.
 - f. February 2014 – Albany Law School is hosting a Special Needs Planning Day - for Families of People with Developmental Disabilities.
 - g. April 2014 - Saratoga County Bar Association plans to conduct its April Veterans Legal Assistance Day.
3. Veterans Peer to Peer Support Program.
- a. Current status.
 - 1) The program has 2 Veterans who met their goals!
 - 2) 8 matched pairs.
 - 3) 17 trained mentors.
 - 4) 11 mentors waiting for training.
 - b. The program is hosting a Veteran Peers Give Back Holiday event on 12/12/13.
 - c. The next training is 12/12/13 from 6-9 pm. There are 13 Veterans signed up for this training event.
4. Veterans Benefits Outreach Initiative.
- a. On Tuesday, January 14th, 2014, we will conduct our Veterans Benefits Outreach Day in the Town of Saratoga.
 - b. On Tuesday, January 28th, 2014, we will conduct our Veterans Benefits Outreach Day in the Town of Clifton Park.
5. Veterans Trust Fund Initiative.
- a. On Saturday, November 9th, 2013 at 10:00AM in the vicinity of Hudson Crossings Park, the Town of Saratoga hosted the 2nd Annual Saratoga County Veterans Trust Fund 5K Race and Children's 1/2 Mile Nature Run.

b. Fall Fund Drive. Peter Bardunias, (President/CEO) and the Chamber of Commerce of Southern Saratoga County executed their Fund Drive to end on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

➤ Illustration below captures services, physical items donated.



➤ Illustration below captures funds received and expensed. Current balance is: \$14,072.05.

2013 Fall Fund Drive and 2nd Annual Veterans Service Agency Trust Fund 5K				
\$4,958.55	Month Total: June 2013			
		\$200.00	7/16/2013 - 1st Deposit	Sam and Mary Ann Johnson
	\$5,158.55	Month Total: July 2013		
	\$6,675.30	Month Total: August 2013		
	\$9,025.80	Month Total: September 2013		
	\$12,411.80	Month Total: October 2013		
\$17,406.05	Total: 11/20/2013			
-3,795.00	Expenses:11/22/2013			
\$13,611.05	Total:11/22/2013			
		\$25.00	11/26/2013 - Deposit	
		\$436.00	7/16/2013 - Deposit	
14,072.05	Current Balance	As of: 11/26/2013		
\$500.00	USATF Certification	Donation Received/Not Posted		
\$105.00	Portable Toilets	Donation Received/Not Posted		
\$14,677.05	Sub Total			
(\$4,958.55)	Month Total: June 2013			
\$9,718.50	Total Funds Received			

6. Saratoga County Veteran's Business Council. The council will meet on Wednesday, December 11th, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. at the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.
7. Veterans Outreach. (This portion will seem vague due to the nature of the incidents and confidentiality.)
 - a. During this reporting period our "network" assisted several Veterans navigating through acute urgent matters regarding civil legal matters, family advocacy and potential traumatic events which would have had catastrophic effects.
 - b. On November 21st, 2013, we met with Albany VA, the RPC (Guardian House/VetHELP) and the NYS DOC in order to develop a partnership to provide our Veterans Re-entry Program Candidates better services which will reduce the possibility of recidivism.
8. Veterans Service Operational Update.
 - a. November 2013 Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony took place on the 19th at 2:30pm in the Board Room. The honoree was World War I Veteran Harry August Stanford from the City of Saratoga Springs.
 - b. December's Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony will take place on the 19th of November at 2:30pm in the Board Room. The honoree will be Marge Rudolph Shiel, a WWII Veteran from the Town of Hadley.
 - c. The Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency van transported 112 Veterans to the VA hospital this month. Ridership derived from the following towns:
 - Saratoga Springs – 42
 - Ballston Spa – 18
 - Stillwater – 12
 - Saratoga/Schulyerville - 0
 - Clifton Park – 1
 - Milton – 3
 - South Glens Falls (Moreau) - 5
 - Halfmoon – 2
 - Hadley – 1
 - Wilton – 8
 - Mechanicville –21
 - Malta – 0
 - Greenfield - 0
9. Veterans Service Officer Actions.
 - a. Frank processed 10 new claims at an average of 1.5 hour per claim.
 - b. Frank conducted 12 open claims follow up engagements at an average of 1 hour per engagement.

- c. Frank scheduled 12 claim appointments at an average of 1.25 hours per scheduling.
- d. The team served 32 walk-in clients at an average of 25 minutes per visit.
- e. The team processed 725 phone call inquiries at an average of 10 minutes per inquiry.
- f. The team received 15 referrals from within from County DSS resulting in 4 scheduled appointments.

10. Upcoming Events:

December 3rd, 2013 – 2nd Annual Saratoga County Veterans Trust Fund 5K - After Action Review

December 4th, 2013 – Saratoga County Economic Development Meeting

December 4th, 2013 – Saratoga County American Legion Meeting – Saratoga Springs

December 11th, 2013 – Veterans Committee Meeting

December 17th, 2013 – Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony

Conclusion: We have formed a core group of Veteran service providers that has grown many branches, that has created many opportunities for Veterans to become “Self Sufficient.” Over the last several months we have brought to life this vision of Veterans outreach.

There will not be a December Executive Summary. It will be replaced by the 2013 – Annual Report (Executive Summary).

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