

## VETERANS' COMMITTEE MINUTES

AUGUST 4, 2009 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors Hunter, M. Johnson, Lucia and Yepsen; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Robert Mitchell, Veterans Agency; Press.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Hunter the minutes of the July 7, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Ms. Ciulla stated that the Army Field Band Concert will take place at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center on September 25<sup>th</sup>, with doors opening at 5:00 p.m. The concert will begin at 7:00p.m.

Mr. Barrett asked when the tickets would be available. Ms. Ciulla said that the tickets should be in by the end of the week. They will then be forwarded to Saratoga Bridges for mailing. Ms. Ciulla said the target date for the mailing is the first week of September.

Mr. Barrett encouraged all Supervisors to volunteer if they can. He requested that an e-mail be sent to all supervisors asking for volunteers.

Mr. Mitchell said he would contact the Ballston Spa Community Band for their availability to play at the World War II Veterans' Ceremony on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mitchell said there were approximately 1,400 names that were mailed out with 650 returned so far. It is estimated that there will be between 700-725 veterans' in attendance for a estimated total including families and friends of 1,400.

Mr. Mitchell said that the Job Fair will be changed to a Health Fair which will include 20 to 25 vendors.

Mr. Barrett said he had conversation with Mr. Mitchell about the difficulty in accessing benefits for Veterans. Mr. Mitchell said that by January 2010 the backlog will be one million.

Mr. Barrett said when you talk about Veterans' and their families trying to access healthcare and social services that are due them, it is extremely difficult right now. If the county can offer an event that will have people on site that could help them through the backlog it would be a tremendous help.

Mrs. Johnson asked what vendors would be at the Health fair?

Mr. Mitchell read the following list:

Veterans  
New York State Division of Veterans  
Office for the Aging  
Public Health Nurses  
Food Stamps  
Motor Vehicle  
Wesley and Maplewood Manor  
VA Medical Center  
Several Assisted living communities in the County

Mr. Barrett said the county needs to make sure that the needs of Veterans' and their families stay front and center and do everything that we can do to assist them and get them through the bureaucracy and in touch with the right people. This is a great way to do that.

Mr. Mitchell said the Health Fair would be open to all Veterans' not just World War II Veterans'.

Mr. Mitchell said the doors would open for vendors at 6:00 p.m. A reception will take place between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m, with a Ceremony beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Ciulla said the medals have been ordered.

Mr. Mitchell said Dr. Prior from Clifton Park would be added to the Monument at the National Cemetery in October. A specific date has not been chosen as yet.

Ms. Yepsen said on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Fraternal Order Eagles Lodge in Saratoga Springs, there would be a fundraiser from 1-6 p.m. for the Guardian House Project for Homeless Women Veterans.

Tickets are \$25 per person. The Chef from Longfellows has been recruited to be the chef. A short program is planned at 3:00 p.m. where the Congressman's office will present a flag that has been flown over the White House to be presented and displayed over the Women's Shelter. Mrs. Paterson will be speaking.

Ms. Yepsen said that ticket sales are very important. She encouraged all supervisors to attend, and promote the event throughout the county.

Mr. Barrett said at the Clifton Park Town Hall, Bud Taylor was named Legionnaire of the Year for Saratoga County.

Mr. Barrett encouraged anyone who is able to volunteer for the Army Field Band Concert at SPAC to sign up. Refreshments have been reduced in price during the concert.

Ms. Yepsen said anyone who is able to attend the Summer Barbecue on August 15<sup>th</sup> is invited to stand with the First Lady and the Congressman at 3:00 p.m.

**On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mrs. Johnson the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom