

Veterans Committee Minutes
March 7, 2016 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Barrett; Supervisors Allen, Congdon, Kinowski, Lucia, Veitch, Collyer, Tollisen, Martin and Wright; Chad Cooke, Deputy Administrator; Frank McClement, Veterans Director.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Lucia the minutes of the February 1, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. McClement gave a brief update on the monthly Veterans Report stating that 18 claims were submitted, and assembled for February. Twenty five scheduled appointments were conducted with 23 walk-in clients and three DSS referrals. For the month of February, 123 rides were provided to Veterans.

Mr. McClement said the balance on hand in the Veterans Trust Fund is \$36,606.99. He said 2015 was a great year for the trust fund, making some significant disbursements.

Mr. McClement said the Peer to Peer Program continues to grow with more mentee pairs than ever before. He said, Mrs. Hughes partnered with personnel at Mediation Matters where a training session was held on February 22nd. He said the event was well attended with approximately 40 people in attendance.

On May 21st the first major event for the Peer to Peer Program will be held at Universal Preservation Hall, which will include a workshop referred to as, Decruit. The individual is a combat Veteran who is also a playwright and actor, putting together a program which talks about the process of separating yourself from the military and experiences in combat.

Mr. McClement said Mr. Arnie Heggen will be the honoree at the March Deceased Veterans Ceremony. He said Mr. Heggen was a WWII Veteran.

Mr. McClement said April 9th has been recognized as Yellow Ribbon Day in New York State. This special day was established for the remembrance of the brave men and women serving abroad in the United States military, and to give honor and recognition to our Veterans who have sacrificed so much in defense of our great country. Since 2006, a special Yellow Ribbon Day Ceremony has been held in Saratoga County, organized by a local resident/volunteer, Carol Hotaling, better known as the "Yellow Ribbon Lady". This year the Yellow Ribbon Day Ceremony will be held on Friday, April 8th at 11:00 a.m. at the Halfmoon Town Hall. In recognition of the event, the Saratoga County Clerk's Office, which includes both records and DMV locations, will be collecting needed items for the month of March and early April in order

to support the work of Vet Help, an organization that runs the men and women's shelters locally, as well as the support of services for the Veterans and Families program.

Mr. Barrett said with regard to the Veterans Concert, there is no confirmed date from SPAC as yet. He said he would keep the committee updated.

Mr. Veitch said at the Equalization and Assessment Committee meeting the question arose about the Cold War Exemption for Veterans and how it was advertised.

Mr. Kinowski said that under the current legislation, the exemption is set to expire in 2017. Mr. Wright clarified that no new people can come on after 2017.

Mr. Wright said he was in support of sending a resolution to legislators in Albany in support of continuing the Cold War Exemption for Veterans.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Congdon to forward a resolution on to the Legislative and Research Committee in support of extending the Cold War Tax Exemption. Unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom