

Veterans Committee Minutes
December 11, 2017 – 2:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Mo Wright; Supervisors Preston Allen, Phil Barrett, Dan Pemrick and Matt Veitch; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Frank McClement, Veterans.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. McClement distributed his monthly report and gave a brief overview. Mr. McClement said that comparing numbers from November 2016, the number of walk-ins to the office have doubled in November 2017. There were only 2 DSS referrals in November, Mr. McClement said that he plans on following up with Social Services. There were several events in November. The annual 5K race was held November 4, participation was down but sponsorship was up with several new sponsors. The total gross profit is around the \$12K mark. Other events include the Corinth Veterans Ceremony, Transition Assistance Program (TAP), a Southern Saratoga Chamber event and the VSO Conference hosted by the Stratton VA Medical Center. Presenters at the VSO Conference included the Medical Center Director and the Veterans Service Center Manager from the VA Regional office in NY.

There were 147 van transportations provided in November. As of the end of November the Trust Fund had a balance on hand of \$58,204.31.

Mr. McClement said that the Peer to Peer program continues to meet on Tuesday nights at Saratoga Coffee Traders. The cost for coffee and sandwiches is covered by the program and a 50% discount is given by Saratoga Coffee Traders. The program will hold a holiday get together on Tuesday, December 12, weather permitting. On November 18 the Peer to Peer Program hosted a Paint and Eat event which was well attended.

For the Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony, December 2017 will be for the Town of Galway honoring Mark L. Wilde, a Vietnam Veteran. January 2018 will be for the Town of Northumberland honoring Jeffery T. Clark. February 2018 was initially scheduled for the Town of Edinburg however the schedule may be adjusted to accommodate a family that had to cancel in November for the Town of Halfmoon. March 2018 will be for the Town of Day.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, to approve a trust fund grant not to exceed \$750. Unanimous.

The grant will be provided to help cover the costs of a water heater repair and related minor floor repairs for a Veteran in need.

Mr. Wright said that a grant request for \$1,000 was received. The request is for grant funds to help fund a Purple Heart dinner at Glen Saunders Mansion. Very few details were provided with the grant request. After discussion, it was decided at this point not to fund the request as it was determined not to be in line with the main purpose of the Trust Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Veitch, to approve the purchase of gift cards for Veterans Families with a total amount not to exceed \$3,000. Unanimous.

Mr. McClement said that gift cards will be disbursed to 5-6 families to help with the upcoming holiday season. Gift cards will be provided for the purchase of groceries for each family plus clothing and toys for each child.

Mr. Wright thanked the committee and support staff for their participation and work over the past year.

On a motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board