

Veterans' Committee Minutes  
April 2, 2012 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Lucia, Hargrave, Wright, Sausville, Lewza and Yepsen; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Gene Corsale, Veterans Volunteer; Press.

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

Mrs. Johnson said there was one correction to be made to the March 5<sup>th</sup> minutes to include the word Saratoga County “**Veterans**” Memorial Bridge in the resolution.

**On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the March 5, 2012 meeting were approved as amended. Unanimous.**

**On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Davis said the VA has implemented nationwide Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinators with their goals to liaison with the individual Veteran's in the court and jail systems; help setup Veterans' courts, where wanted and needed; and to do law enforcement training. Mr. Davis said that this would entail that all fourteen law enforcement agencies in the county come together and District Attorney Murphy will sponsor/co-sponsor this event this summer. The goal is to spend half a day talking about issues facing returning Veterans. Veterans of all generations will apply here, but returning Veterans will be the key. The training will include what to look for when they get pulled over and where they can be referred to before they are sentenced. The goal is to help Veterans get the help they are entitled. Mr. Davis said the largest issues seen when Veterans come home are depression and readjustment issues. On June 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a preview DWI Training in the County Board Room. A date will then be chosen in July or August to bring everyone together at one location.

Mrs. Johnson said this is going to be a great program and something that is definitely going to be needed as Veterans come home. Community involvement is very critical, she said.

Mrs. Johnson said that as Chairman of the Veterans Committee, she is establishing an initiative for Veterans called “On the Move for Veterans”. We as the Veterans Committee along with the Veterans Director, Andy Davis will work with any of the towns and cities in Saratoga County requesting assistance in their own planned programs that recognize and honor living and deceased Veterans. She said the committee's involvement would probably be in the human resource moduled program with the main objective to provide the skills, the talent and the knowledge that this committee has. The network of resources that Director Davis has access to, combined with the Veterans' committee involvement will allow their goals to be accomplished and their desired

outcome to be achieved. Putting our heads together with them and with the Veterans' Director office will make for a very successful program. The financial contribution should be very minimal from the county, as the program is going to be initiated by the Towns and Cities. She said Mr. Davis presented an excellent idea with the monument photo, having it framed and designed with graphics for a specific town, if it was for a deceased Veteran, the name on the monument could be raised so that they would stand out. This is a little bit different than the current, very successful Deceased Veterans Honor Program that the county has on a monthly basis because it will allow living as well as deceased Veterans to be honored and recognized. She said the first program is already underway in the City of Mechanicville. Mrs. Johnson thanked the committee for their participation and acceptance of this program as it moves forward.

Mrs. Johnson said a date has been set of August 11, 2012 at the Mechanicville High School Auditorium. Mr. Richardson will be the Master of Ceremonies coordinating the program in conjunction with working with the committee. The Mechanicville Historian will be actively involved as well as Mr. Corsale to help with Veteran's information. The program will involve Deceased WWII Veterans from Mechanicville.

Mrs. Johnson said the subcommittee discussed the possibility of having a "Battle of the Bands" concert at the County Fair Grounds, which would be to raise money for the Veterans Trust Fund. The event would probably include four or five bands, with food and beverages offered.

Mrs. Johnson said the resolution with regard to designating the highways because there is a resolution that was already submitted in 2009 and the roads were already designated as the Philip Schuyler Memorial Highway.

Mr. Dorsey clarified by saying that there was legislation that was proposed in 2009 that included Route 29. Originally, it was requested that the State Legislature pass a home rule request naming Route 29, Lake Avenue in Saratoga Springs down to Routes 4 and 32 in the Village of Schuylerville continuing into Waterford. The problem that occurred with this legislation was that a section of route 29 was designated in 1996 as the "General Philip Schuyler Commemorative Highway" pursuant to home rule requests of the county. The legislation has been retooled to just request that route 4 and 32 from the Village of Schuylerville to the Village of Waterford be designated the "Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Highway". This legislation was introduced in January of 2012.

Mrs. Johnson said she was asked by Ms. Yepsen to bring up some Senate and Assembly Legislation about military deployment as a factor in awarding child custody. She said that she has been informed that the Legislative and Research Committee is also looking into the same legislation.

Mr. Davis said after speaking to people at the Division of Military Naval Affairs, as well as DOD, and the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs, he did not find anyone who had a problem with the legislation. He also said that at this time he did not know the current status of the legislation, but this bill is to keep military members from being

penalized in custody hearings and custody scheduling because of potential deployment or deployment, he said

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Lucia to forward the Senate and Assembly Bill with regard to military deployment and awarding child custody to the Legislative and Research Committee. Unanimous.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to withdraw the above motion. Unanimous.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Hargrave to forward a Resolution in support of Military Deployment and Awarding Child Custody to the Law and Finance Committee. Unanimous.**

Mr. Davis said in March he testified before the Mental Hygiene committee and State Senate about PTSD and community involvement in dealing with the important issue. It appears that in the Governor's budget bill there will be some money going toward that as part of a pilot program, and Saratoga County will be receiving some of that money. He said at this time he doesn't know how much or when. Approximately \$800,000 has been secured for four counties to do a pilot program. The four counties include Saratoga, Rensselaer, Suffolk and Jefferson.

Mrs. Johnson reminded the committee about a Yellow Ribbon Day Ceremony to take place on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the Wilton Elks.

**On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Hargrave the meeting was adjourned. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom