

## **VETERANS' COMMITTEE MEETING**

**July 7, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors Hunter, Lucia, Wright; Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Jen Ciulla, Publication Specialist; Bob Mitchell, Veterans' Service Agency; Harold Wessell, Ballston Journal

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order.

Mr. Lucia moved to approve the minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Hunter seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Barrett stated there will be a fundraiser on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> for the Guardian House Project for Homeless Women Veterans, and he distributed fliers on this. He said we want to do everything we can to support this event and others they may have. If anybody would like to volunteer to sell tickets or to work at this, please contact Supervisor Yepsen, Bud Mazurek of the Rural Preservation Company or myself, he said. We would like to get as many people as we can in the County to make this a success, he added.

Ms. Southworth stated over \$10,000 has been raised for this project from the one fundraiser and donations. She mentioned there is a tentative site procured. She said this event will be a nice family day. Michelle Paterson will be there to speak, she said. Chairman Barrett said he will see that this is put on the Clifton Park website and the County's website.

In discussing the Army Field Band Concert that will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup>, at SPAC, Chairman Barrett said Aramark has agreed to lower the cost of concession items at SPAC. This is an extra way to show support for the veterans, and I thank them for that, he said. This is a nice concert, and hopefully, we will have great weather, he added.

Ms. Ciulla passed around the final copy of the concert invitation and ticket. She said these should be mailed and be in homes the first week in September. The first ads should run July 26<sup>th</sup>, and we will try to get the tickets in the Stewart's Shops and town and city halls a week earlier – around the end of August, she stated. She mentioned the catering and fireworks are all set. Chairman Barrett said the tickets are free, and if the town/city halls run out, we can get them more. We expect another big crowd, he said. Ms. Ciulla said she will again reach out to the senior living centers, Saratoga Bridges and Parsons to see if they have any groups that may enjoy the concert as well.

Chairman Barrett stated the Job Fair is a great way to help veterans. Mr. Mitchell said 1400 invitations for the World War II ceremony have been sent out, and 600 have responded. We will also be putting an ad in the papers for those people

who were missed. We may have 2,000 people at that event with veterans and their families, so there is no way we can have the traditional job fair because the space is not available. He recommended that the ceremony be strictly for the World War II celebration. He said he will have a couple of important vendors there and the food. He mentioned he has \$7,000 in the budget, and he has already paid \$2,200 for the City Center. He said someone mentioned having a band there, and that may be possible out of his budget. He said Joey Thomas is that era band, but he does not know if he would be available. Mr. Lucia said a member of the Ballston Spa Community Band asked him about having them at larger County functions. Mr. Mitchell said they would be fine too. Mr. Lucia said Helen Endres plays the flute in that band. Chairman Barrett requested Mr. Mitchell to check with them to see if they would be willing. Mr. Mitchell said he would talk to the bandleader. He said the ceremony has to be put together as soon as possible, and we need a guest speaker. People have commitments, and we need to get people there for that October 26<sup>th</sup> date, he said. Chairman Barrett requested him to put together a short list of who he thinks would be appropriate. Mr. Mitchell said he would bring it to the August meeting. Chairman Barrett said if there is a high ranking official who is in the area, get their name as well. He stated at the ceremony, it is important that the speeches be kept short.

Ms. Ciulla said from the survey that we will be putting in the Pennysaver, we should have a good sense of how many medals we will need to order.

Chairman Barrett requested Mr. Mitchell to check on the new names that have to be put on the monument at the National Cemetery, and e-mail them to him. If there are any, maybe in the fall we can put together another ceremony at the Cemetery to add those names, he said.

Mr. Mitchell mentioned General Tulutto, from Washington County, was promoted to three stars, and he is in charge of all National Guards in the U.S. Chairman Barrett requested Mr. Mitchell to put the General's name on the list of who should be invited to the World War II ceremony.

Chairman Barrett said he appreciates everyone's hard work on these events.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann