The American Legion

Department of Pennsylvania
Service Officer Program
Bruce Foster, DSO

THE AMERICAN LEGION 100 Years 1919 2019 VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

THE AMERICAN LEGION Centennial celebration

Special Thanks – Paul Kennedy – Dept Cmdr

Thanks Paul for Your

- Leadership
- Commitment
- Dedication to Duty
- Wisdom
- Mentorship

2017/2018

Department Service Officer Program

- *We employ 18 Full Time Department Service Officers and 6 Administrative Assistants*
- *We have 5 offices located in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Wilkes-Barre and Erie*
- *We compete with other Veteran Service Organizations for an annual grant to support our Outreach Program – This grant is referred to as Act 66 of 2007*
- *Our approved grant for FY18-19 is $1,024,520, a 24% increase from FY 17-18*
- *Even with the grant our costs to the Department still average over $450,000.*

So what is Act 66 of 2007

- *It's the VSO Grant Program – signed into law in late 2007 by then Governor Ed Rendell*
- *The purpose of the program was to expand Outreach to veterans across the state*
- *Each year Pennsylvania Veteran Service Organizations submit an Outreach plan to compete for a piece of the Act 66 budget allocation*
- *Act 66 has helped us greatly meet our Pillar Mission of Caring for Veterans*

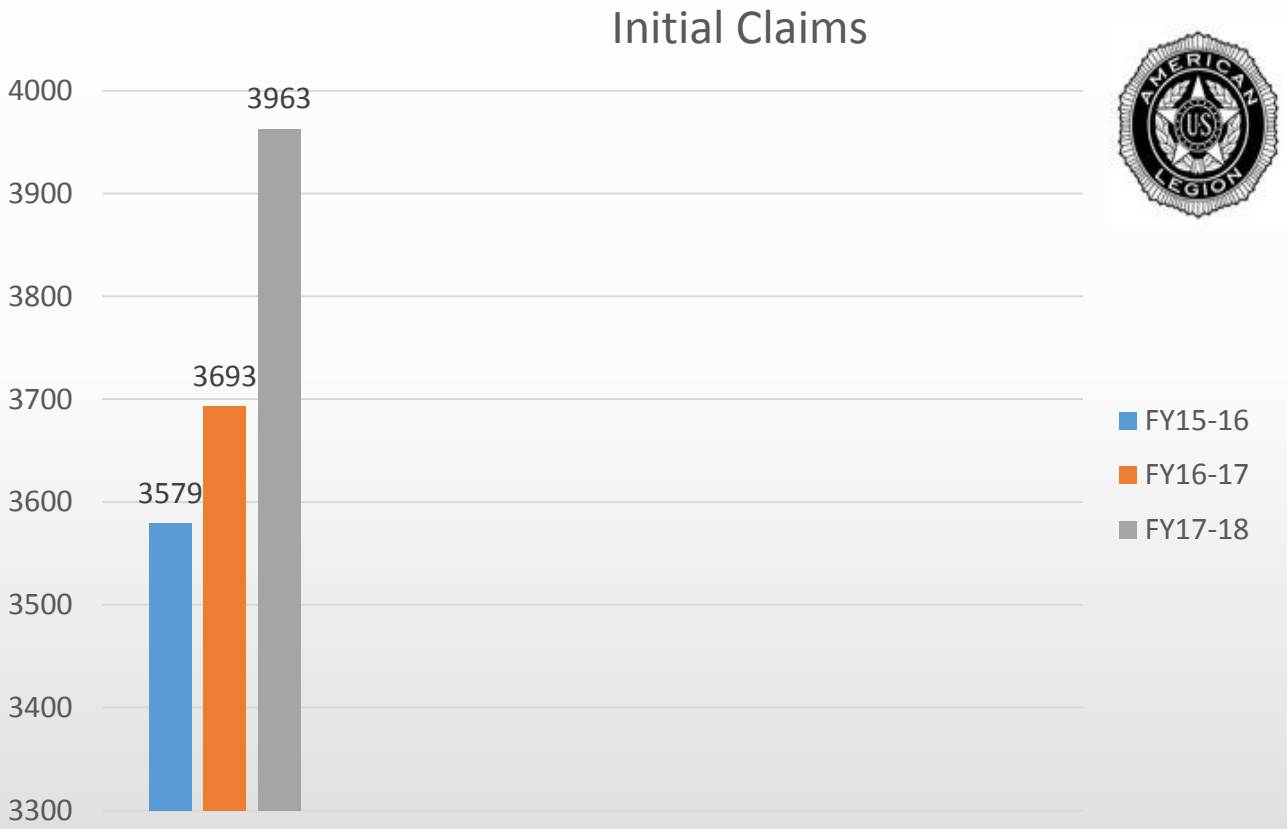
Our Statewide Outreach Program

- *Monthly we are scheduled at:*
  - ***66*** *Legislative Offices located throughout the state*
  - ***13*** *Other type sites including VAMC Facilities (not located with our satellite offices), Senior Living Facilities, VA Vet Centers, and TAL Posts*

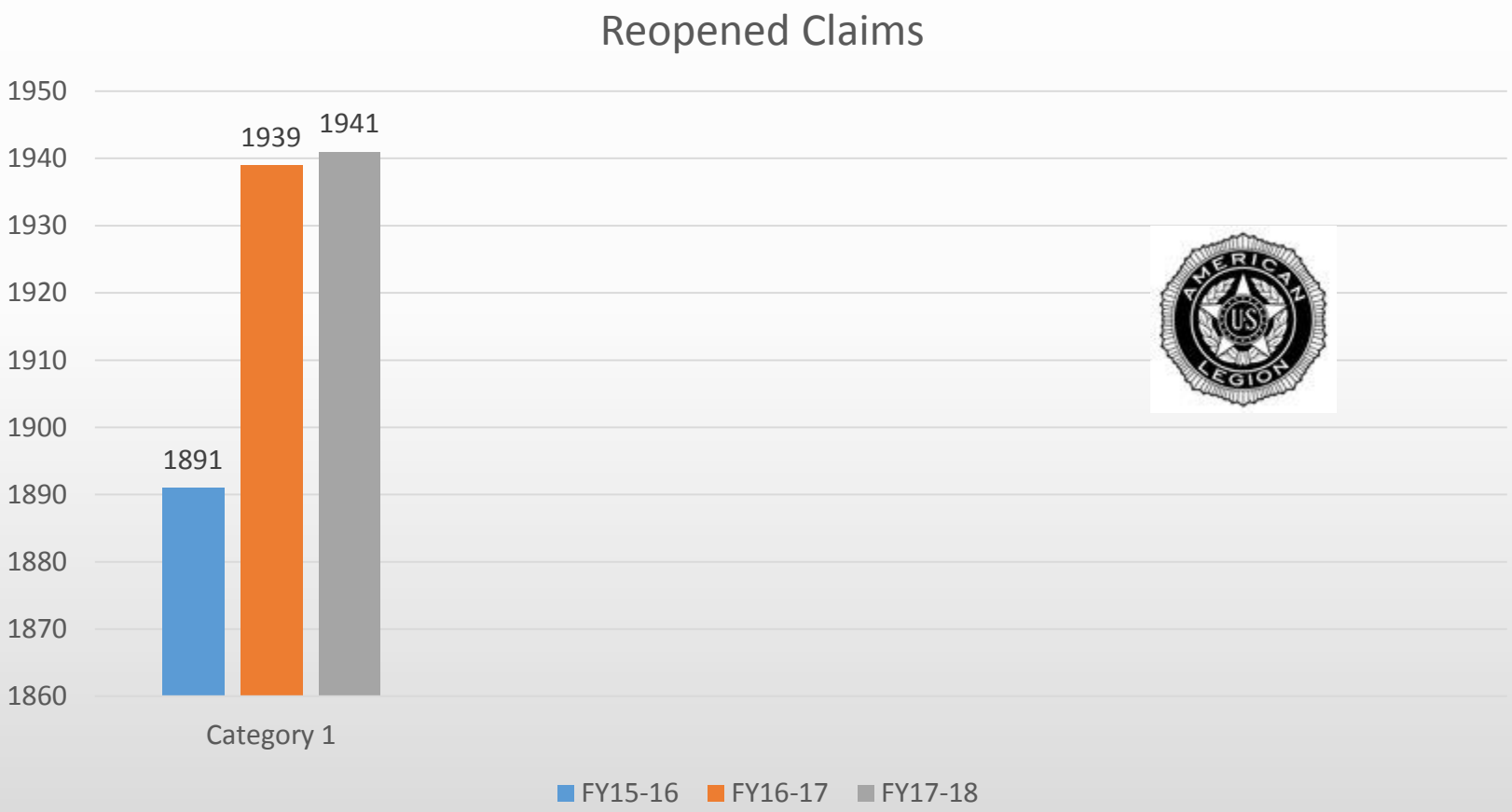
- *In 2017-2018 We Performed a total of 940 Outreach events for an average of* ***78*** *Outreach events per month*

- *Since 2008 we have obtained over* ***$500 million for Pennsylvania Veterans*** *in VA Compensation and Pension benefits*

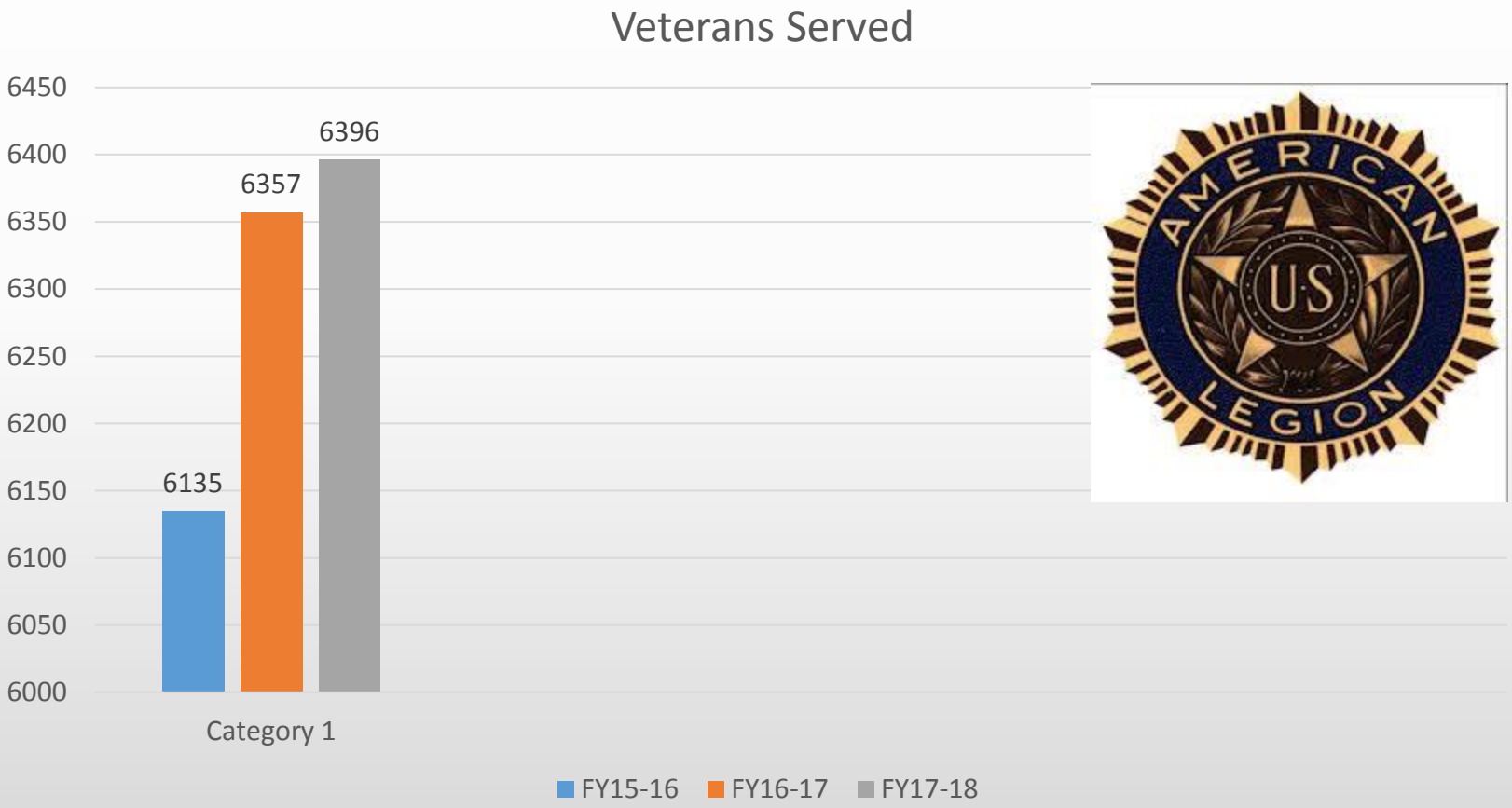
Initial Claims – Veterans whom have never filed before



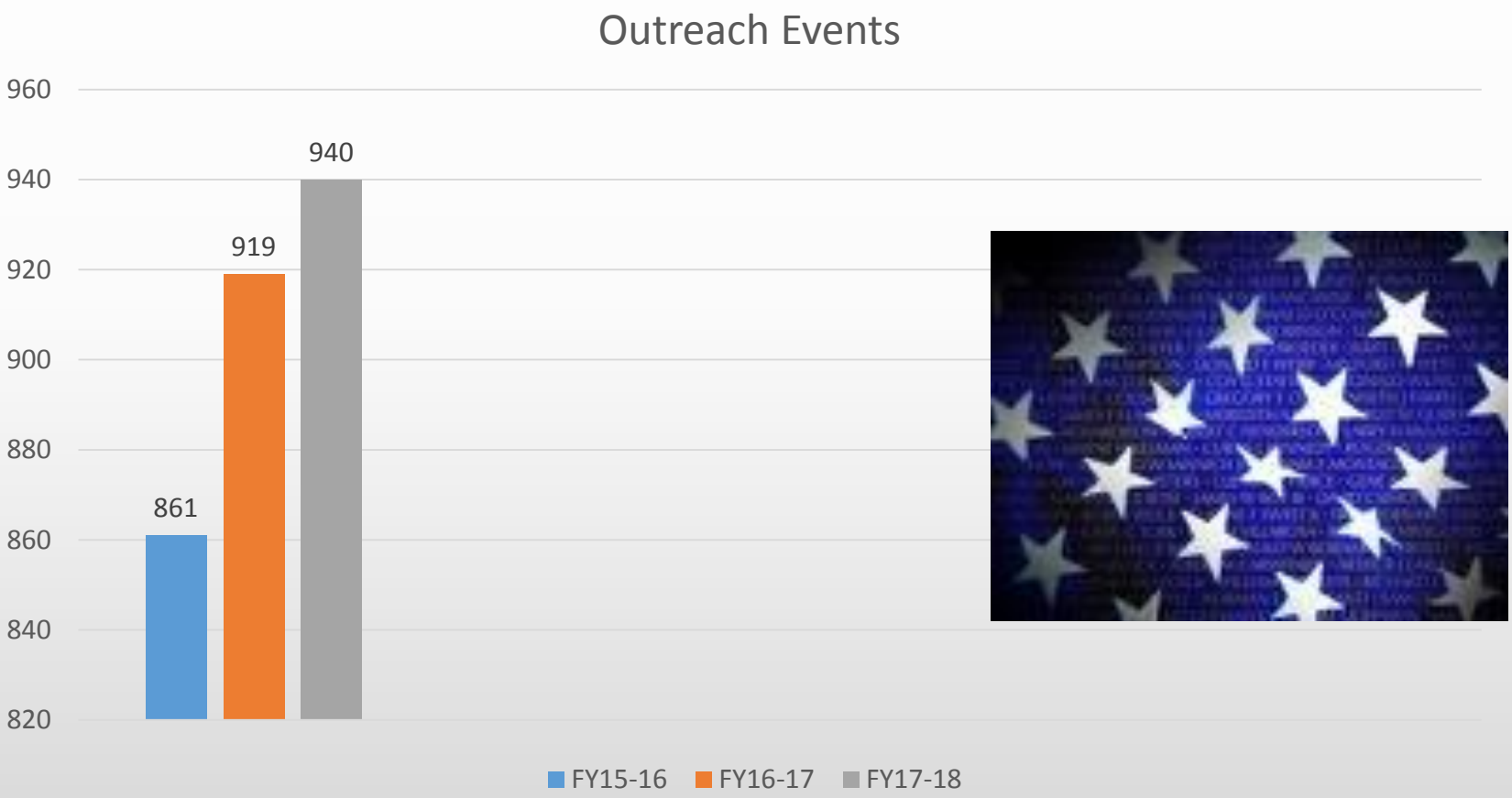
Reopened Claims



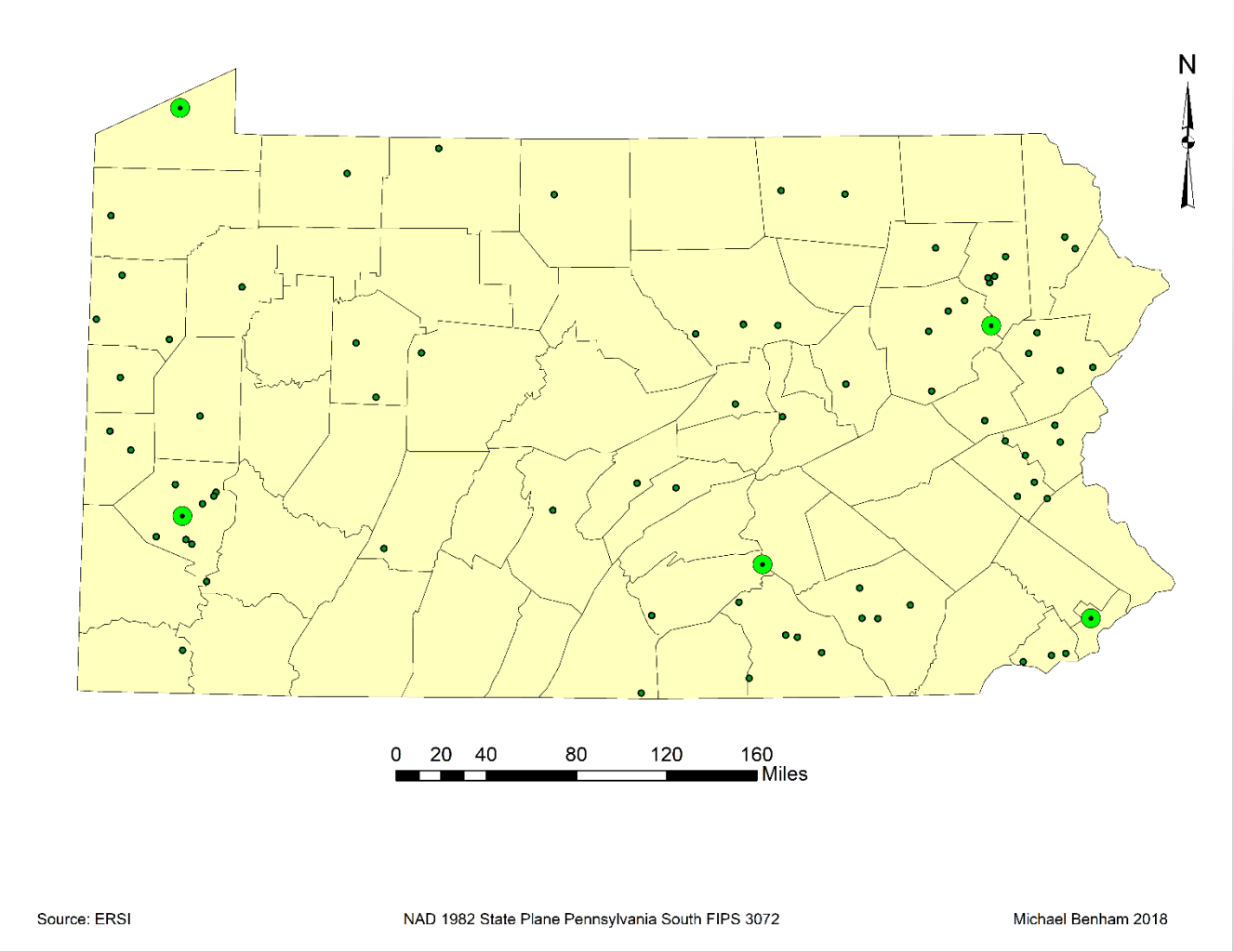
Veterans Served



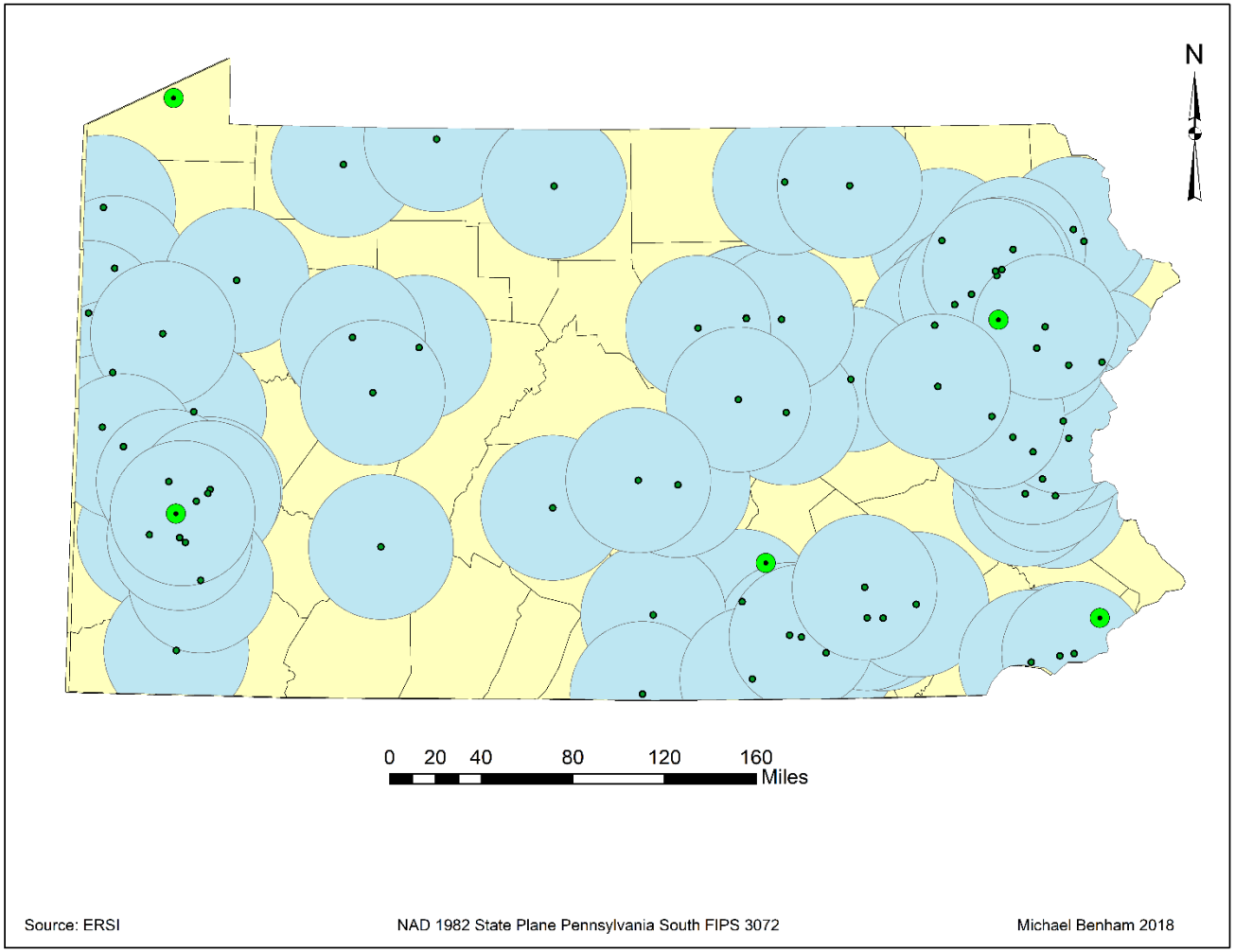
Outreach Events



Reoccurring Outreach Centers (2018)



Reoccurring Outreach Centers (2018)



PITTSBURGH REGIONAL OFFICE

Outreaches

Currently performing outreach at:

- 9 Legislative offices
- Oakland VAMC
- Pittsburgh VAMC
