

FY-2024 1st (Oct - Dec) Quarter Report

Oneida Veteran Affairs Committee (ONVAC)

Approved by official entity action on: January 11, 2024

Submitted by: John L. Breuninger, Secretary, ONVAC

OBC Liaison: Jennifer Webster

OBC Liaison: Larry Barton

OBC Liaison: Jonas Hill

OBC Liaison: Jameson Wilson

PURPOSE

The PURPOSE of the Oneida Nation Veteran Affairs Committee (ONVAC) is to serve as an advisory body to the Oneida Nation's Veteran Services Office in all matters related to the Oneida Nation's veteran's rights, benefits, veteran 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 is the PURPOSE of the ONVAC to assist the Tribal Veterans Services Officer (TVSO) in the formulation and administration of veteran's programs, services, ceremonies and events as necessary, and to be the advocates for the Chartered Veterans Organizations and other organized veteran groups located on the Oneida Reservation. Furthermore, the ONVAC shall represent the Oneida Nation at the request of the elected Oneida Business Committee (OBC) who have appointed each member to the ONVAC. Finally, the ONVAC shall serve as the responsible party for the management of the Veteran's Memorial site to be officially named by the Oneida Land Commission, in the near future.

AUTHORITY

ONVAC was established by the Oneida Business Committee (OBC) by motion on January 12, 1994 and further established through the adoption of bylaws on October 29, 1997, which were amended on February 13, 2013 and again on November 14, 2023, which the ONVAC approved. The updated bylaws are currently in the process of being approved by the OBC.

BCC MEMBERS

Gerald "Jerry" Cornelius
Chairman
12-31-2025

John L. Breuninger
Secretary
12-31-2025

Floyd Hill II
Vice-Chairman
12-31-2026

Dale A. Webster
Member
12-31-2025

Lynn Summers
Member
12-31-2026

Benjamin Skenandore
Member
12-31-2027

Deke Suri
Member
12-31-2026

VACANT

Enter Board Member Title, if any
Enter term end date

MEETINGS

Held every 2nd Tuesday of each month.

5:00 P.M.

Oneida Veteran Services Office, 134 Riverdale Drive, Oneida, Wisconsin and on Microsoft Teams when permissible.

Emergency Meetings: ZERO (0)

CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT: Gerald Cornelius / John L. Breuninger

TITLE: ONVAC Chairman / 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

ACCOMPLISHMENT"

ACCOMPLISHMENT #1

Summary:

Color Guard Activities: 16 for the quarter (GTC Meetings, funerals, conferences and "outside" events on behalf of the Oneida Nation such as; celebrations, parades, etc.

Impact:

Service to the Oneida People as well as representing the veterans of our community by providing honor to all who have served in the United States Uniformed Services. Taking the leadership role in ceremonies, meetings, funerals, etc., the ONVAC continues to "give back" to

the People and community who have supported us for our service. We are recognized as representatives of our Oneida Nation and the United States when we participate in the presentation of the colors at various activities.

Accomplishment #2

Summary:

Christmas Tree Lighting: All veteran organizations including ONVAC prepared and distributed food and drink at this annual event. Donations received during that event were forwarded to the Oneida Giving Tree.

Impact:

Community engagement and celebrations within our community, showing our veterans are supporting our community.

Accomplishment #3

Summary:

TOYS FOR TOTS: All veterans including ONVAC members participated in this event with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Impact:

In giving we shall receive. Our Oneida Nation Veterans support activities both within and outside of our communities, thereby providing support to the needs and desires of our larger geographic area and organizations.

Accomplishment #4

Summary:

Oneida Female Veterans Color Guard: All veteran organizations including ONVAC and the Oneida Business Committee supported this activity financially. In addition, ONVAC supported the coordination of multiple activities associated with having our Oneida Nation Female Veterans prepare for presenting the colors at the future GTC meetings, funerals, celebrations, etc.

Impact:

Oneida Female Veterans are equally important components of the Oneida veteran community as the male veterans. Although there are no specific "female veteran organizations" within the Oneida Nation, all females who meet the criteria for membership are eligible for participation within those organizations, this includes the ONVAC. All of our veteran organizations on the Oneida Reservation (ONVAC, WIVA and the VFW) recognize our female veterans as equals. Therefore, we all feel female veterans should participate in being honored for presentation of the colors just as the males are.

Accomplishment #5

Summary:

Community Breakfast: Each Friday morning, the Oneida Veteran Service Office staff and veteran volunteers (including ONVAC members) prepare and serve breakfast to the veterans and Oneida community members. This breakfast is financed by donations from the attendees.

Impact:

Camaraderie brings a group of people with like interests together to meet, celebrate, visit and EAT! The community breakfasts at the Oneida Veterans Service Office are just the place for all of the above. Starting off as a kind gesture for our community veterans, the breakfast activity now brings many people together each week and, also provides a forum for educational opportunities for the community.

GOALS

Long-term Goal #1

Strengthen veteran participation in the Oneida community by the continuation of programs and services which are currently being provided and continuously being available to assist wherever and whenever there is a need.

Responsiveness – Availability to the public and timeous reaction to the needs and opinions of the public.

Update on Goal:

ONVAC members continue to be available to our People and community. We participate in community activities which enhance the community's quality of life.

Short-term Goal #1

Continue to support the efforts to enhance the Veteran Memorial (site) by working with the Oneida Land Commission on the Lease and Naming of the site. Furthermore, working with Tourism and the Oneida Engineering Department on enhancements and improvements as well as replacement of the "paver bricks" and the addition of two new monuments.

Consensus Oriented – Public participation in the planning and implementation of the enhancements with all veterans as well as the Oneida community by providing continuous updates through meetings and multi-media outlets and publications.

Update on Goal:

An "all veteran" meeting was held discussing the Veteran Memorial (site) enhancements currently being completed (construction) with additional meetings as the projects continue. The ONVAC has representatives in the two chartered veteran organizations (VFW & WIVA) and their continuous discussions, plans, etc. continue to occur.

STIPENDS

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

	Total dollar amount paid	Number of stipend type		
		Regular Mtg	Emergency Mtg	Hearings/Other
October 2023	\$450.00	1	0	0
November 2023	\$675.00	1	0	0
December 2023	\$525.00	1	0	0

BUDGET

FY-2024 BUDGET: \$56,874.00

FY-2024 EXPENDITURES AS OF END OF REPORTING PERIOD: \$2,127.00

The ONVAC is working on ribbon shirt designs and caps to procure within this next quarter. Our last enhancements were ten (10) years ago. We will again be sponsoring and hosting the Annual Code Talkers Golf Outing – May 24, 2024, procurement of new flags, travel to requested events/conferences such as; Ira Hayes Memorial and Wisconsin's State of Nations Report.

REQUESTS

NONE at this time.

OTHER

None at this time.