

Oneida Business Committee Agenda Request

1. Meeting Date Requested: 04 / 27 / 16

2. General Information:

Session: ☒ Open ☐ Executive - See instructions for the applicable laws, then choose one:

Agenda Header:

☐ Accept as Information only

☒ Action - please describe:

Accept ONVAC Board FY '16 2nd quarter report

3. Supporting Materials

☒ Report ☐ Resolution ☐ Contract

☐ Other:

1.

3.

2.

4.

☐ Business Committee signature required

4. Budget Information

☐ Budgeted - Tribal Contribution

☐ Budgeted - Grant Funded

☐ Unbudgeted

5. Submission

Authorized Sponsor / Liaison:

Primary Requestor/Submitter:
Your Name, Title / Dept. or Tribal Member

Additional Requestor:
Name, Title / Dept.

Additional Requestor:
Name, Title / Dept.

ONEIDA NATION VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mike Hill, Chairman
James Martin, Vice-Chairman
John Breuninger, Secretary
Arthur Cornelius, Member
Gerald Cornelius, Member
Floyd Hill, Member
Kenneth House, Member
Nathan Smith, Member
Carol Silva, Member

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P O Box 365,
Oneida WI 54155

VSO DEPARTMENT
Kerry Metoxen, Veterans Director
Carolyn Miller, Benefits Specialist
Jennifer Webster, Liaison
Fawn Billie, Alternate Liaison

2nd QUARTERLY REPORT – FY 2016 January, February, March

SUBMITTED BY: ONVAC CHAIRMAN, Mike Hill

ONVAC MEMBERS

OFFICERS: Mike Hill - Chairman
Jim Martin – Vice Chairman,
John Breuninger, Secretary

MEMBERS: Gerald Cornelius, Member Arthur Cornelius, Member
Kenneth House, Member Carol Silva, Member
Floyd Hill, Member Nathan Smith, Board Member

OBC LIAISON: Jennifer Webster
Alternate: Fawn Billie

Purpose: The purpose of the ONVAC is to serve as an advisory body to the Oneida Veterans Service Office in all matters related to the Oneida Tribal veteran's rights and benefits and veterans affairs issues, and to protect the honor and integrity of the Oneida Tribe and all veterans who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces. It shall be the purpose of the ONVAC to provide advice and constructive input to the veterans Service Office Director on all veterans' affairs and/or issues in order that the Office can formulate veteran services and programs for the Oneida Veterans. ONVAC coordinates veteran events with the assistance of the Veterans Service Office and other organized groups that are representatives of Oneida Veterans and the Oneida Tribe.

- I. Budget: ONVAC has a positive variance due to good stewardship by the Committee. Our Committee paid close attention to our overall Budget throughout the year and as most other Business Units did, we always remained within our spending parameters.
- II. Our efforts continue with the LOC in developing and implementing an Oneida Nation Flag Policy as well as a Flag Protocol for Color Guard activities throughout the community. We are also continuing to establish a Veteran's Community Fund from which we can provide small amounts of resources to individual veteran's and/or family needs.
- III. On February 4, 2016, The Medical School at Marquette University hosted a reception to Honor Dr. Josiah A. Powless (Oneida) and to announce the establishment of a

scholarship in his name. Two members of the ONVAC transported two of Dr. Powless' grandchildren (Roy Huff and Elizabeth (Betty) Bins) to the event. In follow up to this recognition, the ONVAC would like to establish a monument in his name to be placed at a location to be determined, during Veteran's Day of 2016 or Memorial Day 2017. The details of this undertaking have begun and will be announced ASAP. Furthermore, Dr. Powless received the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously for his extraordinary courage and valor as a physician and a soldier while serving in the U. S. Army in WW I. The ONVAC is currently undertaking the task of attempting to get his medal upgraded to the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest honor given to military personnel.

- IV. Elderly Hunting: The ONVAC Chairman presented an opportunity for Oneida Elders to possibly participate in a free hunting outing and he will follow up with the provider. He has personally participated in this opportunity and it was a positive experience. A letter was drafted to the Oneida Conservation Department requesting that they look into this opportunity for our Oneida Elders. A subcommittee has been established with Conservation and we are presently having meetings and working on next steps.
- V. Loretta Metoxen, no longer on ONVAC continues her role as the representative to the Governor's Veterans Museum Committee on behalf of all Wisconsin Tribes and their respective veterans organizations. Ms. Metoxen makes monthly verbal reports to the ONVAC and those notes are captured within our monthly meeting minutes.
- VI. The ONVAC continues to work with the Veterans Service Office (VSO) on:
- Assisting our Communities' Veterans
 - Continuous upgrading and maintenance on the Veteran's Memorial Site along HWY 54. The ONVAC wishes to thank the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Tourism Department for their continued support with our efforts.
 - Selling and acquiring and installation of "pavers" for Veterans at the Memorial Site. As of 4-12-16 we have a total of 247 pavers.
 - ONVAC continues to work with the VSO to have all Civil War headstones replaced at all local cemeteries. This is a continuing process.
 - The ONVAC and VSO continue to collaborate with all of the Oneida Veterans Organizations in serving as Honor and Color Guards for GTC and other Organizational Meetings, external Veterans Activities, meetings, funerals, etc.
 - SEOTS has invited organizations to meeting on May 13, 2016. ONVAC members plan to attend.
 - ONVAC donated a Pendleton blanket for Raffle for Oneida youth to go to Washington, D.C. this coming summer.

- Floyd Hill, U.S. Army Veteran, was appointed to the ONVAC by the OBC in February 2016 and began his term on March 1, 2016.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Four ONVAC Members provided a Color Guard Unit for the Washington University Pow Wow in St. Louis on April 8 & 9th, 2016.

Five ONVAC Members provided a Color Guard Unit for the 2016 National Indian Gaming Conference and Trade Show in Phoenix, AZ on March 14-16, 2016.

The ONVAC Members and Members of our Community's Veterans Organizations have continued to provided Color Guard support to various Tribal Organizational Meetings, GTC Meetings and funerals.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

It is the Mission of ONVAC to ensure the Oneida Veterans are provided with quality service and assistance in the delivery of entitlement and benefits due the Oneida Veteran and their families. ONVAC accepts the responsibility to advocate for Oneida Veterans and their families, while protecting the integrity of the Veteran Community of the Oneida Nation.

MEETING REQUIREMENTS

ONVAC meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm at the Oneida Veterans Office at 134 Riverdale Drive, Oneida.

ONVAC also holds "special meetings" as appropriate, to conduct business on issues of immediate concern and/or as directed by the Oneida Business Committee.

All meetings are open to the public.