

# ANTRIM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## 2018 Annual Report

June 20, 2019

Submitted by Walter Bedell, VSO  
and Deborah Peters, Director

### **County Veterans Fund Expenditures for 2018**

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 \$11,777.00 with total expenditures of \$19,223.00.

### **Outreach**

- In June, we created an Antrim County Veterans Affairs Facebook account to increase visibility of our office and services. As of May 2019, there have been 3500 unique visitors to our account since inception.
- In collaboration with Northwest Michigan Works, our full time employee participated in a Veterans Identification Card Day. The employee was instrumental in assisting over 25 Veterans navigate the newly implemented system designed for Veterans to obtain a VA picture ID card. Veterans can now visit Antrim County Veterans Affairs to apply for this card.
- In July, we attended a Veterans Community Action Team (VCAT) event to promote Veteran services throughout our region.

### **Staff Changes.**

A full time Veterans Service Officer (VSO) was hired in April. The employee became certified through the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) as an accredited representative to process claims on behalf of veterans. In August, the employee successfully completed training from the National Association of County Veterans Services Officers (NACVSO) and received accreditation through them as well.

### **Training**

- Office staff maintains county veteran service officer accreditation through the 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 August, a member of the department participated in a Mental Health Summit to help recognize opioid addiction, suicide crisis, and mental health disorders.
- In May, the accredited VSO's completed annual training in order to earn the mandatory CEU's to maintain National and State accreditation.

### **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.
- We assist veterans reentering the community from prison as well as those 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 more quickly and completely. Service providers include federal, state and local resources.
- Funded with grant monies awarded by the MVAA, we purchased a mobile workstation and two document scanners in order to expand our services to Veterans.

### **Donations**

We received a \$500 donation from the Bellaire Masonic Lodge #398.

A veteran donated two paintings of the U.S.S. Mackinaw to our office, as it was his sincere desire for them to be on display here.

A second veteran donated a decorative desk mount of the "Moon Landing" that he also wanted displayed.

A third veteran donated a glass encased Army pennant from the 94<sup>th</sup> Signal Company for display. The pennant is accompanied by a plaque describing when it was flown.

# 2018 ANALYSIS OF VETERANS RELIEF FUND APPLICATIONS

## ASSISTANCE TYPE                      AMOUNT PAID

Car Repair	0.00
Electric	340.00
Groceries	1617.82
Heating Fuel	4030.64
Misc	4194.60
Property Taxes	249.60
Rent, Mortgage, temp. housing	1090.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,523.00</b>

## MUNICIPALITY                              AMOUNT

Alba	783.80
Alden	0.00
Bellaire	0.00
Boyne City	0.00
Central Lake	3077.15
Charlevoix	0.00
East Jordan	0.00
Eastport	0.00
Elk Rapids	0.00
Ellsworth	0.00
Elmira	0.00
Homeless	0.00
Kewadin	0.00
Mancelona	6792.49
Rapid City	869.59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,523.00</b>

### TOTAL APPS 25

Full Grant 25

### War Era Applications: 22

Amount Awarded: \$9904.70

### Peacetime Applications: 3

Amount Awarded: \$1618.30

*Antrim County*  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

# 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  
2018 = 706

## 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  
2018 = 18

## 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  
2018 = 25



*Antrim County*  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

## **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  
2018 = \$17,373.00\*

### **\*2018 Breakdown**

Burials = \$5400.00  
Markers= \$2000  
Gas Cards = \$250  
Subway Card=\$50  
Emergency Assistance = \$11523.00

## **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 = \$7,515,000  
2018 = \$7,083,000

