



Veterans Affairs Committee

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 2:30PM
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Chair: Ian Murray

Members: J.D. Arnold, Dave Ball, Bill Peck, Sandra Winney

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Attendance
- II. Approval of the minutes of the December 5, 2023 meeting
- III. Appointment of Vice-Chair
- IV. Committee Approval: Trust Fund Grant
- V. 2023 Annual Report
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment



SARATOGA COUNTY AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

TO: Steve Bulger, County Administrator
Ridge Harris, Deputy County Administrator
George Conway, County Attorney
Therese Connolly, Clerk of the Board
Stephanie Hodgson, Director of Budget

CC: John Warnt, Director of Purchasing
Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Bridget Rider, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Matt Rose, Management Analyst
Audra Hedden, County Administrator's Office
Samantha Kupferman, County Attorney's Office

DEPARTMENT: Veterans Service Agency

DATE: 1/30/2024

COMMITTEE: Veterans' Affairs

1. Is a Resolution Required:

No, Committee Approval Only

2. Proposed Resolution Title:

Trust Fund Grant Approval

3. Specific Details on what the resolution will authorize:

Malta Veterans Appreciation Program is rehabbing mobile homes for needy Veterans. Homes are donated, then the program volunteers gut and rehab the homes using all donations. They have 3 active projects currently and are in desperate need of funds to keep the projects moving forward. Director McClement is proposing a \$5000 grant to assist with these projects.

This column must be completed prior to submission of the request.

County Attorney's Office
Consulted Yes

4. Is a Budget Amendment needed: YES or NO
If yes, budget lines and impact must be provided.
Any budget amendments must have equal and offsetting entries.

County Administrator's Office
Consulted Yes

- Please see attachments for impacted budget lines.
(Use ONLY when more than four lines are impacted.)

Revenue

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
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Expense

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
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Fund Balance (if applicable): (Increase = additional revenue, Decrease = additional expenses)

Amount:

5. Identify Budget Impact (**Required**):

No Budget Impact

- a. G/L line impacted
- b. Budget year impacted
- c. Details

6. Are there Amendments to the Compensation Schedule?

YES or NO (If yes, provide details)

a. Is a new position being created? Y N

Effective date

Salary and grade

b. Is a new employee being hired? Y N

Effective date of employment

Salary and grade

Appointed position:

Term

c. Is this a reclassification? Y N

Is this position currently vacant? Y N

Is this position in the current year compensation plan? Y N

7. Does this item require the awarding of a contract: Y N

a. Type of Solicitation

b. Specification # (BID/RFP/RFQ/OTHER CONTRACT #)

c. If a sole source, appropriate documentation, including an updated letter, has been submitted and approved by Purchasing Department? Y N N/A

d. Vendor information (including contact name):

e. Is the vendor/contractor an LLC, PLLC, or partnership:

f. State of vendor/contractor organization:

g. Commencement date of contract term:

h. Termination of contract date:

i. Contract renewal date and term:

k. Is this a renewal agreement: Y N

l. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:

Human Resources Consulted
N/A

Purchasing Office Consulted
N/A

County Administrator's Office
Consulted Yes

8. Is a grant being accepted: YES or NO

a. Source of grant funding:

b. Agency granting funds:

c. Amount of grant:

d. Purpose grant will be used for:

e. Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:

f. Time period grant covers:

g. Amount of county matching funds:

h. Administrative fee to County:

9. Supporting Documentation:

Marked-up previous resolution

No Markup, per consultation with County Attorney

Information summary memo

Copy of proposal or estimate

Copy of grant award notification and information

Other Trust Fund Rules

10. Remarks:

No resolution required, Veterans Affairs Committee approval only.

SARATOGA COUNTY VETERANS TRUST AND AGENCY
FUND RULES AND REGULATIONS

- I. Name of Fund/Account: The Saratoga County Veterans Trust and Agency Fund.
- II. Purpose of Fund: The Fund is established for the purposes of:
 - A. Making disbursements for the benefit of groups, organizations, programs, and projects dedicated to the welfare and support of Saratoga County veterans and their dependents, and
 - B. For the provision of training, education, health care, housing and essential services for Saratoga County veterans and their dependents.
- III. Eligibility Requirements: To be eligible to make an application for, and receive a disbursement from, the Saratoga County Veterans Trust and Agency Fund, an applicant/recipient must:
 - A. Be a veteran or a dependent family member of a veteran residing in Saratoga County.
 1. A “veteran” shall be defined as a former member of the military who has served on active duty other than for training, and who received an honorable discharge or was discharged under honorable conditions.
 2. A “dependent family member” shall be defined to include an un-remarried surviving spouse of a veteran; a child or children of a veteran; or an adult disabled child of a veteran, and who is dependent on a veteran for support.
 3. A “dependent child” shall be defined as a child under the age of 18 years, or child between the ages of 18-23 years attending college or a vocational school.
 4. “Residing in Saratoga County” shall be defined as living in Saratoga County for a continuous period of at least six (6) months. Proof of residency must be provided to and approved by the Director of the Saratoga County Veterans Agency.
 - B. Veterans who were neither received an honorable discharge nor were discharged under honorable conditions shall only be eligible to receive grant assistance on a case by case basis upon the recommendation of the Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency and the Veterans Committee of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors.

- C. Be a not-for-profit organization, group, or entity devoted to the assistance and welfare of Saratoga County Veterans. Such organization group or Entity must be either located in Saratoga County or requesting assistance for a Saratoga County veteran.
- D. Submit a completed application form, and all required income information and documentation, needed to assist the Veterans Trust Fund Subcommittee and the Veterans Committee in reaching a decision on an applicant's application.
 - 1. Applications by individuals shall be accompanied by copies of the applicant's current bank statement and proof of income, such as recent pay stub, verification of any unreimbursed expenses for which the applicant is seeking full or partial reimbursement, and any other financial information or documentation deemed necessary to properly evaluate and determine the applicant's application.
 - 2. Applications by veterans organizations, groups or other entities shall fully describe the purpose of the project, program or need for which funding is requested as well as any contribution by the applicant or any other available sources toward the cost of the project, program or need.
- E. Meet any income or needs based eligibility criteria as may be established by the Veterans Committee from time to time.
- F. Grant assistance shall be authorized after all other conventional funding resources have been applied for.

IV. Application and Approval Process:

- A. An application form will be developed by the Director of the Saratoga County Veterans Services Agency, the Veterans Trust Fund Subcommittee and the Saratoga County Attorney.
- B. Completed applications and supporting documentation will be submitted to the Director of the Saratoga County Veterans Services Agency. The Director shall review all applications and determine their completeness. The Director shall rank completed applications and submit his recommendations to the Veterans Trust Fund Subcommittee.
- C. The Veterans Trust Fund Subcommittee shall review the rankings and recommendations of the Director of Saratoga County Veterans Services Agency, as well as any other information or documentation, including completed applications, the Subcommittee deems necessary to formulate an appropriation recommendation to the Veterans Committee relative to each application.

- D. Each month the Veterans Trust Fund Subcommittee shall make its recommendations to the Veterans Committee relative to which applications for financial assistance should be approved by the Committee.
- E. Disbursements from the Fund shall be limited to \$1500 per veteran or their dependent every three (3) years, and \$2,500 per veterans' organization, group or entity. The Veterans Committee shall have the discretion to exceed said limits for applications the Committee deems to be particularly meritorious and deserving.
- F. In cases of emergency requests by individuals, the Chairman of the Veterans Committee shall have the authority to approve disbursements up to the limits established in Section IV, Paragraph E above.
- G. In cases of grants requested for partial coverage of an emergency, the applicant must be prove to the satisfaction of the Veterans Committee that he or she has the ability to cover the difference.

V. Role of the Treasurer's Office:

- A. Receipts – Contributions to the Fund shall be sent to the Saratoga County Veterans Trust and Agency Fund, c/o Saratoga County Treasurer's Office, 40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, New York 12020.
- B. Disbursements – Distributions from the Fund shall be made by the Saratoga County Treasurer upon receipt of written authorization from the Veterans Committee signed by the Committee's Chair. Disbursements should be made directly to the source of the need, i.e. utility company, auto repair shop, etc. Grants shall only be disbursed directly to the applicant at the recommendation of the Director of the Veterans Agency with the approval of the Chair of the Veterans Committee.
- C. Monthly Reports – The Treasurer's Office shall submit a monthly report to the Veterans Committee detailing the Fund's current receipts, disbursements and balance.

- VI. Donor Receipts and Thank You Notes: A receipt for each donation received and an accompanying thank you note shall be issued by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to all donors. The administrative expenses (postage, stationary) related to the issuance of such receipts and thank you notes shall be paid out of the Fund.



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Audra Hedden, County Administrator's Office
Samantha Kupferman, County Attorney's Office

DEPARTMENT: Veterans Service Agency

DATE: 1/30/24

COMMITTEE: Veterans' Affairs

1. Is a Resolution Required:

No, Discussion Only

2. Proposed Resolution Title:

Presentation of Veterans Service Agency 2023 Annual Report

3. Specific Details on what the resolution will authorize:

This column must be completed prior to submission of the request.

County Attorney's Office
Consulted

4. Is a Budget Amendment needed: YES or NO
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Is this position currently vacant? Y N

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g. Commencement date of contract term:

h. Termination of contract date:

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k. Is this a renewal agreement: Y N

l. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:

Human Resources Consulted

Purchasing Office Consulted

County Administrator's Office
Consulted

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Other Annual Report

10. Remarks:

Presentation of Annual Report



EST.

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SARATOGA COUNTY

NEW YORK

Veterans Service Agency



2023 Annual Report

Frank McClement

Director

Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency

Mission Statement

“The Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency assists Veterans and their families with securing earned benefits and services through quality customer service and advocacy.”

Saratoga County is home approximately 15,348 Veterans and their families. The Agency is staffed by Accredited Service Officers to assist in filing claims for Federal VA benefits which include:

- Disability Compensation
- Pension / Aid & Attendance
- Health Care
- Education and Training
- Home Loan
- Burial and Memorial
- Dependents and Survivors

Agency staff also provides additional services to include:

- Transition Assistance
- Homeless Outreach – Housing Assistance
- Military Records and Medals Requests
- Inter-County and Outside agency connections and referrals
- Employment connections and referrals to resources
- Van Transportation to Stratton VA Medical Center, Albany
- Support of Veteran Recognition Programs and Ceremonies
- Outreach Presentations and Education
- Veterans resource for local governments

Saratoga County has honored over 300 Veterans at the monthly Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony. The ceremony has become a tradition here at Saratoga County, and includes participation from elected officials at all levels of government, as well as local Veterans organizations and supporters.

The Saratoga County F.A.V.O.R. Program is dedicated to educating and assisting Veterans record in the importance of recording their original DD-214 discharge document with the County Clerk’s office. By doing so, Veterans and their families are readily equipped to garnish a variety of benefits and programs available to them in honor of their service to our Country.

The Saratoga County Veterans Trust Fund accepts donations and makes disbursements to Saratoga County Veterans and Veteran’s organizations in need of assistance. The Fund provides grants to Saratoga County Veterans or their families for training, education, health care, housing assistance and essential services; and for the benefit of groups, organizations, programs, and projects dedicated to the welfare and support of the Saratoga County Veterans. Donations are tax deductible, and all funds stay local.

The Saratoga County Veterans Peer Connection provides an opportunity for local Veterans who have reintegrated to civilian life to assist fellow Veterans who may experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other re-acclimation challenges. Personalized and informal, these pairings yield relationships intended to ease the transition from military to civilian life. Funding is made possible through the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program for Veterans www.veteranpeertopeer.org

Contact information: phone, 518-884-4115; fax – 518-884-4290; e-mail veterans@saratogacountyny.gov

VSA 2023 by the Numbers:

- **Veteran Population** – According to VA VetPop figures from FY2022, Saratoga County is home to 15,348 veterans, ranking 12th in NYS, but highest in the greater Capital Region. For comparison; Albany County -14,888 Rensselaer County –8,925; Warren – 5,419; Washington County – 4,061; Schenectady County – 8,018.
https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran_population.asp
- **Veterans Transportation** – The Saratoga County VSA provided 308 Veterans rides to VA medical appointments, logging over 15,028 miles between January and December 2023. (Appendix A)
- **VA Expenditures** - Department of Veterans Affairs Total Expenditures for FY 2022 equaled \$122,147,000 in Saratoga County. See attached for breakdown. (Appendix B)
- **Peer to Peer Program** – Saratoga County Veterans Peer to Peer Mentoring Program continues to grow and currently has 323 active Peers involved.
- **Electronic Claim Development** – 100% of all claims that pass through this office are electronically developed and archived. This allows for an integrated service network internally, and more efficient service and record keeping.
- **Veterans ID Card (FAVOR)** – The VSA continues to partner with, and assist the Saratoga County Clerk and Saratoga County Board of Supervisors with the FAVOR Veterans ID card program. This program has also contributed to the VSA conducting over 75 *official requests for records in 2023 and over 2400 since the beginning of the program* for those Veterans who did not have proper service documentation in their possession. These requests will facilitate future benefits delivery for either financial and/or end of life benefits for Veterans and their surviving family members.
- **Veterans Trust Fund** – The VSA worked to promote awareness of and bolster the Saratoga County Veterans Trust and Agency Fund throughout 2023. In 2023, we were excited to return our major fundraiser, Revolutionary Run for Veterans 5k. The event was a tremendous success with over 300 registered runners. See attached report for more details on Fund activity (Trust Fund Report - Appendix D)

VSA 2023 Highlights:

- **Staff Training** – The Staff of the Saratoga County VSA participates in ongoing professional development and training to ensure constant adherence to VA laws and regulations. In 2023, this included:
 - Quarterly Veteran Service Officer Conference – Stratton VA Medical Center
 - Mandatory VA Information Security Awareness - Privacy Policy Training (e-learn)
 - NYS Division of Veterans Affairs Training – (web-based monthly trainings offered in 2022)
 - National Association of County Veterans Service Officers - Web -based and in person
 - Director McClement attended annual training conference in Madison, WI.
 - Mandatory Sexual Harassment and Workplace Violence Training – Saratoga County HR
 - Director McClement completed Leadwell Training provided by bishop House.

- **Honor Deceased Veteran Ceremonies** – The Program continued with our consistent schedule in 2023. This program continues to be a success, and working in partnership with the Board of Supervisors, as well as county, state, and congressional elected officials, and local Veterans organizations we have been able to tell some great stories and highlight the military service and lives of some of Saratoga County's best. - *Appendix C*

- **Veterans Transportation Service** – Service use continued to be down significantly from pre-Covid numbers due to many programs closed at the VAMC due to COVID restrictions still in place. As in 2022, 2023 saw a slightly increase in van ridership. We have struggled to maintain a full cadre of drivers and worked with HR to make an adjustment to compensation to try to attract more driver applicants. We expect to hire 2 additional part-time drivers in Q1 2024. Our van had now been in service since April 2015, and has since been taken out of service due to a transmission failure. We have a van on loan from the County Administrator, and a new vehicle was finally ordered in November 2023. We continue to track expected delivery but do not have a solid estimated date at this time. Funds were approved in the 2022 Budget, but we have experienced difficulty in ordering a replacement due to supply chain issues. We have carried those funds over and expect to have a new vehicle in service in 2024. - *Appendix A*

- **Saratoga County P2P Veterans Program** – 2023 was a banner year for our program. Program Coordinator, Erin Cassidy, has done a tremendous job of pushing the program forward. We have achieved our highest number of active participants since our program began, and have hosted a number of social events, trainings, and activities.

Highlights included our weekly Veterans Breakfast hosted at rotating locations throughout the county, our Saratoga Battlefield Tour and BBQ in July, a weekend outdoors retreat for women, and another well-attended Christmas Party, which again, was our biggest yet! We also have partnered with the Saratoga County sheriff, VA Justice Outreach, and VCHC to reboot our Incarcerated Veterans Program at the Saratoga County Jail. NYS funding for the program has been granted as permanent, alleviating much of the uncertainty and pressure experienced in previous years, and we have moved the budget from OMH to the VSA so we can maximize its use for our Veterans.

- **Facebook** – We have worked with Christine rush and Anne VanVorst to increase social media presence, and publicize events and programs. Notably, the Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony and our Peer Connection happenings. The page currently has **1,143 followers, with over 80,000 friends of fans, which is the total potential population that can be reached with a post.** www.facebook.com/SaratogaCountyVeterans
- **Electronic Claim Development** – No major changes in 2023. We continue to maximize efforts to be as “paperless” as possible. While we had been exploring new and improved options for case/contact management software, the pandemic created a sense of urgency for the upgrade. In April 2020, we upgraded our contact/case management software system to the “VetPro” platform. This platform allows for fully web-based access, along with remote signature capabilities, and fully electronic submission directly to the VA VBMS system. The software platform continues to grow and improve as has our experience and knowledge working with it.
- **Staff Changeover** – 9-year employee, Paul Mosseau retired and we brought on Tamim Fares for his replacement. Director McClement facilitated training and onboarding for Tamim with NYS and the VA.
- **Equipment** – The agency upgrades computer equipment as recommended by IT. We also continue to utilize our software platform, VetPro, which allows us to work remotely if necessary in emergency situations, as well as during outreach. We leveraged Dwyer grant funds to purchase tables, chairs, tents and a storage trailer for events.
- **Veterans Outreach**– Staff attended the Saratoga County Fair, Saratoga Race Track Military appreciation Day, local Farmers Markets, NYS Veterans Day event at Empire State Plaza, as well as speaking at Veterans breakfasts and luncheons. We also continue to capitalize on word of mouth referrals due to maintaining close liaison with outside agencies and organizations that interact with Veterans, as well as leveraging social media.
- **Affiliate Organizations** – Agency Director and staff are either members or maintain close liaison with over 20 outside groups and organizations. - *Appendix E*

- **Veterans Trust and Agency Fund -** Our fund continues to grow and be of service to local Vets. In 2023, we provided support for local Veterans, and funds were also leveraged to purchase gift cards for needy Veteran families for Christmas, as well as assist with prizes for our Annual Veterans Christmas Party. – *Appendix D*
- **Saratoga Battlefield Tour and BBQ –** Bringing together our Peer Connection Program and Saratoga 250, we hosted an incredible event that began with a guided bus tour of the Saratoga Battlefield followed by a BBQ held at Therapeutic Horses of Saratoga’s farm on Route 29 in Saratoga. Veterans and their families learned about the battlefield and the events that took place there by National Park guides and then were able to enjoy a chicken BBQ, live music, cornhole, and interaction with the horses at the farm. Over 80 people attended the event in July, and we have already begun plans for 2024.
- **Revolutionary Run for Veterans –** Our event has turned into a highlight of our year. We are able to promote our programs, as well as local Veterans groups and providers, and raise funds for our Trust Fund. Working with the Saratoga 250 Commission, we continue to brand this event as a connection to the history of the Battle of Saratoga and today’s Veterans. This year we raised over \$19,000 for the fund!

Major Legislation Highlights

- **Pact ACT – Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022.** Signed into law in October 2022, this legislation is arguably the largest piece of federal Veterans legislation in the last 10-20 years. The PACT Act expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances including Camp Lejeune water. The law affects generations of Veterans and families, and will have an impact for years to come. Along with that comes the additional need for training as well as the possibility for additional staff to address the needs of more Veterans than ever before. In 2023, we experienced a major spike in call volume and traffic due to inquiries regarding a deadline set forth in the PACT Act, which allowed for retroactive benefits if claims were filed prior to August 11th, 2023.
- **Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act - The CVSIO Act** would provide critical federal resources to help us meet our growing caseloads by awarding competitive grants worth \$250 million over five years for states to create, expand, or support CVSIOs or similar government entities, such as state, municipal and tribal VSOs. This bill seems to have stalled, but we look forward to new opportunities for federal funding for our programs and efforts.

2024 Goals

- **Streamline our intake and claims process to allow for more effective and efficient client/advocate interaction.**
- **Formulate an outreach plan and regular schedule to try to reach a minimum of one outside engagement per month in 2024.**
- **To address needs of our Aging population, plan and execute a Geriatric Care Symposium in partnership with Saratoga County Aging, VA Geriatric Care Team, and other appropriate resources for aging Veterans and spouses. We had hoped to do this in 2023, but were pulled in other directions.**
- **Plan and execute the 2024 Revolutionary Run for Veterans – we hope to continue to grow this event and make this a flagship annual event that ties into the 250th Commission goals.**
- **Plan and execute our 3rd Veterans Holiday Party.**
- **P2P Budget – Maximize use the grant, and continue to grow our program.**

