

Date: June 20, 2023

To: Oneida County Board of Supervisors

From: Veterans Service Officer

Re: Veterans Service Office 2022 Annual Report

Attached is the 2022 Annual Report for the Oneida County Veterans Service Office. Some of the highlights are:

- We averaged more than 21 veteran contacts each working day between our daily phone calls, appointments, walk-ins, home visits, and electronic communication (Facebook, email, and texts).
- Oneida County veterans received almost \$40 million in benefits, which is reflected on page 1 (does not count the cost of treatment at VA facilities).
- We gave out \$4,323.15 in grants for veterans in need.
- The total cost to operate the Veterans Service Office was \$161,669; however, we received an \$11,000 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs which was used toward my salary.

We'd like to invite you to check out our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/oneidacvso](https://www.facebook.com/oneidacvso) and our website at [co.oneida.wi.us/departments/vs/](https://co.oneida.wi.us/departments/vs/). We try our best to keep our veterans and families informed of the latest benefits information via social media, and we also submit month news articles to the local media for this purpose.

Thank you for allowing us to serve Oneida County veterans and their families. It's not a job for Jason and me, it's a passion.

Respectfully submitted,



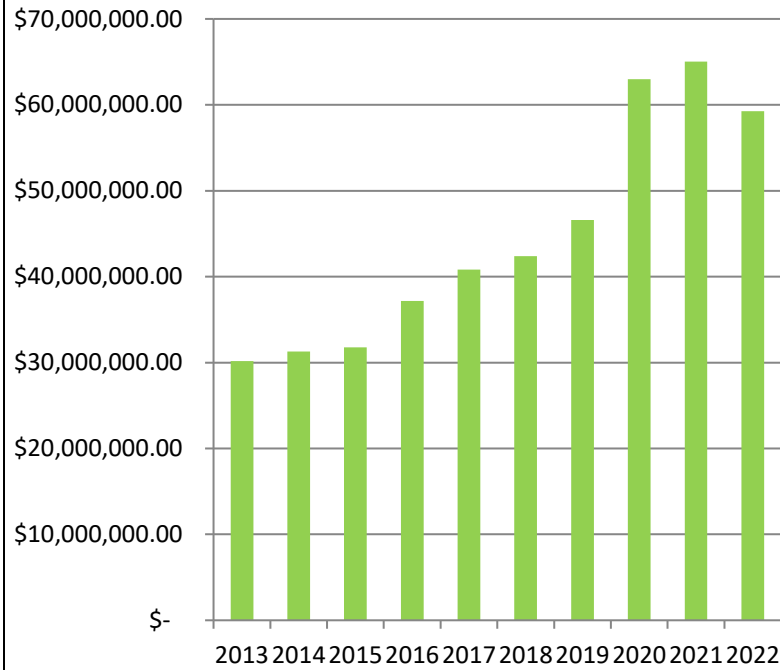
Tammy Javenkoski  
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**VA BENEFITS PAID TO VETERANS**

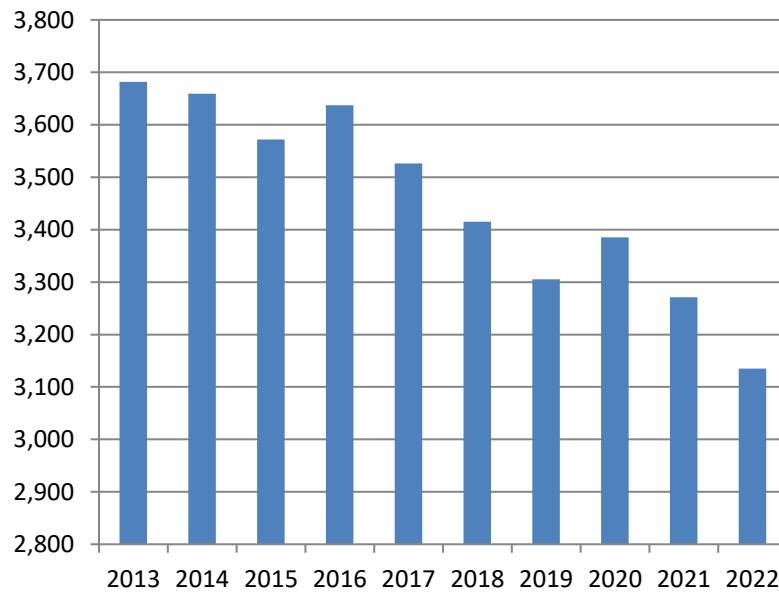
<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Disability Compensation and Pension	\$22,522,000
Education and Vocational Rehabilitation	470,000
Insurance and Indemnities	216,000
WI Property Tax Credit	386,033
VA Home Loans	16,385,540
Treatment at VA facilities (cost of)	19,276,000
<b>Federal and State VA benefits received by Oneida County veterans</b>	<b>\$59,255,573</b>
Total cost to run the Veterans Service Office (after \$11,000 WDVA Grant is deducted)	\$150,669
<b>Rate of return</b>	<b>*39,328%</b>

\*This means that for every dollar the county spends on the Veterans Service Office, veterans receive \$393.28 in benefits.

## Veterans' Benefits Received



## Veteran Population



## "FEEL GOOD" STORIES

Helping others and making a difference in their lives is what we are about. This is not a job to us, it's a passion. We have our losses some days but most days are victories. Below are just three stories that happened to our veterans in 2022 that made us extra proud of the work we do.

