

GREENE COUNTY
S.T.O.P. – D.W.I. PROGRAM



Sheriff Greg Seeley

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

GREENE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FOR CALENDAR YEAR

2017

SUBMITTED BY

Gregory R. Seeley

COORDINATOR

This report is submitted as prescribed by the Greene County Legislature for all county departments. It is submitted so as to provide the legislators, and any others who read it, with an overview of the activities, expenses and revenues of the STOP-DWI Program during calendar year 2017.

ENFORCEMENT:

The final reported numbers for 2017 have been received by the Program as reported by New York State Department of Motor Vehicles TSLED Program (Traffic Safety Law Enforcement and Disposition Program). The data received indicates a year as follows: Throughout Greene County, there were 452 DWI related arrested subjects in 2016 and 457 in 2017. Resulting from these arrests there were 865 tickets issued for a DWI related offense in 2016 and 862 in 2017, as well as 104 tickets issued for driving while their license was suspended due to an alcohol related suspension/revocation in 2016 and 122 in 2017.

The amount of funding available for additional road patrols remained at the same limits as in the past. The number of arrests made during funded patrols appears to have remained consistent with the previous years. Naturally, the various departments have their own operational issues, well outside of our program's knowledge, so we are glad to see the Program's effectiveness. The amount of revenue for the STOP DWI Program in 2016 was \$154,392.41 and \$152,861.95 in 2017. The amount of expenditures was \$137,465.73 for 2016 and 137,801.48 for 2017. The STOP DWI Program had a surplus of \$16,926.68 for year 2016 and \$15,060.47 in 2017.

In April 2017, The 33rd Mid-Hudson STOP DWI Enforcement Conference was held in Orange county. The Program sponsored attendance by county enforcement personnel, as well as probation and prosecution individuals. Many topics were discussed and several beneficial networks created between coordinating personnel. Greene County STOP DWI assisted in funding the necessary audio/visual aids used during the conference by paying \$250, a shared portion of the total cost. Overall, this component area functioned normally during 2017.

COURT RELATED:

PROSECUTION OF CASES :

During the 2016 year, the District Attorney's office handled 466 DWI cases and they handled 410 in 2017. These cases include Felony DWI's, Misdemeanor DWI's, DWAI violations and offenses of DWAI drugs. Alcohol and drug related convictions result in fines and surcharges, a portion of which ultimately fund the STOP DWI Program.

VICTIM IMPACT PANEL:

It is the DA's policy that anyone charged with an alcohol or drug related offense of any kind must participate in a Victim Impact Panel. Prior to the time DA Stanzione took office, this program was held (1) time per year, if it was held at all. Due to the DA's policy which requires attendance at the Victim Impact Panel, the panel is now held at least (3) times per year. Attendance is usually 80 to 110 persons at each panel. The cost of attendance has been \$25.00

per person, but was recently increased to \$35, \$50 if paid late, to be more on par with other programs. The fee is paid to the STOP DWI Program. Most counties charge \$75 to \$100 per person for attendance at the panel, however, our **priority** is to have these people attend, while the money generated is secondary. Unless the DA has a conflict of some sort, he personally attends all Victim Impact Panels and addresses the participants of the panel. The District Attorney's Office believes it is important that those charged with substance related offenses take the Victim Impact Panel seriously.

VICTIM IMPACT PANELS IN THE SCHOOLS:

Word of the Victim Impact Panel has traveled to the extent that school districts have expressed interest in hosting a Victim Impact Panel in the school during school hours. During the 2017 year the Victim Impact Panel was presented in the Coxsackie Athens School District as well as the Catskill School District prior to the prom. DA Stanzione attended and spoke at both panels. Both the DA's Office and the Probation Department received positive reviews about the panel. It is the desire of Greene County STOP DWI to hold a Victim Impact Panel in additional school districts in Greene County this spring.

USE OF FUNDS FROM STOP DWI:

During the 2017 year the D.A.'s Office used STOP DWI money for the following purposes:

\$48,000.00 – Divided among A.D.A. salaries for their work in the prosecution of DWI and DWAI drug offenses.

They are currently planning a DWI extradition from the state of Florida for a Felony DWI/AUO suspect.

PROBATION:

Money supplied to this department in 2017 by Greene County STOP-DWI was \$47,600. This amount was divided into several parts. \$2,600 goes towards the salary of Senior Probation Officer (SPO) Lisa Grasse, who supervises the vast majority of the DWI probationers, while \$26,000 served to offset County expense towards the entirety of the operations of the Probation Department, as many offenders commit other crimes in conjunction with DWI/DWAI/AUO charges. As of this writing, SPO Grasse supervises some 48 offenders, totaling 55 cases, with some cases involving multiple convictions. Of her caseload, 37 cases are felonies (including 7 in which the final conviction is not expressly that of a DWI offense, but still driving-related, and 29 are misdemeanors (including 3 non-DWI, but still driving-related.) The rest of the DWI cases (including some other DWI felonies) are split among several other officers, including the probation supervisor who supervises Greene County Drug Court offenders. Despite a reduction in caseloads in recent years, DWI and related offenses still comprise a significant percentage of the department's workload.