Veterans Service Agency 2023/2024
Organization & Staffing

Director (Fulltime): *Frank McClement* was appointed by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors on May 20, 2014. Frank is a Veteran of the US Army, having served as an Airborne Infantryman with the 82d Airborne Division from 1995-1998. His service took him from Ft Bragg, NC to Egypt, Israel, and Kazakhstan. Frank joined the County in September 2010, and had served over 4 years as the Veterans Service Officer in the Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency prior to his appointment as Director. He has Veterans Advocacy experience at the federal, state and county level. Mr. McClement is trained and accredited by the New York State Division of Veterans Services (NYS DVS), The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO). Frank also serves on the Saratoga County Youth Advisory Board, Saratoga County Aging Advisory Board, and is a Commissioner of the 250th Revolutionary War Anniversary Commission. He also serves his community as a Councilman on the Waterford Town Board.

Service Officer (Fulltime): Paul Mosseau retired in June after just over 9 years in this position. We worked with HR on succession planning, and Paul stayed on for a few months under a part-time contract while we hired and trained his replacement. *Tamim Fares* joined our team in July, and has progressed quickly through his training and accreditation process. Mr. Fares is accredited through the NYSDVS and is in process of completing further accreditation. Tamim is a 6-year Veteran of the US Army, having served as an Infantryman with combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Veterans Services Specialist (Fulltime): *Megan Cutbush* was hired on January 3, 2014. Mrs. Cutbush is trained and accredited by the NYSDVS, VFW, and NACVSO. Mrs. Cutbush's primary role is daily administrative office operation, but also maintains accreditation to comply with Federal and State regulations, as she also plays a significant role in VA claims-related clerical work. This position was changed from Clerk/Typist to more accurately reflect the requirements and responsibilities of the job.

Peer to Peer Program Coordinator (Part-Time) – *Erin Cassidy* joined the team on December 23, 2022. Erin is a Veteran of the US Army, having served as an MP from 2000-2004. Erin is also the spouse of a current active-duty member in the US Army. Erin has been a great asset to our team, and excellent for the program.

Van Drivers (Part Time – 3 positions): *Rich Nolin* (US Army Veteran), 2 vacancies. Rich joined our team in 2022, and has been dedicated to our mission. We have struggled to hire and keep drivers in this part-time role. It has made it difficult to run a full schedule, so we have had to adjust based on driver availability. We have worked with HR to adjust the hourly wage and expect to hire 2 new drivers this month.

Staff Funding: All staff positions are paid for by Saratoga County tax dollars with the exception of the Peer Connection Program Coordinator. This position is 100% funded through the NYS PFC Joseph Dwyer Grant. Additionally, the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs State Aide supplemented the VSA with \$30,000 Aid to Localities in 2023.

Conclusion

2023 lived up to our hopes for the Agency. We had much success and were able to serve hundreds of Veterans and their families. We look forward to 2024 and continued growth

Attachments:

- **Appendix A: Contacts and Services for 2023**
- **Appendix B: VA Expenditures in Saratoga County FY2022***
*(2023 numbers have not been released by VA as of this report.)
- **Appendix C: Saratoga County Honor Deceased Veterans Program**
- **Appendix D: Saratoga County Veterans Trust and Agency Fund Report EOY 2023**
- **Appendix E: Veterans Service Agency Affiliate Organizations Overview**

2023 Veterans Service Agency Contacts and Services

- **Scheduled Appointments – Conducted 372 claim appointments. (2022 -364)**
- **Walk-Ins- Assisted 248 Veteran walk in inquiries. (2022- 236)**
- **Claims – Processed 437 new claims for VA benefits. (2022-429)**
- **Medicaid Pension Referrals – Reviewed and/or processed 12 referrals for Veterans or spouses in Medicaid covered nursing home care. (2022– 3)**
- **DSS Referrals – Contacted 38 Veterans referred from DSS for benefits review. (2022 -26)**
- **Record Requests –Submitted 75 requests for records from National Personnel Records Center. (2022- 61)**
- **Van Riders – Provided rides for 308 Veterans to the Stratton VA Medical Center, Albany, for a total of approximately 15028 miles (2022 -209 /Approx. 9817 miles)**

VA FY2022** Expenditures in Saratoga County

Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension ¹	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment ²	Insurance & Indemnities ³	Medical Care ⁴	Unique Patients ⁵
\$122,147,000	\$65,357,000	\$ 6,438,000	\$1,074,000	\$46,806,000	\$3,683,000

1-**Compensation and Pension**- Cash payments made directly to Veterans or dependents for the following programs: veterans' compensation for service-connected disabilities; dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected deaths; veterans' pension for non-service-connected disabilities; and burial and other benefits to veterans and their survivors.

