

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



**Sheriff Greg Seeley**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE**

**GREENE COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**FOR CALENDAR YEAR**

**2018**

***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 2018.

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### **ENFORCEMENT:**

The final reported numbers for 2018 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 402 DWI related arrested subjects in 2018 and 457 in 2017. There were also 84 tickets issued for driving while their license was suspended due to an alcohol related suspension/revocation in 2018 and 122 in 2017. During the 2018 arrest processes, there were 54 refusals to submit to chemical tests which results in an automatic 6 month driving license revocation or until such time as a DMV hearing is held.

The amount of funding available was increased by \$22,500 received through funds awarded to the STOP DWI Foundation which totaled 1.6 million statewide. The extra funding went towards furthering the message of STOP DWI within the youth of our county by members attending events and functions with hand out material as well as items such as lanyards, water bottles, and frisbees with the STOP DWI logo, as well as games that engaged the citizens. We purchased several new radar units and pre-breath screening devices for police agencies county wide to assist in the detection and prosecution of DWI offenders. The amount of revenue for the STOP DWI Program in 2018 was \$168,105.43 and \$152,861.95 in 2017. The amount of expenditures was \$152,590.60 in 2018 and 137,801.48 for 2017. The STOP DWI Program had a surplus of \$15,514.83 for year 2018 and \$15,060.47 in 2017.

On April 11, 2018, The 34th 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 \$195, a shared portion of the total cost. We had (10) attendees for a total of \$650 spent to attend the training conference. The speakers were very informative and I enjoyed presenting (3) top DWI awards to local law enforcement officers.

### **COURT RELATED:**

#### **PROSECUTION OF CASES :**

During the 2018 year, the District Attorney's office handled 317 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. During the 2018 year the D.A.'s Office used STOP DWI money for the following purpose: \$48,000.00 – Divided among A.D.A. salaries for their work in the prosecution of DWI and DWAI drug offenses

### **VICTIM IMPACT PANEL:**

Due to District Attorney Joseph Stanzione's policy which requires DWI and DWAI Drug offenders to attend 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 county's programs. The fee is paid to Greene County STOP DWI directly. Most counties charge \$75 to \$100 per person for attendance at the panel, however, our **priority** is to have people attend, while the money generated is secondary. Thanks in no small part to the District Attorney's Office expansion of those required to attend the panel, income from the 3 victim impact panels held in 2018 totaled \$11,561. 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. We have recently brought in new speakers from other areas of the state to address the attendees in an effort to keep the program dynamic.

### **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 2018 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 continue this tradition and increase the amount of schools we address. If it helps even one student make a better choice about sober driving, it will be worth it.

### **PROBATION:**

Money supplied to this department in 2018 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. In 2017, SPO Grasse supervised 48 offenders, totaling 55 cases, with some cases involving multiple convictions. Of her caseload, 37 cases were felonies (including 7 in which the final conviction is not expressly that of a DWI offense, but still driving-related) and 29 were misdemeanors (including 3 non-DWI, but still driving-related) in 2017. For 2018, SPO Grasse had 68 cases, 42 of which were felony convictions, and 26 were misdemeanors. 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.

2018 saw the continuation of the ignition interlock device requirement for DWI probationers who own or operate a vehicle, even if they have lost their driver's licenses. While, similarly to the statewide occurrence, most Greene County probationers sentenced under "Leandra's Law" have avoided the interlock requirement by having disposed of their vehicles, this department's officers remain responsible for reviewing those cases to ensure that offenders

have disposed of the vehicles as claimed, with the offenders required to submit notarized affidavits to support their claims, and as required by a law change late in 2013, to state under oath in court that they had disposed of the vehicle. Reimbursements totaling \$1,640.52 were received from the NYS Leandra's Law grant for DWI probation cases received by this department in 2018, to help pay for ignition interlock device monitoring requirements, at a rate of \$63 per case.

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. In 2018 there were 16 offenders having had such devices for a total of 2,153 service days amounting to projected savings of \$183,0005

In addition to partially funding SPO Grasse's position, STOP-DWI also provided Probation \$19,000 which offsets county expense toward the salary of a probation assistant for the Probation Department. 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 2018, Greene County STOP DWI continued to address and inform the citizens of Greene County on the dangers of impaired driving. Informational material and presentations were all performed by members of GCSO and probation officers to our youth, local clubs, and other county 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 booth at the Greene County Youth Fair for the fourth year in a row. In addition to the previously mentioned school functions, they also had a table with information at the local car show in Cairo, items handed out as prizes for a Father's Day Car Show in Hunter, and members attended DARE Day in Cairo. Donations of \$150 were given to Pop Warner and Little League for banners at their respective fields as well as advertisements placed in several High School Year Books in local schools.

#### **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. The constant contact with local law 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 and 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 39 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, as mentioned above. The monitoring in subject to audit by the Division of Criminal Justice Services, as it had been in the past, at any given time.

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 38<sup>th</sup> 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, and will strive to learn and grow in the coming years.

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