

and Social Security education, and Center School Groundbreaking. The bulletin board encouraged voter participation with registration and election information..

Many shows entertained and educated with a focus on Stow. These included local and school concerts, Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies, Girl Scout and Eagle Scout ceremonies, “Springfest” festivities, library programs for children, school graduations, fire department events, Council on Aging presentations, talks at First Parish Church, Collings Foundation events, Stow history, locally written plays, shows by local artists, local environment and nature, fairs, childrens’ health and safety, charity events, and much more.

Stow TV implemented hundreds of colorful, eye-catching announcements on the “bulletin board.” A wide variety of local event announcements were continuously shown and updated regularly based on requests from community organizations. Many announcements provided public health and safety information and promoted local charities.

More than 50 photo shows were displayed on the bulletin board. These included library programs, Council on Aging events, community and school concerts, town festivals, nature walks, spring floods, school construction, West School events, Veterans and Memorial Day, and Stow Story Slam. Local contributing photographers included Nancy Arsenaault, Jonathan Daisy, Jon French, Ralph Fuller, Kyr Gibson, Lew Halprin, Greg Irvine, Dick Luxner, Valerie Pederson, Dwight Sipler, Jay Solomon, Tara Taft, Greg Troxel, Paul Trunfio, and Mike Woelki.

Bob Mong and Beth Tobey provided IT support. Stow TV engaged Michael Ridinger for video server support. Gerry Horne managed Town Meeting sound. LACAC met several times during the year. LACAC members contributed time, advice, and oversight for spending and policy decisions, and LACAC member Bob Glorioso advised on equipment selection.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Dungan  
Chris Funkhouser  
Robert Glorioso

Len Golder  
Lisa Lavina  
Anne VanTine, Stow TV Coordinator

## VETERANS SERVICES

### **Director’s Report**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, the citizens, and the Veteran Community of Stow, this report is submitted for the year ending 2010.

### **Veterans’ Benefits**

Veterans’ Benefits are governed under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. c. 115) and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations 108 (C.M.R. 108). Benefits assist qualified needy veterans and their dependents based on income levels and in accordance with the Budget Standards Chart. The Town of Stow is reimbursed 75% by the State for veterans’ assistance payments issued by this office.

The Director of Veterans' Services is responsible for determining the eligibility of all cases processed through this office. The Director conducts interviews, establishes approvals, and conducts follow-up on veterans receiving assistance. Field investigations are conducted by this office to determine the recipients' continued eligibility to receive benefits.

Veterans' Services also assists Stow veterans in filing federal forms for benefits which include service-connected disability claims, non-service-connected claims, VA health care, requests for medals, requests for service records, bonus applications, burial assistance and other federal benefits such as counseling in vocational rehabilitation and employment.

Additionally, the Director acts under Power of Attorney for veterans researching and processing cases to the Rating Review Board (Department of Veteran Services), and prepares appeal cases for the Board of Veterans' Appeals on the veteran's behalf. The Director also acts as liaison between State and U.S. Representatives on behalf of veterans and their dependents.

### **Legislation**

During the past year Massachusetts Legislation enacted allows Veterans of Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF) to receive additional bonuses of \$500 for each subsequent tour of duty in the Area of Responsibility (AOR).

### **Salute**

This past year I have had the opportunity to serve as President of the Veterans Association and as Commander of DAV. The work of the association allows all Veterans Agents the opportunity to collaborate regarding the laws that govern veterans and their families. The DAV raised over \$12,000 through their Forget-me-not campaign and 100% of every dollar raised was given back to veterans and widows in need. I salute both of these organizations for their continuous hard work and selflessness to assist our Veterans.

TAPS

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Stearns, Director