

Veterans Committee Minutes  
December 5, 2016 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Phil Barrett; Supervisors Ed Kinowski, Dan Pemrick and Matt Veitch; Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Frank McClement, Veterans; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Rick McGachey, Peer Connection Volunteer.

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

**On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the November 7, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. McClement distributed the monthly Veterans Report and gave a brief update. The balance on hand of the Trust Fund is just under \$50,000. The Veterans 5K race took in just under \$10,000 in sponsorships and they had 361 registered runners. They had over 75 volunteers onsite which included 45 sailors from the Navy Base and staff from several County offices.

Mr. McClement said that the December honor our Deceased Veterans ceremony will be honoring Korean War Veteran James Trainor.

Mr. McClement distributed a handout regarding the Saratoga County Veterans Connection. Mr. McClement said that they would like to reboot an initiative started several years ago, the Saratoga County Veterans Resource Initiative. The handout included statistics on veterans' population and their fiscal impact on Saratoga County. The Veterans Connection mission statement, goals and objectives are as follows:

#### Veterans Connection Mission Statement

Saratoga County Veterans Connection consists of Veterans Service providers and organizations dedicated to the welfare and support of Veterans. We seek to facilitate the integration of Veterans' and Veteran's family services throughout Saratoga County to improve overall quality of life for our Veterans through commitment, leadership, and teamwork.

#### Goals

- Create a designated network within Saratoga County for Veterans' service providers and organizations.
- Educate Veteran's Service Providers on how to access the available federal, state, and county benefits.
- Increase awareness of Veteran's needs and streamline access of available benefits throughout Saratoga County Communities.
- Create opportunity for organizations to make more efficient referrals for service and possibly step in where other programs are not available.
- Increase awareness and participation in Veterans Peer Connection program.

## Objectives

- Host a quarterly meeting beginning 2017 with county representation, VSP's, elected officials, and other relevant organizations.
- Plan and execute a Veterans assistance event (Veterans Assistance Night).
- Partner with Sheriff's Department and conduct DCJS-certified VJO training for law enforcement and other appropriate personnel.
- Leverage and maximize use of PFC Dwyer grant program in connecting Veterans to services and each other.

Mr. McClement also said that the last Veterans Assistance Night was held in 2011. Mr. McClement said that he would like to hold the first meeting during the first quarter of 2017. Mr. Barrett suggested that the Veterans Connection meetings be held three times a year to not inundate the Veterans office. Mr. Kinowski suggested that in 2017 formal guidelines be created for the Veterans Trust Fund expenditures.

Mr. Barrett said that they will be creating a Veterans Committee in the Town of Clifton Park. Mr. Barrett introduced Rick McGachey, a Peer Connection Volunteer. Mr. McGachey is a Marine Corps Veteran and a 20 year resident of Saratoga County. He has been a volunteer for two years. Mr. McGachey praised Amy Hughes and Frank McClement on their knowledge and dedication. Mr. McGachey said that Saratoga County is the only County that has one on one peer connections. Mr. McGachey said that it's very important to give back to our veterans and help them back into society. He said that the military does a great job in training people to enter the military but no training is provided when they come back to civilian life again. The Peer to Peer connection gives him the opportunity to provide insight, direction and referrals to veterans benefit information, if counseling is needed he can refer them back to Amy Hughes. Mr. McGachey has helped several veterans with their resumes. Mr. Barrett thanked Mr. McGachey and said that there would be no peer to peer connection program without people like him.

Mr. Kinowski said that a better job needs to be done on exit briefing with military members. Several military groups from different fields need specialized exit briefing.

Mr. Kinowski said that he is working with the Saratoga War Horse Foundation who has a property owner that is planning to donate land to their foundation.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Legislative Clerk