



County Veterans Service Officers Association

Of The State Of New York, Inc. (CVSOA)

DIRECTORY

New York State County and City Veterans Service Agencies

History

Veterans service on the local level began before 1887 when care of veterans and their families was administered by the G.A.R.. As early as 1887, New York State law provided for the care of veterans under Town Law. Gradually, this service was extended under Town and County Law to provide for burial and financial relief of veterans and to establish a County Service Officer. The latter dates from about 1900 and remains a part of New York Law under Article 22 of the County Law.

In 1941 the New York State Conference on Veterans Social work began a study of veterans' needs both in service and public assistance. After several years of conferences, a commission was employed to coordinate the studies and make recommendations to executive law which made mandatory a county veterans service agency and director in every county of the state, not wholly within a city and provided for city agencies as well.

Article 17, Section 357 of the New York State Executive Law enacted in 1945, requires the establishment and maintenance of a County Veterans Service Agency and the appointment of a Director of such agency in a county not wholly within a city. Such an agency has a duty to carry out broad policies established by the governing body. It's personnel are locally appointed under the principle of Home Rule. In many counties the Director has the responsibility to carry out provisions of Section 148 of the General Municipal Law pertaining to burial of, and headstones for indigent veterans and members of their families. Agencies also have law mandated duty to inform members of the armed forces, veterans and members of their families in regard to matters pertaining to education, retraining, medical and other rehabilitative services and facilities; provisions of federal, state and local laws and regulations pertaining thereto affording rights and privileges to such persons; employment and reemployment services, and other matters which may apply to them

MISSION

The mission of the County Veterans' Service Officers is to provide entitlement information and advocacy assistance to military personnel, to military veterans, and to their dependents in matters relating to veterans' law.

ACCREDITED REPRESENTATION

County Veterans' Service Officers may be recognized, under Federal law, by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide legal representation for individuals in matters relating to VA law. That Asserted Representation establishes a "client-attorney relationship "with the same implied obligations as any attorney. By virtue of accreditation, the County Veterans' Service Officer has access to a nationwide network of Accredited Representatives who are able to provide expanded assistance, including before the Board of Veterans' Appeals in Washington, D.C..

COMMITMENT

County Veterans' Service Officers are committed to providing the highest level of service within the limits of available resources. To maintain that commitment, expertise must be enhanced through continuous training and retraining. Skilled counseling and claims development is fully realized only by that commitment to the continuing education of Service Officers. Personal integrity and perseverance are hallmarks of successful Service Officers.

SERVICES

County Veterans' Service Officers provide an unsurpassed personalized service to veterans and their dependents. There is no comparable advocacy service for that special group of New York citizens. All services are provided without charge. Strictly controlled confidentiality is maintained under penalty of law. Service Officers are required to be knowledgeable in federal, state and local laws pertaining to veterans. Assistance in the following areas is provided to thousands of veterans, military personnel, and their dependents year after year:

- VA compensation for service-connected disabilities
- VA pension for non-service-connected disabilities
- · VA compensation/pension to family members of deceased veterans
- VA burial benefits and grave markers
- VA life insurance
- VA health care
- VA education and vocational rehabilitation
- VA home loan guaranties
- VA, State & Local employment and reemployment
- Military records
- Federal, State & Local medals or awards
- Local real property tax exemption
- NYS blind annuity
- Other Federal, State and Local benefits

Some Veterans' Service Agencies provide additional services unique to the needs of their particular areas such as:

- transportation service to VA Medical Centers
- · in-home visits to assist the housebound with claims for entitlements
- satellite offices for the convenience of their constituents
- assistance and training for veterans' organizations
- · information to community service organizations
- · local veterans' cemetery programs
- notary service
- assistance in obtaining legal documents (marriage, birth, military, etc.)
- · cooperative programs with other agencies (employment, welfare, etc.)
- assistance with community affairs (memorial services, job fairs, etc.)

Within the limits of their resources, county Veterans Service Agencies continue to provide innovative services and programs to meet the new and expanding requirements of an aging veterans' population, and those veterans returning from recent wars with new and sometimes unknown disabilities. We will hold fast to our commitment.

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCIES

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CHENANGO COUNTY

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LEWIS COUNTY

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LIVINGSTON COUNTY

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ORANGE COUNTY

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ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

VARO/Buffalo

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TIOGA COUNTY

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TOMPKINS COUNTY

VARO/NYC

No County Veterans Service Agency

ULSTER COUNTY

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VARO/NYC

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WAYNE COUNTY

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CITY/TOWN VETERANS SERVICE AGENCIES

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MT. VERNON

VARO/NYC

Kristyn Reed, Director

Veterans Service Agency City Hall, Room 4 Mt. Vernon, New York 10550

Telephone: (914) 665-2319 Fax: (914) 665-4544

E-Mail: kreed@cmvny.com

NEW YORK CITY

VARO/NYC

Loree Sutton, Commissioner

Jamal Othman, Assistant Commissioner Ellen Greeley, Special Assistant Ines Adan, Director Of Human Services Latisha Russaw, Military Liaison – Service Coordinator

> Department Of Veterans' Services 1 Centre Street, Suite 2208 New York, New York 10007

Telephone: (212) 416-5250 Fax: (212) 312-0950

Web: www.nyc.gov/veterans

E-Mail: egreeley@veterans.nyc.gov inadan@veterans.nyc.gov lrussaw@veterans.nyc.gov

TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD

Nassau County, Long Island VARO/NYC

Richard G. Gales Jr., Veterans Service Officer

Veterans Services, Town Hall 1 Washington Street Hempstead, New York 11550

Telephone: (516) 812-3506

Email: rgales@tohmail.org

TOWN OF OYSTER BAY

Nassau County, Long Island VARO/NYC

Walter Schmitt, Veterans Service Officer

Veterans Services Division Town Hall South 977 Hicksville Road Massapequa, New York 11758

Telephone: (516) 797-7875

YONKERS

VARO/NYC

Louis Navarro, Director

Daniel A. Morea, Deputy Director Eder Paredes, Veterans Service Officer Sherri A. Vissaggi, Secretary Theresa Barbagallo, Secretary

Department Of Veterans Services 120 New Main Street Yonkers, New York 10701

Telephone: (914) 377-6700 Fax: (914) 377-6703

E-Mail: louis.navarro@yonkersny.gov daniel.morea@yonkersny.gov eder.paredes@yonkersny.gov

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES

SENECA NATION OF INDIANS

VARO/Buffalo

Lisa Maybee, Director

Veterans Department 12837 Route 438 Irving, New York 14081

Telephone: (716) 532-4900, Ext. 5536

Email: lisa.maybee@sni.org

Main Office Located In Erie County Secondary Office Located In Cattaraugus County

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

The inclusion of Veterans Service Organizations in this Directory is not an endorsement by CVSOA



AMERICAN LEGION

Regional Office - Buffalo

Anthony N. Druzbik, Department Service Officer Bert L. deVirgilio, Asst. Department Service Officer

The American Legion Office 130 South Elmwood Avenue, Suite #613 Buffalo, New York 14202

Telephone: (716) 857-3361/3362/3363/3364 Fax: (716) 857-3488

Regional Office - New York City

John Kavanagh, Department Service Officer Dana Verissimo, Asst. Department Service Officer David Sprinkle, Asst. Department Service Officer

245 West Houston Street, Room #212-B New York, New York 10014-4805

> Telephone: (212) 807-3066 Fax: (212) 807-4029

Veterans Services Committee

Patrick R. Rourk, Committee Chairman

3 Morton Street Norwood, NY 13668-1100

Telephone: (315) 262-5361

E-Mail: prourk@twcny.rr.com

R. Michael Suter, Committee Advisor

311 VanBuren Street Jamestown, New York 14701

Telephone: (716) 483-5402

E-Mail: suter.talny@yahoo.com



AMVETS

Regional Office - Buffalo

Denise Marie Bugaj, Regional Director Bill Siegel, National Service Officer

130 South Elmwood Avenue, Suite #623 Buffalo, New York 14202

Telephone: (716) 857-3115/3350/3351

E-Mail: denise.bugaj@va.gov william.siegel@va.gov

Regional Office - New York City

Alvin Cespedes, National Service Officer

245 West Houston Street, Room #208 New York, New York 10014

Telephone: (212) 807-3178 E-Mail: alvin.cespedes@va.gov



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Regional Office - Buffalo

Howard Brittain, National Service Officer/Supervisor Timothy McGowan, National Service Officer

> 130 South Elmwood Avenue, Suite #620 Buffalo, New York 14202

Telephone: (716) 857-3354 Fax: (716) 857-3487

Regional Office - New York City

Eduard Bueno, National Service Officer/Supervisor

245 West Houston Street, Room #204 New York, New York 10014

Telephone: (212) 807-3067/3157

Chapter 38 - Troy

Linda McKinnis, Veterans Claims Service Officer,
District Veterans Claims Officer
And Peer To Peer Outreach Counselor

594 4th Street Troy, New York 12180

Telephone: (518) 953-6526

E-Mail: mckinnis69@yahoo.com

VA Medical Center - Syracuse

Valor O'Shea, Department Service Officer

800 Irving Ave., Room #A-172B Syracuse, New York 13210

Telephone: (315) 425-4400, Ext. 54356



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Regional Office - Buffalo

Carl Wampler, National Service Officer

130 South Elmwood Avenue, Suite #624 Buffalo, New York 14202-2483 Telephone: (716) 857-3346/3347 Fax: (716) 857-3483

Email: carl.wampler@va.gov

Regional Office - New York City

Darrel Hendricks, National Service Officer

245 West Houston Street, Room #202 New York, New York 10014 Telephone: (212) 807-3009 Fax: (212) 807-3989 Email: darrel.hendricks@va.gov

Fort Drum

Theresa Neibacher, National Service Officer

Attn: ACAP 10720 Mt. Belvedere Boulevard Fort Drum, New York 13602 Telephone: (315) 405-8308 Fax: (315) 777-4332

Email: taneibacher1@hotmail.com or theresa.neibacher@va.gov

Outpatient Clinic - Binghamton

Gail Margaritis, National Service Officer

425 Robinson Street Binghamton, New York 13904 Telephone: (607) 772-3087 Fax: (607) 772-3081 Email: gail.margaritis@va.gov

VA Medical Center – Syracuse

Sean Bailey, National Service Officer

800 Irving Avenue, Suite #A176 Syracuse, New York 13210 Telephone: (315) 425-4685 Fax: (315) 425-6569

Email: sean.bailey2@va.gov



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Regional Office - Buffalo

Vacant, Senior National Service Officer Nona R. Nixon, Accredited Administrator

130 South Elmwood Avenue, Suite #621 Buffalo, New York 14202 Telephone: (716) 857-3352/3353 Fax: (716) 857-3486

Email: nonan@pva.org

Regional Office - New York City

Bruce Weston, National Service Officer III

245 West Houston Street, Room #212-A New York, New York 10014 Telephone: (212) 807-3114 Fax: (212) 807-4047

Email: brucew@pva.org

VA Medical Center - Bronx

Amauris Polanco, Health & Benefits Specialist II

130 West Kingsbridge Road, Room #1D-52A Bronx, New York 10468 Telephone: (718) 584-9000, ext. 6272 Fax: (718) 741-4237

Email: amaurisp@pva.org

VA Medical Center - Syracuse

Charles Tocci, Health & Benefits Specialist II

800 Irving Avenue, Room #C419 Syracuse, New York 13210 Telephone: (315) 425-4400, ext. 53317 Fax: (315) 425-2940

Email: charlesto@pva.org



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Regional Office - Buffalo

Thomas J. Todaro, Director Stephen Lutter, Department Service Officer Marlene Roll, Assistant Department Service Officer

> 130 South Elmwood Avenue, Suite #626 Buffalo, New York 14202

Telephone: (716) 857-3348/3349 Fax: (716) 857-3484

E-Mail: thomas.todaro2@va.gov stephen.lutter@gmail.com marlene.roll@va.gov

Regional Office - New York City

John W. Bartow Jr., Department Service Officer Destiny Ramos, Administrative Assistant

113 Holland Avenue, Room #C308-5A Albany, NY 12208

and

245 West Houston Street, Room #203 New York, New York 10014

Telephone: (518) 626-5687 Fax: (518) 626-5673

E-Mail: john.bartow@va.gov destiny.ramos@va.gov



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Regional Office - Buffalo

Dolores E. Garcia, Veterans Service Officer

130 South Elmwood Avenue, Suite #629 Buffalo, New York 14202-2485

Telephone: (716) 857-3344/3404 Fax: (716) 857-3345

Email: dolores.garcia1@va.gov

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The inclusion of Additional Resources in this Directory is not an endorsement by CVSOA



PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS OF NEW YORK

Website: www.pgrny.org

Dave Kern, State Captain Email: patriotgriderny@gmail.com

Nigel Heaton, Assistant State Captain (Regions 1-3)
Email: nigelvh@aol.com

Bill Schaaf, Assistant State Captain (Regions 4-7)
Email: billschaaf@aol.com

Jim McElroy, Assistant State Captain (Regions 8-9)
Email: jim.mcelroy.prg@gmail.com

Patriot Guard Riders Of New York, Inc. is a 100% volunteer, non-profit 501c3 organization

Help On The Homefront Program (HOTH)

A volunteer outreach group providing support to veterans, families of deployed service members and Gold Star families.

Veteran Recover Program (VRP)

Mission is to location, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organization; to provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes. New York's Counties are divided into 9 Regions, each with a Senior Ride Captain to coordinate missions:

Region 1 - Don Higgins, gladiator6988@hotmail.com Niagara, Orleans, Erie, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany

Region 2 – Nigel Heaton, nigelvh@aol.com Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Cayuga, Yates, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, Cortland, Chenango, Chemung, Tioga, Broom

Region 3 - Bruce Dauer, brdauer@gmail.com
Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Oswego, Lewis, Onondaga,
Madison, Oneida, Herkimer

Region 4 - Dan Nolin, dan1nolin@yahoo.com
Franklin, Clinton, Hamilton, Essex, Warren, Fulton, Saratoga, Washington

Region 5 – Bill Schaaf, billschaaf@aol.com Otsego, Montgomery, Schoharie, Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer, Green, Columbia, Delaware

Region 6 – Bill Schaaf, billschaaf@aol.com Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland

Region 7 – John Tibbs, jrtibbscar@aol.com Putnam, Westchester, Bronx

Region 8 – Pete Jepson, doublejli@optonline.net Manhattan, Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queesn, Nassau

Region 9 – Pete Jepson, doublejli@optonline.net Suffolk



U.S. DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS 1-800-827-1000

www.va.gov

REGIONAL OFFICE - NEW YORK CITY

245 West Houston Street New York, New York 10014

REGIONAL OFFICE - BUFFALO

130 South Elmwood Avenue, Suite #601 Buffalo, New York 14202-2478

VA PENSION MAINTENANCE CENTER – VARO/PHILIDELPHIA

1-877-294-6380

P.O. Box 42910

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

VA MEDICAL CENTERS 1-877-222-8387

www.va.gov/health

VA HOME LOANS 1-888-768-2132

www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans

VA EDUCATION INFORMATION 1-888-442-4551

www.gibill.va.gov

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE (DFAS)

> (All Branches Retired Pay) <u>1-800-321-1080</u>

> > www.dfas.mil



COUNTY VETERANS SERVICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, INC.

September 2017 – August 2018

President

Steven W. Bowman Clinton County

Executive Director

Ellen M. Andros Madison County

Treasurer

JoAnne Demong Oswego County

NYSAC Liaison (Appointed)

(New York State Assoc. Of Counties)

Denise DiResta

Warren County

<u>Eastern Region Officers</u> <u>September 2017 – August 2018</u>

Vice-President

Eilene Fisher Schoharie County

2nd Vice-President

Charles Piper Delaware County

Recording Secretary (Appointed)

Vacant

<u>Western Region Officers</u> <u>September 2017 – August 2018</u>

Vice President

William R. Joyce Genesee County

2nd Vice-President

Denis E. Oliver Steuben County

Recording Secretary (Appointed)