1. We had a military retiree move to Oneida County from another county in Wisconsin. She was 30% service-disabled and had been since 2018. Military retirees cannot draw their full military retirement and their full VA disability concurrently unless they are at least 50% service-disabled. Since she was only 30%, she received her full VA disability but that amount was then reduced from her military retirement pay each month. When she came to our office to meet us and let us know she now lives in our county, we looked at her VA disability and realized the VA made an error in their calculation, and she should have been 50% service-disabled all along. We filed for Clear and Unmistakable Error (CUE) and the VA agreed they made an error. Not only was her monthly VA disability increased by about \$900 per month but she also received a retro payment of over \$26,000 due to being underpaid for about four years.

2. Another veteran who moved to our county from another state was 100% service-disabled but she was unable to get a wheelchair and other equipment she needed for Multiple Sclerosis through her previous VA health care system because she was not service-connected for MS. We asked when she retired from the military and realized she was diagnosed with MS only a few years after her retirement. If a veteran is diagnosed with MS within seven years of retirement or discharge, it's automatically considered a service-connected disability but no one in her previous state had told her that. We filed a disability claim for MS and other secondary conditions it causes. Not only did she get extra pay but now she's able to get all the equipment she needs to stay in her home. She thought she was only months from having to go into a nursing home (and she's only in her early 50s) but because of our assistance, she can live safely at home now.

3. We helped a Vietnam veteran who doesn't live in our county but didn't feel like he was being helped like he should be. He felt his disability rating should be higher and he had all but given up working with the VA. We reviewed all his past VA claims, medical records, and military records and saw where mistakes were made. This process took weeks but after everything was reviewed, we filed claims and appeals. When all was said and done, the veterans received \$58,000 in retro pay and now receives over \$2,000 in VA disability pay, and we're still working with him on other claims. Our assistance provided him a much better quality of life, plus he and his wife were able to take their first "real vacation" in over 30 years.

**VETERANS COMMISSION ASSISTANCE**

January 14: Gave veteran \$25 Kwik Trip gas card

January 31: Paid \$790 for a dumpster to clean veteran's home

February 4: Paid \$850 rent for veteran

March 9: Gave veteran two \$25 Kwik Trip gas cards

May 2: Paid \$296.40 for medical bill for veteran

June 13: Gave veteran \$25 Kwik Trip gas card

July 6: Paid \$95.90 for food voucher for veteran

July 12: Gave veteran three \$25 Kwik Trip gas cards

July 15: Paid \$900 rent for veteran

August 10: Gave veteran \$25 Kwik Trip gas card

August 12: Paid \$200.00 for food voucher for veteran

September 11: Gave veteran \$25 Kwik Trip gas card

September 16: Paid \$187.50 for moped registration for veteran

September 20: Gave veteran \$25 Kwik Trip gas card

September 24: Gave veteran \$25 Kwik Trip gas card

November 10: Paid \$328.35 for Veterans Monument flags

December 9: Paid \$400 for Hoveround for disabled veteran

## OUTREACH, SPEAKING EVENTS, AND OTHER EVENTS

- April 18-22: CVSO and ACVSO attended CVSOA-WI spring conference in La Crosse
- May 30: Organized, executed, and attended Rhinelander's Memorial Day ceremony.
- August 29: CVSO and ACVSO attended meet and greet with Bryon Gleisner, new Northwoods National Cemetery manager
- September 21: ACVSO attended Northwoods National Cemetery open house
- October 17-21: CVSO and ACVSO attended the CVSOA-WI fall conference in Wisconsin Rapids
- October 21: CVSO was guest speaker at Leadership Oneida County.
- October 25-27: ACVSO attended virtual Advanced Appeals Training.
- November 9: CVSO visited Nativity 3K class for Veterans Day
- November 10: CVSO spoke to Leadership Oneida County
- November 11: CVSO and ACVSO attended James Williams Middle School Veterans Day ceremony.
- November 11: Organized, executed, and attended Rhinelander's Veterans Day ceremony. CVSO emceed.

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE BUDGET**

The following is a report of the Oneida County Veterans Service Office and Veterans Service Commission budget for January through December 2022.

**Receipts**

Non-personnel appropriations	\$12,023.00
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**Expenses**

Telephone and Fax	\$ 615.00
Postage and Box Rent	164.00
Printing and Duplication	140.00
Central Purchasing	404.00
Subscriptions	300.00
Membership Dues	200.00
Advertising	473.00
Training/Conference Fees	300.00
Employee Auto Allowance	577.00
Meals-taxable	0.00
Meals, Lodging and Travel	1,997.00
Gravemarkers and Flags	1,002.00
Direct Payments	3,720.00
Direct Payments-Transportation	500.00
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Total Spent	\$10,392.00
Returned to General Fund	\$ 1,631.00

**ONEIDA COUNTY DAV VAN**

The Veterans Service Office coordinates the DAV van which in 2022, served 41 veterans from four different counties. This service is free to Oneida County and free to veterans. If we paid mileage at the VA rate to the Oneida County veterans who used the van, we would be required to pay them \$.415 per mile for an annual total of \$1,769.56. We believe it would be more than that, however. There are many veterans who aren't eligible for travel pay from the VA and if they could get paid mileage from the county, many more veterans would claim mileage. Other counties that have a veteran population around the same size as Oneida County, easily spend \$10,000 or more each year on mileage for their veterans.

Month	Forest County	Langlade County	Lincoln County	Oneida County	Vilas County	Cost Savings (Oneida County only)
January	1	0	0	1	2	\$68.08
February	0	0	0	2	0	\$136.12
March	1	0	1	4	0	\$272.24
April	1	0	2	2	1	\$136.12
May	0	0	0	2	0	\$136.12
June	0	0	1	2	0	\$136.12
July	0	0	0	1	1	\$68.08
August	0	0	0	1	0	\$68.08
September	0	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
October	0	0	1	6	1	\$408.36
November	1	0	0	2	0	\$136.12
December	0	0	0	3	1	\$204.18
Total	4	0	5	26	6	\$1,769.56