

ONEIDA NATION VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (ONVAC)
FY 2023 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

Approved by official entity action: April 11, 2023
Submitted by: John L. Breuninger, Secretary, ONVAC
OBD Liaison: Jennifer Webster, Primary
Cristina Danforth, Alternate
Ethel Marie Cornelius, 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 affairs and/or issues in order that the office can formulate veteran’s services and programs for Oneida Veterans. Furthermore, ONVAC coordinates veteran events with the assistance of the Veterans Service Office, and other organized groups and organizations that are also representatives of Oneida Veterans within the Oneida Nation.

ONVAC Members

Gerald Cornelius, Chair 12-31-2025	Deke Suri, Member 12-31-2025
Floyd Hill II, Vice-Chair 12-31-2025	Benjamin Skenandore, Member 12-21-23
John L. Breuninger, Secretary 12-31-2025	Dale Webster, Member 12-31-2025
Arthur Cornelius, Member 12-31-2023	Connor Ketsell, Member 12-31-2024
Lynn Summers, Member 12-31-2025	

Substantiated Complaints (If applicable)

Per Sec. 105.12.12-4.(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 Sec. 105.3.3-1.(q) “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 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://onidanation-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 being given back to our community which solidifies this respect. Our individual and organizational involvement within our community shows both 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 share our 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 veterans meetings, celebrations, funerals, meals, community events (annual Christmas tree lighting), color guard responsibilities at tribal and organizational meetings (GTC), organizational events as well as “other” requests for our service and contributions to our community.

Expectations/Future Plans regarding the Outcome/Goal:

The ONVAC’s commitment to our Tribal Nation, it’s organization, government and overall community and it’s people. Our Nation’s 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 within which, the public feels that they are part of the decision-making processes, including freedom of expression and assiduous concern for the best interests of the Oneida nation and community in general.

How Outcome/Goal Supports the Good Governance Principle:

Out of RESPECT, our veterans, their respective families and our community continue to expect our participation in all veteran associated and community activities, programs and services.

Accomplishments Regarding the Outcome/Goal:

Continuous VISIBILITY and PARTICIPATION: Within proper guidelines, our veterans maintained their respective roles within the community during the Covid-19 Pandemic and continue to do so today. Our ONVAC members support activities of the Nation’s Tribal Action Plan (TAP) by participating in their efforts to make drug and alcohol issues better recognized and understood. We continue our efforts in maintaining the Veterans Wall site, which incidentally, the Oneida Land Commission just recently transferred the management of the site to the ONVAC and have started the process by which the location will receive an official name.

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. Furthermore, through the combined efforts of the Tourism Department and the Nation’s Capital Improvement Process, enhancements are currently being made at 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 mann

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 also be placed within the site. Upgrades are currently being made to the memorial wall and replacement of the individual “remembrance bricks” will also be replaced. In addition, sidewalks, lighting and “other” enhancements are proposed for 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: \$14,241.00

Requests: NONE

Other: NONE