2- **Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment**- Includes automobile and adaptive equipment, specially adapted housing, survivors' and dependents' educational assistance, Vocational Rehabilitation, Post-Vietnam Era Veterans educational Assistance, Montgomery GI Bill, Reserve Educational Assistance program, and Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance.

3- **Insurance and Indemnities**-includes: Death Claims, Matured endowments, dividends, cash surrender payments, total disability income provision payments, and total and permanent disability benefits payments.

4- **Medical Care**-Medical Care expenditures include dollars for medical services, medical administration, facility maintenance, educational support, research support, and other overhead items. Medical Care expenditures do not include dollars for construction or other non-medical support.

5- **Unique Patients**- A patient that is unique in each division from which they receive care at a VA health care facility.

** Source National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics:
https://www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran_population.asp

**Note – 2023 numbers have not been released as of the date of this report.

2023 Honored Veterans

Month	Town/City	Veteran Honoree
January	Greenfield	Ronald E. Baker
February	Clifton Park	No Ceremony
March	Saratoga Springs	Clarence Dart
April	Galway	Robert R. Sherman
May	Clifton Park	Allan P. Atwell
June	Halfmoon	Edward F. Malinoski
July	Edinburg	Alois A. Matousek
August	Malta	Clifford J. Lange
September	Charlton	David E. McDonald
October	Day	Richard Traeger
November	Wilton	Nicholas Georgeadis
December	Northumberland	Bernard O. Shaw

2024 Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony Schedule

Month	Town/City	Veteran Honoree
January	Saratoga	Raymond J. Zerwick
February	Stillwater	Thomas J. Messoro Sr.
March	Waterford	John Lawler
April	Corinth	
May	Mechanicville	
June	Moreau	
July	Providence	
August	Milton	Emily J. Adams
September	Hadley	
October	Greenfield	
November	Ballston	
December	TBD	

VETERANS TRUST FUND

DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DISBURSEMENTS	DEPOSITS	ACTUAL BALANCE
	MONTH TOTAL: NOVEMBER 2022	\$ 122,735.15	\$ 257,229.24	\$ 134,494.09
12/5/2022	VFW #5836	\$ 1,000.00		
12/5/2022	American Legion #490	\$ 1,000.00		
12/5/2022	Town of Edinburg	\$ 2,293.80		
12/5/2022	Frank McClement - Gift Cards	\$ 3,000.00		
12/9/2022	5K Sponsors		\$ 50.00	
12/16/2022	Spirit of Life Church		\$ 300.00	
12/16/2022	Old Saratoga Post #278	\$ 1,000.00		
12/19/2022	Lt. Fred Clark Post #91	\$ 1,000.00		
12/20/2022	Town of Greenfield Golf Tournament		\$ 5,203.20	
12/31/2022	Custodial Trust Dist		\$ 86.25	
	MONTH TOTAL: DECEMBER 2022	\$ 132,028.95	\$ 262,868.69	\$ 130,839.74
1/11/2023		\$ 242.24		
1/31/2023	Brody Post #0235	\$ 1,000.00		
	MONTH TOTAL: JANUARY 2023	\$ 133,271.19	\$ 262,868.69	\$ 129,597.50
2/3/2023	2022 5K Online Registrations	\$ -	\$ 8,042.46	
2/15/2023	FC4 Inc	\$ 13,343.15	\$ -	
2/15/2023	Finish Right Timing	\$ 1,768.00	\$ -	
	MONTH TOTAL: FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 148,382.34	\$ 270,911.15	\$ 122,528.81
3/3/2023	Momentive Performance Sponsorship	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	
	MONTH TOTAL: MARCH 2023	\$ 148,382.34	\$ 275,911.15	\$ 127,528.81
4/27/2023	Rowland St Garage	\$ 697.45		
	MONTH TOTAL: APRIL 2023	\$ 149,079.79	\$ 275,911.15	\$ 126,831.36
5/31/2023	MONTH TOTAL: MAY 2023	\$ 149,079.79	\$ 275,911.15	\$ 126,831.36
6/30/2023	MONTH TOTAL: JUNE 2023	\$ 149,079.79	\$ 275,911.15	\$ 126,831.36
7/31/2023		\$ 621.15		
	MONTH TOTAL: JULY 2023	\$ 149,700.94	\$ 275,911.15	\$ 126,210.21
	Rich's Rt 50 Service Center	\$ 1,000.00		
	1st National Bank of Scotia		2,000.00	

