

VETERANS COMMITTEE

June 6, 2016

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Chairman Phil Barrett; Committee Members Ed Kinowski, Dick Lucia, Dan Pemrick, and Matt Veitch; Supervisors Peter Martin, Jonathan Schopf and Chairman of the Board Mo Wright; Chad Cooke, Deputy County Administrator; Frank McClement, Veteran's Director.

Mr. Barrett called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

On a motion by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Pemrick the minutes of the May 9, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. McClement distributed copies of his Veterans Service Agency's Monthly Report. He briefly went over the report and stated the Department of Social Services referrals are strong. If an individual is applying in Social Services for benefits, it is mandated in New York State if they identify as a veteran or a family member of a veteran they are referred to the County or State Veterans' Office.

Mr. McClement said the transportation program provided 103 rides in the month of May. The van runs Tuesday thru Friday. The Veterans Trust Fund balance is \$40,008.28. In May there was one emergency situation identified and a \$500 award was given. Mr. McClement reported on May 19th the Cry Havoc event was presented by the Peer to Peer Program. He said the event was well attended and the one man play/show, "Cry Havoc", was very powerful.

Mr. McClement said for June there will be two Veterans honored. The Veterans are a father (WWII Veteran) and a son (Vietnam Veteran) from the Town of Day. In July, the Supervisor from the Town of Wilton is currently making a decision between two Veterans. In August, the Town of Saratoga will be honoring a WWII Veteran.

Mr. McClement said the Moving Wall was in Halfmoon this past weekend. His office was invited to participate and put up an informational table and sponsored the Missing Man table. Personnel from the Buildings & Grounds Department constructed a 4'x4' plexi-glass enclosure which housed the display. He will have this for future events. Mr. Barrett asked Mr. McClement to invite the personnel involved with its creation to next month's meeting so the Committee can thank them.

Mr. Barrett said a press release has gone out regarding the Veterans Concert to be held on September 5th. Tickets will be available on July 25th. The tickets will be distributed to the Stewarts Shops throughout the County, the Town Halls, Village Halls and City Halls. Group tickets will be available in the Board Offices. The Concert will begin at 2pm with the doors opening at noon. An email will be going out seeking for volunteers to usher/hand out programs and take tickets.

Mr. Barrett said today is the anniversary of D-Day and asked everyone to take a moment to think about the brave troops that stormed the beaches that day. This past week he spoke at the Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at the American Legion, the Sub Vets had a Tolling of the Boat Ceremony in Ballston Spa, and today at the Solomon Cemetery. At each event he spoke of the Veterans Department and the services and programs they provide. Mr. Barrett commended Senator Marchione, Supervisor Tollisen and all the volunteers for the Moving Wall display in Halfmoon.

Mr. Kinowski asked who produces the programs for the concert. Mr. McClement said the Peer to Peer Program is funding this event. Mr. Kinowski said Home Depot has a Veterans Fund and he gave them Mr. McClement's contact information. He will also share the contact information for this fund with Mr. Barrett and all Supervisors.

Mr. McClement said the Governor signed the Veterans Equality Act which will allow anyone who has served on active duty and is enrolled in NYS Local Retirement the ability to purchase up to 3 years of their service time as credit.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Wright, Clerk of the Board