

# Oneida Business Committee Agenda Request

1. Meeting Date Requested: 7 / 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:

Per Business Committee mandate for Quarterly Report Schedule

Accept ONVAC FY '16 3rd 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: Mike Hill- Chairman  
Your Name, Title / Dept. or Tribal Member

Additional Requestor: John Brenuniger- Secretary  
Name, Title / Dept.

Additional Requestor: Submitted by: Carol Silva- Member  
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

**onayote'a'ka**  
P O Box 365,  
Oneida WI 54155  
Due 7-19-16 for 7-27-16 BC Mtg.

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

## **3rd QUARTERLY REPORT – FY 2016** **April, May, June**

**SUBMITTED BY:** ONVAC CHAIRMAN, Mike Hill

### **ONVAC MEMBERS**

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

**MEMBERS:** Gerald Cornelius, Member  
Kenneth House, Member  
Floyd Hill, Member  
Arthur Cornelius, Member  
Carol Silva, 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 Tribe 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 pays close attention to our overall Budget throughout the year and as most other Business Units do, we always attempt to remain within our spending parameters.  
As of May 31, 2016 our budget was underspend and shows a positive variance. This was due to a majority of our budget needs are made in July-September 2016.
- II. A sub-committee of the ONVAC members has been established for the purpose of: 1) reviewing and recommending appropriate modifications to the ONVAC By-Laws as changes may have occurred within our Community and with our military men and

women returning home from active duty with new issues affecting them individually or with their families.

Our sub-committee is currently developing a survey instrument to be sent out to our entire Oneida population requesting that ALL VETERANS identify themselves and a MASTER LIST of all veterans may be established.

III. Josiah Powless Memorial

The ONVAC is doing research into the establishment of a monument in recognition of Dr. Josiah Powless, US Army. Loretta V. Metoxen has thoroughly researched his life and military service and John Breuninger is utilizing that information, on behalf of ONVAC, to plan the monument as well as seeking Congressional approval of upgrading his Silver Star to the Congressional Medal of Honor. The appropriate Tribal Organizational Departments will be brought into play once the planning is complete and implementation begins.

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 the next steps. As an additional PLUS, an individual non-Indian veteran has offered a personal "bear hunt" tag to ONVAC for use by a disabled Oneida veteran. The Committee will establish the criteria for selecting an individual and then seek out eligible individuals.

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. Loretta attended a meeting in Madison on June 8, 2016.

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. The Oneida Tourism Department has assisted with the provision of flowers and plants and also provided financial support for a "full-length" sidewalk for better access to the Wall by handicapped and/or wheelchair bound individuals.

- Selling and acquiring and installation of “pavers” for Veterans at the Memorial Site. As of 7-12-16 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 attended.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

ONVAC Members provided a Color Guard retiring the Oneida Flag and dedicating the new Oneida Nation flag. We have introduced the idea of an Oneida Nation Flag Policy, which has been undertaken by the Legislative Operating Committee, with assistance from the ONVAC members. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Legislative Operating committee will be having another public comment session. Finally, we will establish and recommend a Color Guard and Flag Protocol once the Nation’s Flag Policy is implemented.

The ONVAC remains engaged in extracurricular activities within our Oneida Community and have assisted the Veterans Service Officer with two All Veterans Meetings, celebration meals, etc. Attendance at these events have been very good and it is great to have our Community Veterans participating in these events, along with their respective families.

### **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 is directed by the Oneida Business Committee.

All meetings are open to the public.