

Veterans' Committee Minutes
September 1, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors Hunter, M. Johnson, Lucia, Wright, Yepsen, and Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Gene Corsale, Veterans' Volunteer; Jen Ciulla, Publication Specialist.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes of the August 4, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Barrett said Volunteers are still needed to hand out programs at the Army Field Band Concert on September 25th at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Anyone interested should contact Jen Ciulla.

Ms. Ciulla distributed handouts to all committee members in attendance with regard to the Army Field Band Concert at SPAC on September 25th and reviewed the following items that were approved by the committee:

- Vets Committee Chairman Barrett as MC – Welcome, call all supervisors on stage
- Brief opening comments from Chairman Art Johnson
- Chairman Art Johnson to introduce band
- No other speakers
- Provide a video of the concert to Time Warner cable to show on public access at a later date.
- Reserved seats for Supervisors will be available. All supervisors should contact Jen Ciulla with the number of seats they will need. An e-mail reminder will be sent to all supervisors.
- Extra invitations will be available. Invitations will be sent to all County Representatives.

The following updates were reviewed:

- The projected expenses for the 2009 Veterans' concert are \$44,350.
- Radio and Print Ads will begin after Labor Day
- Tickets have been distributed to local Stewart's stores, town halls and through the mail.
- Contact with area High School music teachers will be made to begin getting student players on board.
- Letters will be sent to Senior Centers/Assisted Living Facilities to see if anyone would like to come. Ms. Ciulla said that if anyone has any other ideas of a large group that might be interested in a packet of tickets to let her know.
- Area High School & Community Bands will be contacted
- Mr. Mitchell has secured the Honor Guard from the National Cemetery

- The Band conductor will be doing a pre-performance at 6:30p.m. This performance has been noted on the tickets.
- Gates will open at 5:30 p.m.
- A press release will go out the week of 9/8 and a photo advisory the week of 9/21

Mr. Barrett said the WWII Veterans Night would be coming up in October with an expected attendance between 1,000 and 1,100.

Ms. Ciulla said approximately 960 invitations will be sent out, inviting each veteran and one quest.

Ms. Ciulla said she and Mr. Mitchell met with management at the City Center and outlined the following:

- City Center outside doors will open at 4:30 p.m. with a coat check manned by the Board of Supervisors staff and volunteers
- Doors will open to the main dining room at 5:15 p.m. The Veteran and quest will use their invitation to enter
- Volunteers will be needed to remove chairs for wheelchairs
- Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., beginning with a welcome from Supervisor Barrett and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- There will be music during the entry and following the pledge throughout dinner until 6:30 p.m.
- Ms. Ciulla is currently waiting for a price quote from Spiak's Audio/Visual to set up a screen to project names of veterans during dinner and speeches.
- The meal will be a sit-down dinner, with one meal selection, with the exception of any special dietary needs that would be specified on the response card.
- Mr. Barrett said that he would like to have all the names read by the Veterans' Committee Members and other Supervisor volunteers.
- Supervisor Barrett will introduce Chairman Johnson at 6:30 p.m. when the program begins.
- The following speakers have been confirmed: Senator McDonald and James McDonough, Director of the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs
- Mr. Barrett said he would like to have the medals distributed by Department Heads and Supervisors to each table while the names are being read.

Ms. Yepen asked how many WWII Veterans' were in the county? Ms. Ciulla said the original list had about 1,400 names on it. In May a survey was sent out and from that 413 indicated that they were interested in attending the Veterans' Night with an additional 166 responding that they weren't interested, but would like to receive a medal. There were another 554 that didn't respond to the survey, however, they will receive an invitation.

Ms. Ciulla said on the invitation it states that it should be brought with you for entry. She suggested that each Veteran put their invitation at their place at the table for identification when distributing the medals. Extra invitations will be available.

Mr. Barrett asked that a list be made up for each Supervisor with the names of the Veterans' for the reading. Instructions will be sent to all Supervisors and volunteers ahead of time with the itinerary for the evening. He encouraged all supervisors to volunteer.

Ms. Yepsen reminded everyone that "Proud to be an American Day" would take place at the Saratoga Racetrack on September 2nd, where every Veteran will be able to enter free of charge. Anyone who would like to setup materials about Veterans' is welcome.

Ms. Yepsen said the fundraiser for the women's shelter was a success, raising \$20,000 through a silent auction and corporate donations.

Mr. Barrett thanked Ms. Yepsen, Mrs. Southworth, and all others involved for their efforts in raising funds for Guardian House Women's Shelter.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom