

Veterans Committee Minutes
November 12, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman; M. Johnson; Supervisors Collyer, Hargrave, Richardson, and Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Amy Clinton, Director of Public Policy and Grants for United Way; Felipe Moon, Veterans Director.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the October 9, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Ms. Clinton said 211 is a national initiative that covers approximately 90% of the US States and in New York it covers approximately 92% of the population. In the Northeast region it covers twelve counties with a total of five call centers throughout New York State. Trained Call Specialists are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with an online presence with twenty four hour access for those individuals who need after hours, with multiple language capability. There are over 1900 agencies and programs in the 211 data base for the twelve county region, with specific information about the programs, what is required, telephone numbers and contacts, which are validated on an annual basis. All 211 calls are free and confidential.

Ms. Clinton said after speaking to Mr. Moon and others they decided to begin tracking the calls that were coming to the call center to find out how many military or former military members are taking advantage of the 211 service. To date it is approximately 10%, she said. If the caller has served then they are referred to military or veterans referrals first. If there is something else they are looking for then they will be referred to another agency. Handouts were distributed to all committee members, which included a fact sheet about the 211 system. Mrs. Clinton said in Saratoga County for the month of October there were approximately 100 calls with 12% of those calls coming from Veterans or individuals who had served in the military.

Mr. Moon distributed handouts regarding an update on Veteran's Day Ceremonies. He said at the direction of the Economic Development Committee and the Veterans Committee a cross functional Task Force was created to help Veterans obtain employment and become self-sufficient.

Mrs. Johnson thanked Supervisor Collyer for coming to the Veterans 5k race and helping out. She said last year there were 62 runners. This year there were over 175 runners with approximately 205 that had signed up. The runners and sponsors were more than triple, going from 8 sponsors in 2012 to 28 sponsors for this year's race. Mrs. Johnson said it is anticipated that the money raised from the race for the Veterans Trust Fund will be approximately \$20,000.

Mrs. Johnson said the 5K race was very successful, with 84 runners coming from Momentive in Waterford, along with many positive comments regarding the track.

Mr. Moon said, Mr. Bardunias, from the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce has started a Fall Fund Drive, which started on Veterans Day and will end on December 7th.

Mr. Moon said the Chambers have partnered together with AngioDynamics, Janitronics, and Westaff to put together a streamlined approach finding employment for Veterans who are homeless or on the verge of being homeless.

Mr. Moon said he met with Amy Amoroso, who is a member of the Veterans Business Outreach Center where Amy brought up the point that Veterans do not have the status in the State and Counties that they do with the Federal Government. After meetings with the Chamber of Commerce and some research it was introduced to Senator Marchione's staff who put together a proposed bill along with Assemblyman John McDonald and Dan Stec, entitled, Opening Opportunities, Resources and Access for Heroes (OORAH) to include the following initiatives:

- Affirmative action providing access and opportunities for a successful business
- Veteran-owned Business Enterprise (VBE) certification status
- Assistance by the Division of Minority, Women and Veteran-owned Business Development
- Inclusion as a VBE in the directory of certified minority, women, and now, veteran-owned business enterprises which is distributed to all state contracting agencies encouraging MWVBE use
- A percentage share of state contract procurement determined by the next Study of Minority Women and Veteran-owned Business Enterprise Programs
- Listing in the New York City-wide contracting goals enabling VBE's to be a part of agency utilization plans and outreach activities
- A percentage share of New York City-wide contracts used to set agency goals determined by the 2015 city review
- Incubator space
- Business start-up loans, micro-loans, revolving trust fund accounts

Mrs. Johnson said there will be a press release, and the county will be notified when a date and location is set.

Mrs. Johnson thanked the committee for the support throughout the year.

Mrs. Johnson said the highway bill passed and has been signed by the Governor.

Mrs. Johnson at the last meeting there were discussions about giving a flag to each town in commemoration of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Flags were purchased for each town to fly during the anniversary of those wars. Mrs. Johnson said the flags would be handed out at

either the Agenda or Board meeting in November. She said she would be asking the committee to participate in giving the flags to all Supervisors.

Mr. Moon said the Korean War Flag is tentatively flown on June 28th through July 27th and the Vietnam Flag from March 31st to April 30th.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom