

Veterans Committee Minutes
January 7, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Collyer, Hargrave, Kinowski, Lucia, Richardson, and Southworth; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Frank McClement, Andrew Davis, Veterans.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes from the December 3, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mrs. Johnson announced the appointment of Supervisor Southworth as Committee Vice Chairman.

Mrs. Johnson appointed an events subcommittee consisting of Mr. Collyer, Mr. Kinowski, Mrs. Southworth, and Ms. Hargrave. She said a Veteran from the county would also be appointed to the committee at a later date.

A year end committee report was distributed to all committee members for their review.

Mr. Davis distributed a Year End Veterans Department report to the committee for their review. He said the report is quite detailed and if anyone has questions they should feel free to contact him.

Mr. Davis said the Peer to Peer Program kickoff is scheduled for January 11, 2013. There will be a training event at the Empire State College on 113 West Avenue and is free to attendees. There are nine mentors signed up with another fifteen service providers, with RSVP's taken up to the final day. This training, centers on the first certification of mentors, so this Peer to Peer Program is from \$180,000 of State money received. A program coordinator has been chosen and should begin shortly to advertise the program, getting Veterans involved. The design is almost like an AA sponsorship in the sense that a mentor and a Veteran who has been through the integration process from Vietnam, Korea, WWII or even peace time, gets matched up with returning combat Vets from Iraq and Afghanistan to become sponsors. At the end of the training event on Friday it is anticipated that the first ten mentors will be certified and the process of matching them up to returning Veterans will begin. . Mr. Davis said the \$180,000 will need to be spent before June 2014. The program will also include recognition of services to County Veterans by Gene Corsale.

Mrs. Johnson outlined the following goals for 2013:

- Adding a name to the Veterans Wall at the National Cemetery (Mr. Denier from Mechanicville)

- Renaming of the Highway to the Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Highway

Mr. Dorsey said the highway route that the committee advocated for last year began at Exit 14 of the Northway, proceeding southeast along Route 9P to State Route 423 and north on to State Route 32 up to Wilbur Road and would touch on the backside of the Saratoga National Park and would cross the Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Bridge over Fish Creek. The committee originally began looking at this particular route and then learned that there had been a prior home rule legislation request to the State Legislature in 2009 that had been sitting there and gone through several revisions that had set a route down Route 29 from the Saratoga Military Museum in Saratoga Springs to Route 29 in Schuylerville and to Routes 4 and 32 into the Village of Waterford. The committee went in that direction and passed a second home rule request with new updated assembly bill numbers on it. Two days before they were to pass home rule legislation in June, word was given that there was a problem with the route, as it had already been designated the General Philip Schuyler Memorial Highway. Mr. Dorsey said the committee is back to the original route that they were looking at in the beginning of last year and the procedure would be for the Board of Supervisors to pass a home rule resolution request this month stating this particular route as the Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Highway. It would then be passed on to the Senate and Assembly where they would draft and introduce legislation that would then come back to the Board of Supervisors to adopt a second resolution requesting passage with the bill numbers as assigned by the Senate and Assembly.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Lucia requesting home rule legislation designating the above stated route as the Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Highway. Unanimous.

- **Veterans 5K Run (looking for volunteers)**
- **60th Anniversary of the Korean War**

Mrs. Johnson said there is always interest in increasing the Veterans Fund, so if anyone has any ideas they should contact her.

Mr. Hargrave said the Town of Galway puts out a newsletter quarterly and advertising is free.

Mr. Davis announced his resignation from the position of Director of Veterans Services for the county. He said his last day will be January 18, 2013.

Mrs. Johnson commended Mr. Davis for a job well done.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom