

Veterans Committee Minutes
December 10, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Mo Wright; Supervisors Phil Barrett, Tara Gaston, Dick Lucia, Darren O'Connor, Dan Pemrick, Michael Smith and Kevin Tollisen. Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Frank McClement, Veterans Service Agency; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Pemrick, the minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. McClement distributed the monthly Veterans Service Agency report for November 2018. There were 33 new claims assembled and submitted. Mr. McClement said that they make every effort to connect Veterans or eligible family members to VA benefits rather than DSS benefits. They are mandated by NYS to refer from DSS to the local Veterans Service Agency if someone self identifies and Mr. McClement recently completed training at the Services Building. There were several events in November including the 5K Revolutionary Run which was very successful despite inclement weather. Other events included a ceremony at the Home of the Good Shepherd, Veterans Legal Clinic and the VSO conference. Mr. McClement said that they have an open ended agreement with the Saratoga County Bar Association to provide free consultations for Veterans if needed. The van provided 105 rides in November. The Veterans Trust Fund has a balance on hand of \$69,167, this amount will decrease slightly due to some final race costs. The American Legion Auxiliary recently mailed a check in the amount of \$1K. The Peer to Peer Program Tuesday coffee meet up is holding a holiday party on Tuesday December 18 from 5-7 pm at Saratoga Coffee Traders. The Honor our Deceased Veterans schedule is as follows for the next few months.

December 2018 – Town of Corinth – Willard Bovee – WWII

January 2019 – Town of Milton – John “Jack” Downing – Army – Korea

February 2019 – Town of Hadley – Edward and Harold Shaw – Unknown

Mr. McClement distributed the calendar for the Towns scheduled for each of the months in 2019 and 2020.

Mr. McClement said that Amy Hughes has been working on two projects with the Peer to Peer group. One of the projects is a book project highlighting the participants in the program and the events they are involved in. The other project called “Faces of Veterans” will be black and white portraits of participants, and the portraits will be used on the website and social media to generate awareness of the Peer to Peer program.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrett, seconded by Mr. Lucia, to approve the purchase of gift cards for Veterans Families with a total amount not to exceed \$1,500. Unanimous.

Mr. McClement said that over the past few years, funds were set aside to purchase gift cards for families in need over the holiday period. Mr. McClement said that two families have come forward this year. One is a single mother, a member and active participant in the peer to peer program. Another is also a single mother with two children and is a victim of domestic violence

with debilitating injuries due to the violence. The gift cards can be used to purchase food and gifts for the holidays.

Mr. Wright thanked the committee for their participation and support over the past year. Achievements included a successful Veterans Concert and the new Deceased Veterans display case.

On a motion was made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Smith, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board