- Three Senior Care Facilities

CURRENT STAFFING

- Supervisor Graham Wieland, DSO
- 4 DSO 3 Male/1 Female
- 2 Administrative Staff

Meet your Service Officers - Pittsburgh

Graham Wieland-Supervisor

Larry Tuttle

Meet your Service Officers - Pittsburgh

Stephanie Bengoa

Steven Schott

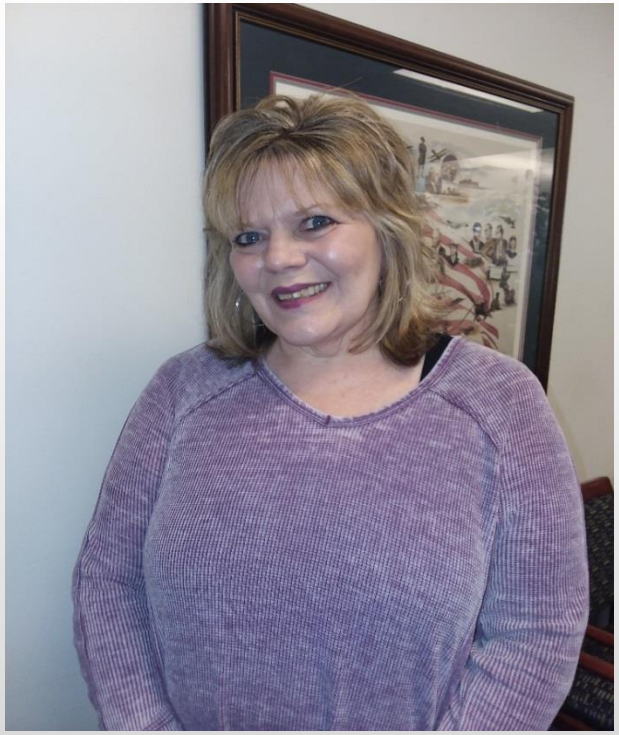
Meet your Service Officers - Pittsburgh

Victor “Dan” Campeau Jr.

Four Pillars of Service
THE AMERICAN LEGION
since 1919

Clerical Staff - Pittsburgh

Colleen Campeau



Barbara Runski

ERIE REGION

- Staff organized into 4 day per week schedule to better adapt to space restrictions at Erie VAMC.
- Currently performing outreaches in:
  - 6 Legislative offices
  - 3 American Legion Posts
  - Erie Vet Center

<u>CURRENT STAFFING</u>

- Supervisor Amber Moore, DSO
- 2 DSO's – 2 Male
- 1 Administrative Staff

Meet your Service Officers - Erie

Amber Moore

Stephen Wagner

Meet your Service Officers - Erie

Bradley Baranski

Clerical Staff - Erie

LeeAnn Zasada

Team Erie

WILKES BARRE REGION

WILKES-BARRE

- Currently performing outreaches to
  - 17 Legislative Offices
  - Scranton Vet Center
  - Tobyhanna Depot
  - Televised segments “Veterans Views” on WBRE-TV

CURRENT STAFF

- Supervisor Dominick Nati, DSO
- 2 DSO -2 Male
- 1 Administrative Staff

Meet your Service Officers – Wilkes-Barre

Dominick Nati III – The Boss

Brian Stolarski

Clerical Staff – Wilkes Barre

Cheryl Albanese

Team Wilkes Barre

PHILADELPHIA
REGIONAL OFFICE

- Currently performing outreaches at
  - 7 Legislative offices

<u>CURRENT STAFF</u>

- Supervisor Glenn King, DSO
- 3 DSO – 2 Male / 1 Female
- 2 Administrative Staff

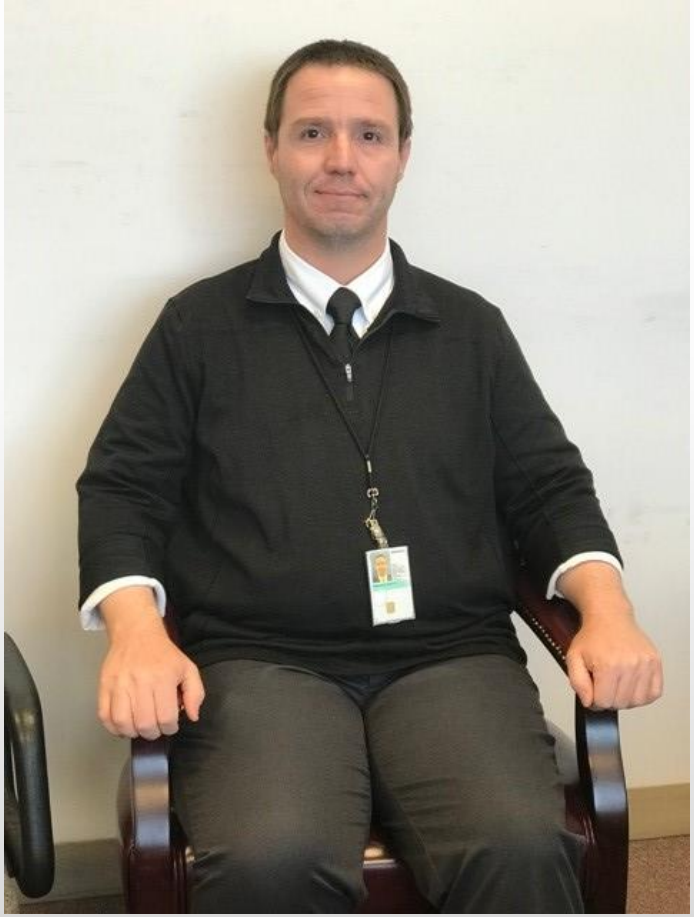
Meet your Service Officers - Philadelphia

Glenn King - Supervisor

Joe Gunkel

Meet your Service Officers - Philadelphia

Scott Brenner



Angela Hardy

Clerical Staff - Philadelphia

Stephanie Graham

Aleashia Jones

Harrisburg
Central Office

HARRISBURG

- Support, coordinate and expand our outreach efforts. Explore new ways to reach veterans. Currently performing outreaches to:
- 20 Legislative Offices
- 4 American Legion Posts
- Williamsport Vet Center
- 5 Senior Centers

Current Staff

- Program Director/DSO
- 4 DSO 3 Male/1Female
- 1 Administrative Staff

Meet Your Service Officers - Harrisburg

Dan Falls

Melissa Davis

Meet Your Service Officers - Harrisburg

Paul DeVincenzo

Stephanie Imboden

Special Thanks

- Kit Watson – Dept Adjutant
- James “Woody” Hogan – Asst Dept Adjutant

Michael Benham – Volunteer DSO

All of our Post Service Officers

In Closing

Thank you all for what you do for veterans every day