1/23/2024

VETERANS TRUST FUND

DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DISBURSEMENTS	DEPOSITS	ACTUAL BALANCE
	Military Appreciation Day-Race Course		153.00	
	2023 5K Online Registration		24.00	
8/31/2023	MONTH TOTAL: AUGUST 2023	\$ 150,700.94	\$ 278,088.15	\$ 127,387.21
9/29/2023	Donation-D Oliveira		100.00	
	2023 Sponsor-American Legion Post 234		100.00	
	2023 Sponsor-Mohawk Post 1450		200.00	
	2023 Sponsor-1st National Bank of Scotia		500.00	
	2023 Sponsor-Maximun Security		500.00	
	2023 Sponsor-Stewarts		100.00	
	2023 Sponsor-Ballston Spa BPOE 2619		500.00	
9/30/2023	MONTH TOTAL: SEPTEMBER 2023	\$ 150,700.94	\$ 280,088.15	\$ 129,387.21
10/17/2023	Donation-D Oliveira		100.00	
	2023 Sponsor-VFW Post 358		100.00	
	2023 Sponsor-American Legion Post 490		100.00	
	2023 Sponsor-Saratoga Elks Lodge 161		100.00	
	2023 Sponsor-Waterford Clock		100.00	
	2023 Sponsor-Post 91		100.00	
	2023 5K Online Registrations		380.00	
10/30/2023	MONTH TOTAL: OCTOBER 2023	\$ 150,700.94	\$ 281,068.15	\$ 130,367.21
11/7/2023	2023 5K Online Registrations		1,435.00	
	2023 Sponsor-The Fort Miller Group		800.00	
	2023 Same day Registrations		570.00	
11/22/2023	2023 5K Online Registrations		40.00	
	2023 5K Online Registrations		1,730.00	
	2023 5K Online Registrations		1,191.00	
	Veterans Gold Donation-Town of Greenfield		2,889.30	
	2023 5K Online Registrations		2,719.44	
11/30/2023	MONTH TOTAL: NOVEMBER 2023	\$ 150,700.94	\$ 292,442.89	\$ 141,741.95
12/8/2023		5000.00		
12/14/2023	D Fusco Auto Body	149.80		
	Tony's Tires & Wheels -	532.16		
	MONTH TOTAL: DECEMBER 2023	\$ 156,382.90	\$ 292,442.89	\$ 136,059.99
1/9/2024	1st National Bank of Scotia		400.00	

1/23/2024

VETERANS TRUST FUND

DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DISBURSEMENTS	DEPOSITS	ACTUAL BALANCE
	MONTH TOTAL: JANUARY 2024	\$ 156,382.90	\$ 292,842.89	\$ 136,459.99

1/23/2024

Appendix D

Veterans Service Agency Affiliate Organizations Overview

Agency Staff Accreditations:

Department of Veterans Affairs – Accredited Veterans Service Officers

New York State Division of Veterans Services - VSO accreditation

Veterans of Foreign Wars- VSO accreditation

National Association of County Veteran Service Officers- VSO accreditation

NYS County Veteran Service Officers Association - Member

American Legion – Director McClement serves as County Service Officer for A.L. organization

In addition to the above memberships, VSA Staff liaison with the following groups and organizations:

Saratoga County Long-Term Care Coalition, Saratoga County Non-Profit Task Force, Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams (E-MDT) to Combat Elder Abuse, Suicide Prevention Coalition, Veterans and Community Housing Coalition, Soldier On, Saratoga Veterans Business Council, We Are Dwyer Coalition, Saratoga County Assessor Association, Unified Military Affairs Council (UMAC), Employer Support of Guard and Reserves (ESGR), Capital Region Military Task Force (CRMTF), Naval Support Unit Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County 250th Commission, Saratoga County Aging Advisory Board, Malta Veterans Appreciation Program