

Veterans Committee Minutes  
March 11, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members Preston Allen, Ed Kinowski, Dick Lucia, Sandra Winney, Mo Wright, Supervisor Tara Gaston; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Frank McClement, Veterans; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Press .

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Lucia, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, the minutes of the February 11, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. McClement distributed copies of the Veterans Office Operations monthly report and gave a brief overview. This month's report reflects the activities for January and February 2019. For the two months there were 60 new claims assembled and submitted, 61 scheduled appointments conducted, 19 walk in clients, 17 DSS referrals and 21 Medicaid referrals. A new item the Veterans office has started are scheduled group benefits classes. These classes have a presentation on benefits and if individual follow up appointments are needed, they can then schedule it.

The office participated in several events over the two months including Aging & Disability Network, TAP, NYSAC Conference, Presentation at Prestwick Chase, Four Chaplains Ceremony, USA Track & Field event and Gym Program interviews.

The van provided 253 rides for January and February. Daily the 14 passenger van provides rides to 10-15 people.

The Veterans Trust Fund has a balance on hand of \$66,759.85. A disbursement of \$750 was done to provide gift cards to the people participating in the wellness program. Price Chopper gift cards were provided for the nutrition factor and Stewarts gas cards provided to help with the cost of transportation to the gym.

For the Peer to Peer program, the Tuesdays Coffee night continues to be successful and averages 20 participants weekly. The Peer to Peer program also held the Faces of Veterans picture day, participated in the Four Chaplains Ceremony and the Lunch and Learn program.

The Honor our Deceased Veterans ceremony will be honoring Robert Barss WWII from the Town of Greenfield in March. April is scheduled for the Town of Ballston and May the City of Saratoga Springs. Mr. McClement will follow up with the Supervisors from those municipalities for the names of those being honored.

Mr. Kinowski asked Mr. McClement if he has had complaints regarding Tricare. Mr. McClement said that he has the cell phone number of the local representative. The local representative has given permission to provide this number of anyone who has questions or issues, all calls are referred to him and this has proved successful for those needing help.

Mr. McClement gave a brief overview of the wellness initiative. He is also participating in the program. Personal trainers are provided for one on one training. They are on a 42 day detox nutritional program. Participants are very enthusiastic about the initiative and many meet up to attend the gym together. A highlight of the program is also access to massage therapists and chiropractors through the gym. There are currently 12 active participants.

Mr. McClement distributed copies of a draft design for a Saratoga County Thank You For Your Service Coin. Mr. McClement said that there are a lot of Veterans who have served, and it would be nice for the Board to be able to present veterans with the coins as a thank you. Mr. McClement also distributed several coins of different sizes and designs. It was decided that a 2 inch color coin be sourced and quoted for an initial run of 1,000 coins. Mr. McClement said that he would like to leverage a state grant to fund the cost. Mr. McClement said that once the coins have been sourced, they can discuss a possible resolution commemorating the coin and how to implement the distribution.

Mr. Richardson said that the Honor the Deceased Veteran name plaques are in the process of being updated.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board