

Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force Meeting Minutes/Notes of February 14, 2018

OPENING: The meeting of the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force was called to order at 9:20 am on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, 30 Scotts Corner Drive, Montgomery, NY by Larry Neumann. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Larry Neumann welcomed all present.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission statement was recited by Larry Neumann.

The mission of the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force is to address the needs of those who served by having relevant agencies meet collectively, regularly and cooperatively, to ensure the timely administration of services and referrals in order to achieve an end to Veteran homelessness and meet their immediate and long term needs.

PRESENT: Many veteran and human service agencies of Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan Counties were represented. The guests/presenters are listed below. There was a total of **47** in attendance.

INTRODUCTIONS, Opening Remarks and Review of last month's meeting:

Larry introduced guests and presenters including Eva Usadi and John McDonald of TRR Warrior Camp, Kendall Kless of Boxes for Soldiers, Brian Maher representing the Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Janice Valentino of Hospice of Orange and Sullivan, Mike Halpin of WHY6 and Jo Hanna Yuan, Orange County Historian. Not present; Frank Puglisi of Hi-Tor Kennels Vets service dog program (to be rescheduled).

Special Announcements:

- 280 Stocking were shipped to military stationed overseas.
- Also sent over 200 lbs. of toiletries and personal hygiene products.

GUEST SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS

Bill Sestrom – Honor Flight:

Sending WWII and now Korean War veterans to Washington DC and back. Over 1400 veterans have gone over the past 5 years. Next flight is 4/14. 70 veterans have registered so far. More are needed. Next flight out of Westchester is 5/19. 60 veterans have registered. An online application is available for all to register.

Kendall Kless – Boxes for Soldiers:

Rob Bowen and Kendall organize boxes for the troops overseas. 14X14 boxes containing 227 care packages were sent to our troops. Items that were too large were sent to the veteran food pantry. Reviewed a letter from a Chaplain overseas. Cost to shop has increased and will look at fundraising to assist with cost. Will start after Thanksgiving and ship at end of November.

Jo Hanna Yuan – Orange County Historian:

Presented on the 100th Anniversary of WWI and the upcoming trip to France and Belgium. 40 people will go and visit war memorials and cemeteries there, where many US soldiers are buried, including from Orange County. Memorial services will also be held to honor those who served and sacrificed. Cost is \$3,600 for 9 days plus expenses.

Lisa & Mike Halpin – We Have Your 6 (WHY6):

WHY6 is a group of seven people who got together last year to create a non-profit to help veterans with PTSD. 21 veterans die by suicide each day. Goal is to decrease this amount every year. Plan to organize a series of concerns and create music events (bands in the park during Summer and indoors during cooler months). There

will be a motorcycle run in June in Dutchess County with 3 bands in the park afterwards. Will also hold golf tournaments to raise funds with goal of building houses for veterans with no place to go.

Janice Valentino – Veteran Hospice Program/Vets Breakfast

Veterans Breakfast is planned for March 8th. There will be no cost. Will present on all services available to veterans. Larry sent the detailed information via email and has hardcopies to hand out.

Sachin Sawhney – Veterans Future Lab, sachinsawh@gmail.com

USAF Veteran, trying to create clean energy program. 6-month course at NYU. Reported on The Veterans Future Lab – New York’s first business incubator for military veterans.

<https://www.futurelabs.nyc/labs/veterans-future-lab/> 1-year, no-cost incubator for companies founded by DoD affiliates, veterans, or their spouses.

John McDonald, Eva Usadi – TRR Warrior Camp

Raising money to buy a farm and provide 7 days of therapy including; equine, yoga, meditation and creative expression. Next camp is scheduled for March 9th-18th.

George Laws – Veteran Arts Showcase

Going into it’s 6th year. Visit website at; www.veteranartsshowcase.org Looking for veteran artists to display their work during 4-day event in November at FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY.

TASK FORCE HOMELESS CASES Status:

- **WestCOP SSVF: Open/New Case Report – Tanisha Terry**
 - Qualifying criteria; at least 1 day of service, low income, homeless (or at risk)
 - Homeless cases: 11
 - Dutchess – 3
 - (1) Webster Shelter, (1) living in car, (1) became homeless on Friday (transferred to Orange Co motel)
 - Orange County – 8
 - (1) Newburgh Ministries, (1) Warming station, (2) Rehab center, (3) at HONORehg, (1) at Montrose VA rehab program.

VETERAN SERVICE AND COUNTY UPDATES:

- **Dutchess County**
- **Orange County**
 - **VSO: Christian Farrell, Director - Orange County Veteran Services**
 - **Vet2Vet: Larry Neumann, Program Coordinator –**
- **Putnam County**
 - **VSO: Karl Rohde, Director, Putnam County Veterans Service Agency**
- **Rockland County**
 - **Vet to Vet: Ismael (Izzy) Quintana Jr., Veteran Outreach Coordinator**
- **Sullivan County**
 - **VSO: Howie Goldsmith, Coordinator, Sullivan County Veteran Service Agency and Sullivan County Veteran Alliance**
- **Office of US Representative Sean Patrick Maloney**
 - Cullen Lyons/Khristian Silvis, Veteran and Military Advocate

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am by Larry Neumann.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 9:00am

Location: Orange County Chamber of Commerce, 30 Scotts Corner Drive, Montgomery, NY

Minutes taken and typed by: Angela Jo Henze

Minutes reviewed and submitted by: Larry Neumann