

Veterans' Committee Minutes
December 10, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Collyer, Lent, Kinowski, Lucia, Richardson, Southworth, Tollisen, and Wood; Patrick Southworth, Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Ballston Resident; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer seconded by Mr. Richardson, the minutes of the November 12, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Moon said the Veterans Agency has been working with the Department of Corrections on the re-entry program on how to track Veterans that will be released in Saratoga County and bring resources to them. Together with the Re-entry Coordinator, VA Homeless Coordinator, and VETHELP an agreement was established that as a Veteran is released from the Saratoga County Correctional Facility they will be notified as to who the Veteran is and begin to plan how that Veteran can be brought into Vet Help and then follow up with resources.

Mr. Moon said he met with Mr. Dorsey and Albany Law School to setup a Pro-Bono Saratoga County Legal Assistance Program for Veterans with no income limitation, for both criminal and civil cases.

Mr. Moon said the balance in the Veterans Trust Fund is \$14,172.05. Mr. Moore said the current balance in the trust fund which includes money raised from the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce fund drive is \$14,672.06.

Mrs. Johnson said the holiday give back from Peer to Peer will take place at Empire State College on December 12, 2013 between 1pm and 4pm. Gift cards are being sought to benefit, Vet Help, Guardian House and Adopt a Soldier.

Mr. Moon said the 10th Mountain Division has a division referred to as AUSA, which has taken on a protocol of adopting a platoon. He said in January there will be 5,000 soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division deployed. He said the intent is for private individuals, organizations, companies, towns and cities to adopt a platoon while they are getting ready to deploy, and as they deploy, keeping contact with the platoon while they are deployed. A handout was distributed to all committee members describing the program along with a list of frequently asked questions, and information on how to get involved.

Mrs. Johnson said Mr. Moon and Mr. McClement have reviewed the Veterans Van schedule that goes to Albany Medical Center and they feel that an additional day is needed. A request has been made for a three month trial run, adding an additional day.

A motion was made by Mrs. Southworth, seconded by Mr. Lucia to approve adding an additional day to the Veterans Van schedule that goes to Albany Medical Center for a three month trial run. Unanimous. (Committee Approval Only)

Mrs. Scaccia said the Employment and Training Department has been down one Veterans Employment Counselor since August. The position is on hold by the Governor's office; therefore, she is asking for some advocacy from the committee to fill the position. She said currently there are counselors that are coming from Warren and Washington Counties to cover two days per week. The legislature is saying that Saratoga County doesn't have enough population for three Veteran Representatives; however, Saratoga County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of New York, she said. Mrs. Scaccia said she would email the Veterans Committee with a list of email addresses.

Mrs. Johnson said this year the committee had six initiatives that have all been undertaken and are underway, with Veterans Justice Outreach still a work in progress.

Mrs. Johnson thanked the committee for a successful year.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom