

**VETERANS & SENIORS COMMITTEE  
Of the  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Veterans & Seniors Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **May 8, 2003**.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator William J. Lindsay - Chairman  
Legislator Cameron Alden

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Terrence Pearsall - Aide to Legislator Lindsay  
William Menendez - Aide to Legislator Alden  
Art Lozeau - Director, Veterans Service Agency  
Holly Rhodes-Teague - Director, Office of the Aging  
Fran Siems - Presiding Officer's Office  
Other Interested Parties

-  
**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Ana Grande- Court Stenographer  
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**(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:45 A.M.)**

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. We're going to call the Seniors & Veterans meeting to order. If Legislator Alden would say the pledge.

**(SALUTATION)****CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

We do not have a quorum of the Committee again, so we will not be able to take any action on the bills in the packet. What I intend to do is to call a special meeting during our session in Riverhead probably at the lunch break to act on some of the bills that have been piling up in the file.

But while our two Directors are here, I would like to hear from them if anything is going on and this way they will not have to come to Riverhead, which I'm sure they appreciate. Holly, do you want to come up first?

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

I am happy I am not going to Riverhead for your meeting next week. I just wanted to let you know that, you know the luncheon is next week, so I'll be happy to see you when you arrive at that next Thursday. And we start the program about 11:30, 12:00 o'clock and there's about seven hundred and fifty seniors who are going to be at the luncheon, so we're expecting a full crowd. And that's at the Villa Lombardi.

The other thing is that as you know the --

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Holly, when would you like us there?

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

You know, depending on -- usually around, it's between 11:30 and 12:00 we do the program. I mean I can't tell you, it depends on when the County Exec. arrives usually and when the salad goes out, that kind of thing. The seniors are out at the vendor exhibits prior to that and then we do the formal program. And then pretty much after the formal program they just eat and they want to dance. So if you want to walk around and talk to seniors, it's usually earlier in the day would probably be better, you know, if you want to do that right before the program.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

Because they'll be starting to sit at the tables. It depends on what your schedule is.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Maybe we can send a memo to the rest of the Committee just reminding them.

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

I think some of them have responded that they are going.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

You know, it's a good event, it's a good place to find people, you know, to talk to.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

We should have our committee meeting.

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

They're very funny, because they like to dance, they don't like to be interrupted. The other thing is, you know, with the State budget with, you know, depending on what happens with the Governor's veto, they did fully restore our funding. So that's good news for our programs.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Which, the legislative version?

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

Yes. They put the money back into the budget. I'm not sure how they're paying for it, but the money is back in the budget at this point.

The other thing is for the EPIC Program, I just wanted to give you an update on that. For the first quarter of 2003, we've done five thousand one hundred claims and we've spent about seven hundred thousand, which comes out to about a hundred and thirty-nine dollars, you know, an average claim, which obviously some people are much smaller than that and some people are much greater than that, but it averages out to a hundred and thirty-nine. So the program is moving along. I just wanted to give everybody an update on that.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

Okay. Any questions?

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Anybody else on the Committee like to ask a question? Cameron?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'm Good.

**MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you, Holly. Art?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

Art Lozeau, Veterans Services Agency Director. I just want to go over some of these upcoming ceremonies. Saturday, May 17th, is the World War II, Salute to World War II Veterans. That's at 11:00 o'clock at Armed Forces Plaza. And this year by Dignity Memorials is the Vietnam Wall, the traveling wall. That's on May 30th, May 31st and June 1st. And the opening ceremony is at ten o'clock in the morning on May 30th, the Friday.

A lot of the veterans groups and I know your office is helping them, as is mine, and they're doing a good job I feel digging the memorials as in trying to put on something that's appropriate. They're working extensively also with the Vietnam veterans of American Chapter 11 with Rich {Kitson}.

Other upcoming ceremonies is the Salute To Women Veterans and the invites have just gone out. That's on Saturday, June 7th, at 11:00 A.M. at Armed Forces Plaza. For both the World War II and the Women's ceremony, if it's inclement weather, they'll both be inside the Dennison Building.

Then at the end of June, June 25th, which is a Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. there's the Korean War Veterans have their annual ceremony that commemorates the beginning of the Korean War. This is the 53rd anniversary. The barbecue follows that.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

That's the 25th?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

June 25th, which is a Wednesday evening. And then a rain date for that is the next day, June 26th. Other than that, we just continue on with our claims processing, which is the meat of what we do. I have no other items.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Do you have anything, Cameron?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thanks, Art.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Is there anyone else who would like to address the Committee? I don't see anybody. If not, we stand adjourned.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thank you.

**(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:53 A.M.)**

**{        } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY**