

Veterans Committee Minutes
August 4, 2014 - 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wright; Supervisors Allen, Barrett, Jenkins, Kinowski, Lucia, Martin, and Sausville; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Frank McClement, Veterans Director; Paul Mosseau, Veterans Service Officer.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Barrett the minutes of the June 4, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. McClement presented the Veterans Office Operations Summary Report as follows: Twenty-seven new claims were assembled and submitted, with 17 scheduled appointments conducted and 17 walk in clients. In-service training was completed for DSS staff to educate them on what the Veterans Office can provide Veterans and their family members. Training took place on June 13th, July 18th and 25th. One hundred and fifty six veterans were transported last month to the VA Hospital.

Mr. McClement said the current balance in the Veterans Trust fund is \$16,992.05; in addition, there are checks that will be deposited in the amount of \$6,676 that was money raised from the Comedy Warriors event that took place on June 20th and 21st through the Peer to Peer Program.

Mr. McClement said the next Honor Flight is scheduled for September 6, 2014. He said if any Supervisors know of WWII Veterans that are interested to please let him know. Applications were distributed to all committee members.

Mr. Martin asked if Korean War Veterans would be accepted for the September 6th honor flight. Mr. McClement said if there is an open slot they will take a Korean War Veteran. He said he would recommend if there is a Korean War Veteran that has asked about it, to take an application from them. He said his office will forward the application to the organization and then as slots open up, the organization will contact those individuals. He said the priority is WWII Veterans first.

Mr. McClement outlined the following upcoming events through the Peer to Peer Program:

- Family Day Barbecue on August 16th at camp Chingachgook. Mr. McClement said if any Board member is interested in attending to please contact his office.
- Lunch & Learn on August 22nd at 152 West High Street. Mr. McClement said there is a Doctor from the ACC Family Wellness Center that will speak on nutrition, health and wellness.

- Mr. McClement said in working with Live Nation, and keeping the attendance to participants in the Peer to Peer program, they will be attending a Jason Aldean Concert at SPAC on August 29th.
- Mr. McClement said the Veterans Agency has brought the Peer to Peer Mentoring Program into the county jail. A Veterans group currently meets bi-weekly on Monday afternoon, where a Veteran that is involved in the Peer to Peer Program and advisory board has volunteered to meet with Veterans.

Mr. McClement said the next Deceased Veterans Ceremony will take place in September, honoring Robert Damberg from the Town of Day.

Mr. McClement said he has been working with Mrs. Cross, from the Office for the Aging to secure some grant funding for the purchase of a new Veterans Van. He said the new van will be purchased at little or no cost to the county and will improve the service that is provided to veterans.

Mr. McClement introduced Mr. Mosseau as the new Veterans Service Officer. Mr. McClement said Mr. Mosseau has been volunteering with the Peer to Peer Mentoring Program for approximately a year, mentoring another Veteran with great success.

Mr. Wright said a request has been made to include the Veterans Concert in the 2015 budget.

Mr. Martin said there is a major push to help Homeless Veterans through both the VA and HUD, making resources available to cities, states and counties. He said between Saratoga, Warren and Washington County there were 341 homeless Veterans at the end of 2013. A handout was mailed to all committee members for their review.

Mr. McClement said one thing that has come out of the VA is the Support of Services for Veterans Families Grant, which is why there have not been a lot of trust fund applications. The Support of Services Family Grant is administered through small organizations where there is flexibility in the program to help Veterans with financial issues.

Mr. Wright said there is one application that has been submitted for a request from the Veterans Trust Fund in the amount of \$330. The funds would be used to provide the Veteran with a prepaid phone for a duration of four months.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Lucia to approve a \$330 withdrawal from the Veterans Trust Fund. Unanimous.

Mr. Wright appointed a Trust Fund Subcommittee consisting of the following members:

- **Mr. Lucia**

- **Mr. Barrett**
- **Mr. Martin**

On a motion made by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Martin the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom