

# ANTRIM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## 2017 Annual Report

June 14, 2018

Submitted by Deborah Peters, Director

### **County Veterans Fund Expenditures for 2017**

Our total veterans fund budget for the year was \$31,000.00. The budget includes monies for emergency financial assistance, veteran marker settings and county burial benefit. We ended the year under budget by \$11,509.12 with total expenditures of \$19,490.88. The number of emergency relief applications received were down by 6 from the previous year and burial applications were up by one.

### **State Expenditures for FY 2016/2017**

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund approved one emergency relief application in the amount of \$447.39.

### **Outreach**

- In April we hosted a VA healthcare roundtable discussion in conjunction with COA. Two representatives from the Saginaw VA medical center presented information, answered questions and addressed concerns. There were 57 veterans in attendance.
- In July we participated in the Senior Expo held at the Bellaire High School.
- In December we participated in the AMVETS Christmas party for veterans at Meadowbrook.

### **Staff Changes**

The person in the support staff position resigned in December.

### **Training**

- The part-time VSO and I maintain county veteran service officer accreditation through the National Association of County Veterans Services Officers (NACVSO). This is done by attending the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors (MACVC) spring training conference each year. The spring conference enables us to earn the continuing education units (CEU's) necessary to maintain accreditation. NACVSO offers cross accreditation with service organizations such as The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, etc. Holding accreditation with the service organizations puts us in essentially the same category as the national service officers who work at the VA regional offices. When a veteran appoints a service organization that we are accredited with to assist with his/her claim, it allows us access to their VA computer records. This enables us to see a

current and complete snapshot of the veterans' claim process which in turn enables us to better advocate on the veterans' behalf. It also allows VA staff to speak freely with us regarding the veterans' claim.

- In July we hosted "safeTALK", a suicide intervention training here in the county building. Approximately 10 people attended.
- In August we attended a two day "ASIST" (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) in Gaylord.
- In September we attended a Suicide Prevention Conference in Gaylord.
- In September the part-time VSO attended The American Legion Service Officers School at Higgins Lake.

### **Miscellaneous**

- The majority of our time is spent on developing and filing compensation and pension claims in order to obtain monthly monetary benefits from the VA for veterans and/or family members. Our office is directly responsible for substantial retroactive monies and monthly benefits awarded to residents of Antrim County. Retro awards totaled over \$484,000 in 2017.
- We assist veterans reentering the community from prison as well as those who are incarcerated in our local jail.
- We assist veterans in need of emergency substance abuse and mental health treatment.
- We assist veterans with transportation issues to VA medical appointments.
- Office staff attends the monthly Antrim County Community Collaborative meeting.
- We take part in the Veterans Community Action Team (VCAT) Region 2 which was established by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. Region 2 consists of 10 northwest counties. VCAT is a community-based system of care for veterans and their families, where networks of service providers employ best practices, information and tools to connect veterans with services and serve them more quickly and completely. Service providers include federal, state and local resources.
- Two new work stations were installed in March that are much more user friendly than what we previously had and allows office staff to be better organized.

### **Donations**

We again received a \$500 donation from the Bellaire Masonic Lodge #398. We also received a total of \$821 from "in memory of" donations. We used the donations to purchase Quick Series guides regarding anger management and suicide prevention as it relates to veterans.

# 2017 ANALYSIS OF VETERANS RELIEF FUND APPLICATIONS

<b>ASSISTANCE TYPE</b>	<b>AMT PD</b>
Car Repair	2331.13
Electric	1005.87
Groceries	796.46
Heating Fuel	1582.76
Misc	2873.00
Property Taxes	368.88
Rent, Mortgage, temp. housing	382.78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9340.88</b>

<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Alba	0.00
Alden	0.00
Bellaire	974.30
Boyne City	0.00
Central Lake	2151.19
Charlevoix	0.00
East Jordan	1969.15
Eastport	0.00
Elk Rapids	0.00
Ellsworth	1373.00
Elmira	817.32
Homeless	108.78
Kewadin	49.59
Mancelona	1897.55
Rapid City	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9340.88</b>

## **TOTAL APPS 23**

Denied 5  
Full Grant 17  
Partial Grant 1  
War Era 18 @ \$7888.30      Peacetime 6 @ \$1452.58

## **UNIQUE APPLICANTS 18**

War Era 13      Peacetime 5

# ANTRIM COUNTY DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STATISTICS

## Office Visits

2007 = 292  
2008 = 285  
2009 = 362  
2010 = 494  
2011 = 516  
2012 = 507  
2013 = 686  
2014 = 600  
2015 = 549  
2016 = 612  
2017 = 646

## County Burial Benefit Applications

2006 = 48  
2007 = 40  
2008 = 53  
2009 = 51  
2010 = 64  
2011 = 58  
2012 = 33  
2013 = 37  
2014 = 41  
2015 = 29  
2016 = 28  
2017 = 29

## Emergency Relief Fund Applications

2006 = 25  
2007 = 56  
2008 = 72  
2009 = 52  
2010 = 53  
2011 = 43  
2012 = 53  
2013 = 62  
2014 = 42  
2015 = 29  
2016 = 29  
2017 = 23

### **Veterans Fund Total Expenditures**

2007 = \$53,314.82  
2008 = \$62,764.92  
2009 = \$44,934.96  
2010 = \$41,232.02  
2011 = \$53,650.17  
2012 = \$32,077.90  
2013 = \$43,299.37  
2014 = \$35,653.24  
2015 = \$37,038.34  
2016 = \$25,201.32  
2017 = \$19,490.88\*

### **VA Distributions to Antrim County Veterans and Surviving Spouses Compensation and Pension**

2006 = \$2,885,000  
2007 = \$3,043,000  
2008 = \$3,489,000  
2009 = \$4,026,000  
2010 = \$4,339,000  
2011 = \$5,716,000  
2012 = \$5,054,000  
2013 = \$6,191,000  
2014 = \$7,717,000  
2015 = \$7,904,000  
2016 = \$8,071,000  
2017 = unavailable

### **\*2017 Breakdown**

Burials = 8700.00  
Marker Settings = 1200.00  
Gas Cards = 250.00  
Emergency Assistance = 9340.88