Vacant



COUNTY VETERANS SERVICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, INC.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Joseph Beals (Oswego)	1947-1949	Bob Maitland (Oswego)	1983-1984
Edward Zenger (Erie)	1949-1950	Frank Pesesky (Chemung)	1984-1985
Roy Shannon	1950-1952	Alan Wagner (Madison)	1985-1986
John Richards (Jefferson)	1952-1953	Gerald Acheson (Genesee)	1986-1987
Andrew Knebel (Steuben)	1953-1954	John Pratt	1987-1987
Theodore Newman (Orange)	1954-1955	Harold McLeod (Oneida)	1987-1988
Sarah Bisbee (Chemung)	1955-1956	James Carra (Monroe)	1988-1990
Herb Chamberlain (Delaware)	1956-1958	Brian Campbell (Oswego)	1990-1990
Roy Mandigo (Onondaga)	1958-1959	Warren Knapp (Sullivan)	1991-1991
John Leile	1959-1960	Al Cresson (Oneida)	1991-1992
Eugene Coats	1960-1961	Don Thompson (Niagara)	1992-1993
Dewain Feller (Monroe)	1962-1964	John Sampson (Cattaraugus)	1993-1994
Harry Page (Genesee)	1964-1965	Bob Ensminger (Niagara)	1994-1994
Walter Monteith (St. Lawrence)	1965-1966	Franklin Tower (Orleans)	1994-1996
Bill Donoghue	1966-1967	Charles Patchin (Onondaga)	1997-1999
William Murray (Orleans)	1967-1969	Dawn MacDougall (Washington)	2000-2001
William Votraw (Clinton)	1969-1970	Donald R. Smith (Madison)	2002-2004
George Mazzucco (Rockland)	1970-1971	Edward Aulman (Nassau)	2004-2005
Frank Dunham (Wayne)	1971-1973	H. Scott Spillane (Allegany)	2005-2006
Lloyd Shimer (Sullivan)	1974-1975	Edward Aulman (Nassau)	2006-2007
Louis Dickerson (Schuyler)	1976-1977	Donald R. Smith (Madison)	2007-2008
Ted Coleman (Orange)	1977-1978	Patrick R. Rourk (St. Lawrence)	2008-2009
Kenneth Hurst (Onondaga)	1978-1980	Nelson Eddy Rivera (Dutchess)	2009-2010
Don Rice (Dutchess)	1980-1981	Denis E. Oliver (Steuben)	2010-2012
Paul Higgins (Jefferson)	1981-1982	Sam Hall (Washington)	2012-2016
Bill Wheeler	1982-1983	Steven W. Bowman (Clinton)	2016-
	I		



Report all administrative changes to:

Ellen M. Andros CVSOA Executive Director c/o Madison County Veterans Service Agency P.O. Box 546, Wampsville, New York 13163

Email: cvsoa@madisoncounty.ny.gov

Telephone: (315) 366-2397 Fax: (315) 366-2579



National Association Of County Veterans Service Officers, Inc.



Membership Application

(This form must be filled out in its entirety. Failing to provide an email address will result in no membership)

Please type or print legibly.

Name:	Membership Year:			
Are There Any Changes From Last Year?	□Yes □No □New CVSO			
Office Name:	Position:			
Are You A □CVSO □State Employee □Volunteer □Other				
Employer:	_ Membership #:			
Address:				
City: Co				
State: Zip:				
E-Mail (required):				
Work Phone:				

Please indicate the appropriate category:

☐ Member State: Individual Membership \$30.00 due by January 1st For Renewals, Payments Received After April 1st Are Considered Delinquent And Are \$40.00

□ Non-Member State: Individual Membership \$45.00 due by January 1st For Renewals, Payments Received After April 1st Are Considered Delinquent And Are \$55.00

Note: 2019 Membership Dues Will Increase \$20.00

Send Applications and Renewals to:

NACVSO Membership P.O. Box 878 Brunswick, Ohio 44212-9998

Make Checks Payable To NACVSO



County Veterans Service Officers Association Of The State Of New York, Inc.

Membership Application

<u>Active Members</u> shall be those County Service Officers, County Directors, City Directors, the Deputies of each, and those working full-time in veterans counseling.

Associate Members shall be the National and/or Department Service Officers or Members of Veterans Organizations (ie: The American Legion, VFW, DAV, VVA, etc). residing in and who perform veterans service work in New York State, or any individual Veterans Advocates who share the ideals and objectives of this Association.

Emeritus Members shall be those retirees who have been active or associate members of this Association.

	Active (\$30.00)	Associate (\$25.00)	Emeritus (\$10.00)		
All applications are subject to approval pursuant to the Association's Constitution And By-Laws.					
Applicant Na	me:	Title/Posit	ion:		
Address:					
Telephone: _		Email:			
Date Of Appl	ication:				

Send completed application and payment to:

Ellen Andros, CVSOA Executive Director

Madison County Veterans Service Agency

P.O. Box 546, Wampsville, New York 13163

(make checks payable to CVSOA)

Direct membership inquiries to:

Ellen Andros, CVSOA Executive Director

Telephone: (315) 366-2397

Email: cvsoa@madisoncounty.ny.gov