## Resolution # 2117 Department Veterans Services Committee

Memorandum of Understanding between New York State County Service Officers and the American Legion Department of New York

Whereas, pursuant to New York State Executive Law 357 section 1 and 3, and New York State County Law section 800, the County shall establish a County Veterans Service Agency (CVSA) to be headed by a Director and other assistants referred to herein as County Service Officers (CSOs) approved by the County, and

Whereas, New York State Executive Law Section 357 section 3 states the CSOs shall take all steps necessary to be accredited as a Veterans Services Organization (VSO) representative, and

Whereas, The American Legion, pursuant to Title 38 U.S. Code section 5902, is recognized as a VSO by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and

Whereas, CSOs, when recognized as representatives of the American Legion by the VA may prepare, present and prosecute claims under the laws administered by the VA, and

Whereas, CSOs must maintain a dual relationship as both a County employee and American Legion representatives, and

Whereas, New York State County Service Officers and the American Legion need to maintain an ongoing relationship concerning all CSO duties, responsibilities and accreditation when serving the needs of all veterans, service members and their families, including but not limited to, determining any unique and/or shared requirements and responsibilities for CSO confidentiality, training, continuing education, accreditation recertification, tools, technology needs, work product, production, preservation, protection and responsibility for legal claims resulting from any errors and/or omissions by the CSO, now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Department Veterans Services Committee develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in conjunction with New York State County Service Officers delineating responsibilities shared between New York State County Service Officers and the American Legion including but not limited to, determining any unique and/or shared requirements and responsibilities for CSO confidentiality, training, continuing education, accreditation recertification, tools, technology needs, work product, production, preservation, protection and responsibility for legal claims resulting from any errors and/or omissions by the CSO, and be it further,

**Resolved,** that the Department Commander and/or Adjutant be the American Legion signatory for each County MOU agreement, and be it finally

**Resolved,** that this resolution be approved by the American Legion Department of New York Convention held in Albany, New York July 29<sup>th</sup> – July 31, 2021

FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE	Dame W. Carry
ApprovedX Rejected	
Approved with Amendments	Adjutant Signature
Consolidated with	New York
	Department
Referred to Standing Committee on	
	Below section to be completed when resolution is submitted from another authorized source.
Received and Recorded	Michael R. Suter, Chairman
	Name
Other Action	
Signature	Department Resolutions Committee
(Chairman)	Title