

Veterans Committee Minutes  
April 8, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Richardson; Committee Members Preston Allen, Dick Lucia, Dan Pemrick, Mo Wright, Supervisor Gaston and Chairman of the Board Kevin Tollisen; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Frank McClement, Veterans.

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

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

Mr. McClement distributed copies of the Veterans Office operations summary report. Mr. McClement said that the office continues to stay busy. 32 scheduled appointments were held and 30 new claims assembled and distributed last month. There were 14 DSS referrals.

The office participated in several events in March including, TAP, Adirondack Sports Show, VSO Meeting, American Legion National Dinner, and the Military Museum Reception.

Mr. McClement said that the veterans 5K race is now part of the USA Track and Field Adirondack Division Grand Prix and there are already almost 100 people registered to run the race in November. Mr. McClement said that several Supervisors and County staff also attended the reception at the Military Museum. The van provided 147 rides in March.

Peer to Peer held several events last month. One highlight was the Comedy Night on 3/14 which was very successful. The Coffee Traders on Tuesday nights remains successful with an average of 20 people attending each Tuesday. The Faces of Veterans project was set up by Amy Hughes and Melissa Strauss. The photographs were displayed in Saratoga Coffee Traders for a month. The display has since moved to the Mechanicville Library and may be moved to the Clifton Park Halfmoon library in the future. A fly tying class was also held at the office.

For the Honor our Deceased Veteran Ceremony, unfortunately the Town of Ballston was unable to provide a name for this month. Three names were provided by the American Legion however each of the names were actually in the Town of Milton. The last name was just realized on Friday. The American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary was commemorated at several different posts in the County last month and a discussion took place regarding possibly changing the ceremony to a county commemoration of this anniversary. Mr. McClement said that initially he had talked to the American Legion about presenting a proclamation possibly in May of this year, giving enough time for all of the posts to be able to send a representative, however he will reach out to the Legion and check their availability for this month instead and get back to the Chairman. Mr. Richardson asked Mr. McClement to provide a fresh list of upcoming ceremonies and it was decided to announce reminders of the next 3 upcoming ceremonies at the Agenda Sessions each month. Mr. McClement said that it is difficult to make last minute changes to Towns being honored as the Representatives Senator, Assembly etc. for that municipality may be different. Ms. Gaston said that April is the anniversary of the loss of the USS Thresher, which is a submarine that led to major changes in the submarine force, and she would be happy to help organize something with the base if needed.

Mr. McClement said that he will be working with Purchasing to get three quotes through the formal process for the Veterans coin. Funds are available through grants to cover the costs. All committee members approved moving forward on this.

Mr. McClement said that one of the Veterans Peer to Peer program participants had an idea to put together a book of projects and participants from the P2P program. For a relatively low cost, they have been able to put this book together and have it printed. A celebration will be held on Saturday April 27 from 5pm – 8pm and all Supervisors have been invited to attend. Copies of the book will also be provided to each Supervisor.

Mr. McClement said that the Purple Heart resolution passed last year included provisions for signs to be created. It was decided that at this point a sign be installed at the main County building and then decide on other locations later. Mr. Pemrick said that the Town of Greenfield is also planning to pass a similar resolution.

Mr. Tollisen said that tomorrow at 11am is Yellow Ribbon Day Celebration in the Town of Halfmoon.

Mr. Wright commended Mr. McClement on the recent television coverage regarding the 100 day challenge. Mr. McClement said that they have received a lot of enquiries regarding the program since the news coverage.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board