

The DEI Weekly

- an e-newsletter of
New York State Division of Veterans' Services

Welcome to the latest installment of the "DVS DEI Weekly" e-newsletter, intended to share timely and relevant news, thoughts, and resources that can help with promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in our work. I hope you find this to be interesting and helpful.

FOLLOW UP: WOMEN VETERANS BENEFITS VIRTUAL SEMINAR

We did it! On Oct. 26, we hosted our first virtual benefits seminar in partnership with the VA Center for Women Veterans—which went great, except for the part where we couldn't hear most of our panelists. 😞 But it is always worthwhile to bring veterans together, and we made the best of it! Here's a follow-up in case you missed it:

- [Video Recording](#) – Hear our own Sue Doan do a great job of explaining what we do here at DVS; highlights of what's happening with women veterans in New York; and as much of a conversation as we could have despite audio problems with the VHA's Jennifer Friedberg and Janet Porter, and the great programs run by Lynn Magistrale of WNY Heroes, Venecia DeRoose at Clear Path for Veterans, Sharon Bailey at the PFC Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Program of Rockland County, Catherine Laporte of the National Association of Black Military Women, and Sue Magaletta of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.
- Because of the technical difficulties, we weren't able to hear from VA CWV Executive Director Jacquelyn Hayes-Byrd—but we will definitely reschedule for version 2.0 of this seminar!
- THANK YOU to each one of you who helped to get the word out! Our DVS staff helped, plus folks from VA and Vet Centers, our wonderful municipal and county veterans' services offices and agencies, including the NYC Department of Veterans' Services and Mt. Vernon Veterans' Services Agency. We also had a ton of help from so many great non-governmental partners: AIM Independent Living Center, Association for Mental Health and Wellness, Clear Path for Veterans, Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) of Suffolk, Family Services of Westchester, Honor Flight Syracuse, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Legal Services NYC Veterans Justice Project, Metropolitan College of New York, Military Women in Power, Minority Veterans of America, National Association of Black Military Women - Northeast Region, New York Legal Assistance Group, NYC Veterans Alliance, PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Program, SAGEVets, Steven A. Cohen Military Family Center at NYU Langone, Team Red, White, and Blue, Team Rubicon, The Mission Continues, United Steelworkers, Veteran Advocacy Project, Veterans Homebuyers Network, Veterans Outreach Center – Rochester, We Soldier On, WNY Heroes.
- Community Resources – Please see the attached PDF for the resources that many organizations shared with us to reach our seminar attendees. This went out to everyone who registered for the seminar, and there may be some new organizations or resources that can be helpful to the veterans you serve.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November is [National Native American Heritage Month](#). Did you know that native people have the highest per-capita rate of military service than any other population demographic, and the

highest population concentration of women veterans? To get started with commemorating this in November, here are a few items of note:

- [Register! Nov 4 VA WebEx on National Native American Veterans Memorial](#) – On November 4, 3PM ET, VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations is hosting a talk via WebEx with museum curators to discuss the National Native American Veterans Memorial, which will be unveiled in Washington, DC, this Veterans Day. Tune in!
- [Seneca Nation WWII Veteran Inducted Into NYS Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame](#) – Ralph Bowen served as an aerial gunner aboard a B-24 Liberator heavy bomber during WWII, helping to liberate France and Europe from Nazi occupation. Later in life, he served as a member of the Seneca Nation Tribal Council and other civic roles. Earlier this month he was inducted into the NYS Senate's Veterans' Hall of Fame.
- [Shinnecock WWII Veteran Turns 103](#) – Earlier this year, Lubin Walter Hunter greeted well-wishers in a drive-by parade honoring his 103rd birthday. Hunter was born on the Shinnecock Reservation in 1917 at a time when Native Americans were not acknowledged as U.S. citizens. His father had served in WWI, his citizenship being listed as "alien friendly to the United States."
- [The Untold Story Of Indigenous Women And The Suffrage Movement](#) – Long before women gathered for the right to vote in Seneca Falls, women of the Haudenosaunee nations exercised social equality in civic roles. Akwesasne filmmaker Katsitsionni Fox has a newly released short film illuminating how Haudenosaunee women influenced New York's European-descended pioneers in women's rights. It will begin [airing next week on PBS stations](#).
- [Am I Using the Right Word?](#) It's important to acknowledge the diversity of Indigenous Peoples' cultures, traditions, and languages throughout the Western Hemisphere. When discussing or working with a particular tribe or nation, learning and using accurate terms specific to the community can prevent stereotypes and encourage cultural understanding and sensitivity.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

I appreciate you taking the time to read this newsletter. Is this information helpful? Are you participating in DEI-related events or initiatives in your area that we can help to promote as an agency? Do you have items to share for a future newsletter or to suggest for our social media? Let me know!

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