

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



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE**

**GREENE COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**FOR CALENDAR YEAR**

**2019**

*SUBMITTED BY*

**Peter J. Kusminsky**

*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 2019.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ENFORCEMENT:**

The final reported numbers for 2019 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. There were also 84 tickets issued for driving while their license was suspended due to an alcohol related suspension/revocation in 2018 (AUO). See chart below for 2019 data:

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>AUO</u></b>	<b><u>DWI/DWAI</u></b>
January	4	32
February	6	31
March	16	45
April	11	38
May	10	53
June	17	60
July	6	36
August	14	40
September	9	30
October	8	33
November	18	47
December	10	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>481</b>

The amount of revenue for the STOP DWI Program in 2018 was \$168,105.43 and \$140,862.27 in 2019. The amount of expenditures was \$152,590.60 in 2018 and \$165,761.41 in 2019.

The 35th Mid-Hudson STOP DWI Enforcement Conference was held in Orange county in April. 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 this informative training conference.

In August of 2019, a multi jurisdictional/multi agency enhanced traffic saturation detail was conducted in the vicinity of the common borders of Delaware, Greene, and Schoharie Counties. It was highly productive, resulting in (38) traffic summons being issued, (14) arrests were made including (3) Driving While Impaired by Drugs, (2) Leandra's Law class E felonies, and (1) Driving While Intoxicated by Alcohol. We plan to conduct further operations of this nature in the future.

## **COURT RELATED:**

### **PROSECUTION OF CASES :**

The final count for VTL 1192 charges prosecuted by the District Attorney's office for the year 2019 was 446. The STOP DWI program contributed \$3,800 towards the \$14,000 for laptops and computer programs. These laptops are used for criminal prosecution, the \$3,800.00 is an amount that represents a percentage of the prosecution which is attributed towards alcohol and drugged driving offenses. A total of \$57,397 was contributed from STOP DWI towards DA staff salaries for the prosecution of DWI related cases.

### **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. This 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; to include drug offenders, income from the 3 victim impact panels held in 2018 totaled \$11,561. The total monies brought in for VIP's given in 2019 was \$9,765. Unless the DA has a conflict of some sort, he personally attends all Victim Impact Panels and addresses the participants of the panel. Myself and DA Stanzione believe 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 interesting and dynamic.

### **PROBATION:**

Money supplied to this department in 2019 by Greene County STOP-DWI was \$50,103. In 2019, SPO Grasse supervised 41 offenders, totaling 45 cases. 29 were felonies (including 15 that were not DWI, but still driving-related) and 16 misdemeanors (including 2 non-DWI but driving related). We had a total of 60 DWI cases that were supervised by other Probation Officers, 21 of which were felonies and 39 which were misdemeanors. A number of these "overflow" cases are Drug Court candidates. 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 Probation 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.

2019 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 \$1,959.63 were received from the NYS “Leandra’s Law” grant for DWI probation cases received by this department in 2019, to help pay for ignition interlock device monitoring requirements, at a rate of \$63 per case. Per arrangement with the Greene County Sheriff’s Department/STOP-DWI, this department also submits the state reports for their monitoring of DWI cases that resulted in offenders being sentenced to a conditional discharge, which resulted in \$2,392.79 in additional reimbursement to that office, for a grand total of \$4,352.42, an increase of some \$350 from 2018.”

The probation department also continued to oversee an Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) program, which placed a variety of offenders at community service work sites throughout the county, as ordered by the various criminal courts. This year saw 18 individuals assigned to the work sites, with 5 (which included ones referred in 2018) having satisfactorily completed their obligations. Thus, we were able to obtain reimbursement of \$3,704.40 from our state allotment for the program. In addition to reducing the cost of confining such offenders, their presence at the work sites helped to show the community that offenders are being held accountable for their actions. A probation assistant oversees the program for the department. In addition to that aspect of Alternatives to Incarceration, the department’s utilization of various forms of electronic devices, including transdermal alcohol monitoring, resulted in a total of 27 offenders (23 with transdermal alcohol monitoring and another 4 with GPS monitoring) having had such devices for a total of 3,812 service days (3,670- transdermal, 212-GPS) which, at a would-be jail rate of \$75/day, amounts to projected savings of \$291,150.00 (\$275,250.00- transdermal, \$15,900.00- GPS).

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION:**

In addition to other duties, SPO Grasse has assisted STOP-DWI, GCSO, and other local law enforcement with presentations throughout the county in a continued effort to enhance public awareness and safety by reducing drunk/impaired driving. During 2019, Greene County STOP DWI continued to address and inform the citizens of Greene County on the dangers of impaired driving. Informational material was distributed 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 5th year in a row. In addition to the previously mentioned school functions, they also had a table with information at a 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 Greene County Sheriff’s Office has overseen the responsibilities of the STOP-DWI Program, with the Sheriff assigned 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 STOP DWI has provided over the

years. The accounting for all Program income and expenditures was maintained appropriately and effectively.

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 45 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 is subject to audit by the Division of Criminal Justice Services, as it has been in the past, at any given time. The STOP DWI program purchased a 2018 Dodge Caravan and outfitted it with STOP DWI lettering and logos. This vehicle will come in very handy for transporting all the STOP DWI items used during VIP's and Public Outreach events as well as a moving advertisement to spread the message of the program. There are also plans in the works to use the van to provide rides during holiday periods where the chance of driving under the influence would be higher, in an effort to save lives and help people make safer choices.

### **ACCOLADES:**

Each year, several members of different county agencies attend the Mid-Hudson Regional Conference held in Orange County during the month of April. The following were recognized for their notable DWI arrests during 2019: Trooper Donald Savino, Trooper Warren Agostinoni, Police Officer Matthew Putnam, and Deputy Joseph Feml. In May of 2019, Sr. Probation Officer Grasse was awarded for being an exceptional Non -Enforcement Person, Agency or Business by the NYS Stop DWI Foundation. She was happy to be nominated and even further thrilled by being chosen as the winner! We are very proud to have her on our team. At that same luncheon, Trooper Savino was awarded for being the Region's TOP COP, having effected 103 DWI related arrests in the previous year.