In addition to other duties, SPO Grasse has assisted STOP-DWI with presentations at the Greene County Youth Fair and with DARE day, in a continued effort to enhance public safety by reducing drunk/impaired driving. Since 2013 she has been the department's sole monitor for the use of user-pay alcohol/GPS monitoring **Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor (SCRAM)** bracelets and other devices, which, in addition to furthering the anti-drunk driving message, also serves as an alternative to incarceration. In 2017, 18 offenders had such devices for a total of 3,192 service days, which, at a would-be jail rate of \$85/day, amounts to projected savings of \$271,320, an increase of some \$50,000 over 2016.

Lastly, this department, in conjunction with the sheriff's department, runs the aforementioned DWI victim impact panel. SPO Grasse organizes this effort, including interviewing prospective speakers. In 2017, 3 panel presentations were held, and at the requirement of the Greene County District Attorney's Office, offenders who were required to attend also included drug offenders. In 2017, a total of \$6,790 was collected from offenders, with another \$895 collected via "donations" from offenders, for a total of \$7,685; a \$200 increase over 2016.

As the ignition interlock monitor for probation sentences imposed in the county, this department further aids to limit the effects of intoxicated drivers in the community. This effort includes the filing of quarterly reports with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services as to the number of ignition interlock devices ordered at initial sentencing or in a pre-trial stage, and, in conjunction with the Greene County Sheriff's Office, the submission of claims to the state for reimbursement under the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee grant. For 2017, a total of 32 sentences were submitted relative to conditional discharge sentences reported to the sheriff's department, and 29 probation sentences, for a grand total of \$3,905 from the program. While the number of offenders who have had ignition interlock devices installed is small, each installed device is required to have a camera and global positioning system. As with other DWI areas, SPO Grasse is the main officer for IID monitoring, which includes ongoing contact with the IID manufacturers and installers.

In addition to partially funding SPO Grasse's position, STOP-DWI also provided additional funding for 2017- \$19,000; which offsets county expense toward the salary of a probation assistant for the Probation Department. In 2017 the probation assistant's duties continued to include oversight of the department's community service program, in addition to her receptionist duties, updating probationers' addresses in our address database, and on a monthly basis, the distribution of a list of adult probationers in their respective jurisdictions to police departments in the county, with countywide lists provided to the New York State Police and the Greene County Sheriff's Office. Further, the probation assistant assists probation officers with recording information in the department's case management system, and aids in the production of quarterly state reports and financial aid/grant submissions. She also assists SPO Grasse with the DWI Victim Impact Panel.

PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION:

During 2017, the Program continued to influence the education of the citizens of Greene County. Informational material and presentations were all performed by the program coordinator, Deputy Sheriffs, and probation officers to our youth, local clubs, and various organizations. The Sheriff's Office continues its support with educational and informative reference materials at multiple public forums throughout the year. Members of the Sheriff's Office along with the Sr. Probation Officer set up and maintained a very informative and popular booth at the Greene County Youth Fair for the third year in a row. They also had a table with information at the local car show in Cairo and at DARE Day. The STOP DWI educational booth garnered many good reviews and several requests to return annually and engage with the public, both young and old. Donations of \$150 were given to Pop Warner and Little League for banners at their respective fields. Again this year, a successful Crackdown campaign was participated in with several local agencies supported by a grant through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. The media was involved and the announcements were published in the local newspaper.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

Since 2011, the Program has had some important structural changes. Due to retirements of the existing staff, the Greene County Sheriff's Office took over the responsibilities of the department, with myself, Sheriff Greg Seeley, as the Coordinator. Internal efficiency remained very high, and the Program maintained its abilities to serve the general public, interact well with agencies, and provide support to other county departments in an efficient and professional manner. The constant contact with enforcement departments, the media, and the various agencies that wish to work with the Program enables us to maintain the professionalism that the STOP DWI has provided over the years. The accounting for all Program income and expenditures was maintained efficiently without criticism.

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for monitoring the subjects that have been ordered for the interlock systems who are not placed on probation supervision. The Sheriff's Office monitored approximately 73 subjects for violations and maintained oversight of their responsibilities, contacting the appropriate courts as well as the assigned Assistant District Attorney when a violation of conditions occurred. All interlock systems that are ordered as a condition of probation are monitored by The Greene County Probation Department. The monitoring program was audited by DCJS in 2017 and was found to be running smoothly and above par for both probationers and conditional discharge cases.

These changes in the administration area of the Program continue to be cost saving, thus enabling the program to achieve even a higher level of expectation and produce a streamlined effort by several departments working hand in hand to reduce DWI's and manage offenders in Greene County.

Additionally, I personally have attended the Victim Impact Panels not only as the STOP DWI Coordinator, but also as a speaker. Having lost a family member to someone driving under the influence, I am very passionate about this subject and will continue to coordinate and support this program to the fullest extent possible.

SUMMARY:

The program continued to develop in its 37th year of operation. While it persists in the fight against occurrences of DWI related issues, Greene County STOP DWI continues to have the enforcement, prosecution, probation and rehabilitation of these offenders efficiently handled. The activity in the information sharing and educational realm concerning the youth of this county remains a priority to the program. STOP DWI has shown much growth and effectiveness in these past few years and continues to be a success for Greene County.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gregory R. Seeley
Program Coordinator
Greene County STOP DWI Program