



# Sullivan County

## Veterans Committee

### Meeting Minutes - Final

Chairman Luis Alvarez  
Vice Chairman George Conklin  
Committee Member Nicholas Salomone Jr.  
Committee Member Nadia Rajszt  
Committee Member Ira Steingart

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**Thursday, June 1, 2023**

**11:00 AM**

**Government Center**

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#### **Call To Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Alvarez called the Veterans Committee to order at 11:01AM.

#### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Chairman Luis Alvarez, Vice Chairman George Conklin, Nicholas Salomone Jr., Nadia Rajszt and Ira Steingart

#### **Opening Remarks - Luis Alvarez, Chairman**

Chairman Doherty, Joseph Perrello, Alan Sorensen

Joshua Potosek, Michelle Huck, Dan Hust, Sharon Jankiewicz,

Ken Walter, Catherine Scott, Liam Mayo

#### **Commanders Reports - Veterans Service Organizations**

The following Commanders gave reports on their Veterans Service Organization:

1. Randy Peers
2. Howie Goldsmith
3. Paul Slavik
4. Butch Kortwright

Veterans Attendance Sheet

[\*\*ID-5602\*\*](#)

**Attachments:** [Veterans Attendance Sheet \(2\)](#)

#### **Director's Report**

Director Stephen Walsh highlighted his monthly report below:

1. Referred local veterans & families in crisis to the Community Assistance Center

2. Worked with local organizations, Vet 2 Vet (ATI) and local law enforcement to streamline mental health intake and transportation for VA inpatient treatment. We are currently working with Senator Gillibrand on a VA policy change that would implement expedited claims processing for veterans being released from inpatient Mental Health and drug and alcohol dependency.
3. Established a Veteran referral process with the Center for Workforce Development to increase the number of Veterans utilizing career training programs.
4. We will be participating in the Center for Workforce Development's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) again this year.
5. We held our annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery on Monday, May 29th at 1:00 pm.
6. Thank You to my Supervision, County Legislators, fellow Directors and the Sullivan County Veterans Coalition for implementing the NEW Local Veterans Medical Transportation Program that entered into service on May 8th.
7. PACT Act claims are finally being adjudicated by VA. DOD estimates 3.5 million veterans will seek benefits due to burn pit exposure. Processing began on January 1st, 2023 and the VA has received 186,000 new claims related to PACT Act, in 3 months' time. The current number of claims received by the VA has climbed to over 213,000 as of May 1st.

**Public Comment**

At this time Chairman Alvarez made a comment.

1. Ken Walter made a public comment.

**Resolutions:**

There were no resolutions.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Nadia Rajsiz moved to adjourn, seconded by George Conklin. The Veterans Committee adjourned at 11:38AM.