

**Meeting Minutes- Suffolk County  
Women Veterans Advisory Board**

**January 30, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** *Legislator Susan A. Berland, StaceyAnn Castro Tapler, Marcelle Leis, Denise Williams, Cathie Norton Doherty, Christine Glynn, Grace Mehl, Lenore Brathwaite, Madeline Feaster, Williamina (Ina) Casali, Melissa Pandolf*

Meeting called to order at 10:16am by Legislator Susan A. Berland who announced that she would be chairing the meeting as it was the first meeting and a formal chair, vice-chair and secretary had to be chosen. Legislator Berland asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves.

After introductions were made The Board moved to their first order of business.

**First order of Business:** Selecting a Chair, Vice-Chair and Sectary.

Legislator Berland asked for any nomiees for Chair, Chrisitine Glynn put forth her name. As the only name offered the board voted on the appointment of Christine Glynn as Chair.

***The motion was approved unanimously.***

Cathy Norton Doherty nominated StaceyAnn Castro Tapler for Vice-Chair, the motion was seconded by Marcelle Leis.

***The motion was approved unanimously.***

Legislator Berland asked for any nominations for Secretary. Cathie Norton Doherty offered her own name.

***The motion was approved unanimously.***

**Legislative Ideas:** The Board was asked by Legislator Berland to make their first piece of Legislation a resolution “Designating June 12<sup>th</sup> as ‘Women Veterans Appreciation Day’ in Suffolk County.”

Legislator Berland asked everyone to read the draft resolution and to offer any changes or concerns on the proposed bill. A discussion followed on expanding beyond just one day and creating an appreciation week and involving local businesses and organizations to donate goods or services to female veterans in recognition of their service and appreciation day.

The Board decided to do more research separately before the next meeting and then at the next meeting form subcommittees to plan Women Veterans Appreciation Day and a press conference to announce it.

The second legislative priority that was brought up was homeless female veterans and the need for more transitional housing. Legislator Berland provided The Board with an article about a housing program in Seneca Falls and asked everyone to read it before the next meeting to discuss at the next meeting.

**New Business:** Discussion of future meetings. The board decided to meet once a month and that all future meetings would be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month from 2-4pm.

The next meeting is Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm in the Clerk's Conference Room in the William H. Rogers Legislature Building in Hauppauge.