

ONEIDA NATION VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FY 2023 /First Quarter Report

Approved by official entity action: January 10, 2023

Submitted by: John L. Breuninger, Secretary, ONVAC

OBC Liaison: Jennifer Webster, OBC Primary

OBC Liaison: Cristina Danforth, OBC Alternate

OBC Liaison: Ethel Marie Cornelius, OBC Alternate

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 Nation's Veteran's rights, benefits, veterans affairs issues, and to protect the honor and integrity of the Oneida Nation and all veterans who have served honorably in the United States Uniformed Services. 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's services and programs for Oneida Veterans. ONVAC coordinates veteran events with the assistance of the Veterans Service Office, and other organized groups that are representatives of Oneida Veterans within the Oneida Nation.

BCC Members

Gerald Cornelius
Chair
12-31-2025

Deke Suri
Member
12-31-2025

Floyd J Hill
Vice-Chair
12-31-2022

Benjamin J Skenandore
Member
12-31-2023

John Breuninger
Secretary
12-31-2025

Dale A Webster
Member
12-31-2025

Arthur W Cornelius
Member
12-31-2023

Connor Kestell
Member
12-31-2023

VACANCY: Resignation of Kenneth House

Substantiated Complaints (if applicable)

Per § 105.12-4.(a) of the [Boards, Committees and Commissions law](#), annual and semi-annual reports shall contain information on the number of substantiated complaints against all members of the entity.

Per § 105.3-1.(q) a "Substantiated complaint" means a complaint or allegation in a complaint that was found to be valid by clear and convincing evidence.

NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS: Zero (0)

Meetings

Held every 2nd Tuesday every month via Microsoft Teams and in person, when permissible

5:00 P.M.

Emergency Meetings: Zero (0)

Contact Info

CONTACT: Gerald Cornelius or John L. Breuninger

TITLE: ONVAC Chair / ONVAC Secretary

PHONE NUMBER: (920) 615-6521 / (920) 562-7536

E-MAIL: onv-gcor@oneidanation.org / onv-jbre@oneidanation.org

MAIN WEBSITE: <https://oneida-nsn.gov/government/boards-committees-and-commissions/appointed/#Oneida-Nation-Veterans-Affairs-Committee>

Status report of Three-Year Outcomes/Goals

Outcome/Goal # 1

Engage community with services provided and develop a positive relationship with the Oneida Community.

IS THIS A LONG-TERM OR QUARTERLY GOAL? Long-term

GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

Responsiveness - Availability to the public and timeous reaction to the needs and opinions of the public

HOW OUTCOME/GOAL SUPPORTS THE GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

Our Oneida Veterans are respected within our community because of our commitment and service to the Oneida Nation and the United States. It is through our service back to our Community which solidifies this respect. Our individual and organizational involvement within our Community both shows our honor and pleasure to be a part of the Oneida Community. Our efforts to respect ourselves and our Community encourages our veterans to want to be a part and also sharing their participation for the benefit of the whole. Furthermore, we, as Veterans are an integral part of the Oneida Community within which we live and serve.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

ONVAC remains engaged in extracurricular activities within our Oneida Community and continuously assists the Veterans Service Officer with Veteran meetings, celebrations, funerals, meals, community events (Christmas Tree lighting), color guard responsibilities at Tribal Meetings (GTC), organizational events as well as "other" requests for color guard participation.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

The ONVAC's commitment to our Tribal Nation, it's organization and overall community, and to our Oneida Veterans have and will continue to be our primary purpose, "If we are needed, we will respond!" Furthermore, our commitment and participation within our community will not change in efforts and production as long as our Committee is operational.

Outcome/Goal # 2

Continuously developing and maintaining positive relationships with our Oneida Veteran population, their families and our community as well as with the Oneida Nation's departments, programs and services, external entities and our surrounding governments, veteran's organizations, schools and communities.

IS THIS A LONG-TERM OR QUARTERLY GOAL? Long-term

GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

Participation - Fostering a system in which the public feels that they are part of decision-making processes, including freedom of expression and assiduous concern for the best interests of the Tribe and community in general

HOW OUTCOME/GOAL SUPPORTS THE GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

Out of RESPECT, our Veterans, their families and our community continue to expect our participation in all veteran associated and community activities, programs and services. Our participation throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic in honoring and respecting our ceremonies, burials and overall support to our community have been well accepted by our People and Community. We have continuously respected and honored the requests of our Oneida and "other" families in the performance of our responsibilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

VISIBILITY and PARTICIPATION: Although the ONVAC, as other BCCs have been inoperative during the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have continued to be involved in "safely" providing our support services to our Veterans, their families and our Community. We are a "service" organization which continuously serves our People and Community. Just recently, we have supported the Nation's Tribal Action Plan (TAP) staff with community involvement and support; furthermore, we continuously work to improve our Nation's Veterans Memorial Site

with the addition of the Wisconsin State Purple Heart Monument, the planting of a "tree" within the memorial site, which was dedicated to the Oneida Nation from the Daughters of the American Revolution; and finally, supporting a Ceremony within which, the Sons of the American Revolution presented a DISTINGUISHED PATRIOTIC LEADERSHIP AWARD and an ONEIDA WARRIOR PLAQUE to the Oneida Nation.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

It is the intent of the ONVAC to continue to serve our People and Community. We accept our responsibilities and will continue to perform at our best in their interest.

Furthermore, the ONVAC attended and participated in the Ceremonies associated with the Dedication Ceremony of the National Native American Veterans Monument on Veterans Day in Washington, D.C. Also included within that week in Washington, two members of ONVAC participated in a Native American Rally in front of the Supreme Court Building in support of the Indian Child Welfare Act and were also invited to participate in a Native American Awareness Ceremony at the Pentagon.

Outcome/Goal # 3

The development and implementation of additional enhancements to the Veterans Memorial Wall and Site. The ONVAC has and will continue to work with the Tourism and the Department of Public Works in completing projects within the site.

IS THIS A LONG-TERM OR QUARTERLY GOAL? Long-term

GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

Consensus Oriented - Consultation is required to understand diverse interests (Membership, Employee, Community) in order to reach a broad consensus of what is in the best interest of the Nation and how this can be achieved in a sustainable and prudent manner.

HOW OUTCOME/GOAL SUPPORTS THE GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLE:

Public participation in the planning, development and implementation of the enhancements will be made available to the People and Community by providing continuous updates regarding the enhancements to be made within the Veterans Memorial Site. Veterans organizations and their membership as well as the public will be included in site plan reviews periodically.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic "closure" of the ONVAC, a DRAFT Site Plan was completed by the Oneida Planning Department. This Plan will continue to be the basic footprint to all of the enhancements to be made within the site. Currently, the enhancements will include positioning of two additional memorials, one to Dr. Josiah Powless and the second to the Oneida Code Talkers. A second Eagle will be placed within the site and upgrades will also be made to the wall. In addition, sidewalks, lighting and re-painting of the individual "bricks" located on the north side of the wall will be accomplished. Furthermore, the ONVAC is looking into the "lease agreement" between the Division of Land Management and the Veterans Department regarding the potential naming of the site, management of development within the site, i.e., placement of new enhancements, as well as maintenance of the site.

EXPECTATIONS/FUTURE PLANS REGARDING THE OUTCOME/GOAL:

It is the intent of ONVAC to continuously work to improve the Memorial Site, including the honoring and recognition of our Oneida Warriors past, present and future. We are also very PROUD to have the Wisconsin State Military Order of the Purple Heart Monument within our Memorial Site, with special thanks to the unconditional commitment by our former ONVAC Member and Commander of the Wisconsin Military Order of the Purple Heart, our comrade and colleague, Mr. George Greendeer.

Stipends

Per the Boards, Committees, and Commissions law, stipends are set via OBC resolution. BC resolution # 04-13-22-B sets the stipend amounts.

Budget Information

FY-2023 BUDGET: \$56,874.00

FY-2023 EXPENDITURES AS OF END OF REPORTING
PERIOD: 12/31/2022 \$12,666.00

Requests

Enter request(s), if needed.

Other

Although the ONVAC has unofficially continued to represent our Oneida Veterans, their families and our Community throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have respectfully provided our services within the parameters as allowed during this period. It is truly our honor to be reinstated and we THANK the OBC and the Oneida Health Department for keeping our Nation safe and our on-going services will continue to be provided within these preventative parameters.