

ing and outreach remained a high priority for our staff, who continue to arm our members with high level shooting and editing skills. These trainings help members produce effective and compelling programming that reflects the interests and passions of the communities we represent. We've also diversified our workshop offerings to attract more residents. This year, we offered more 21st Century skills, such as social media, blogging and more.

All our training seems to be paying off: more than 570 locally produced programs were submitted for air on CCTV last year by dozens of member volunteers. Over 3,600 hours of government meetings were cablecast and nearly 600 different programs aired on the education channel. New programs in 2014 included The Vitality Project, a program on health, fitness and well-being; The Sustainable Dish, a show devoted to Sustainable Farming and Homesteading; Money Talks, hosted by Susan Wornick, Open Table, La Traviata, An Introduction to Fishing in Concord and much more. This is in addition to all of the student produced shows as well as the many ongoing programs.

CCTV remains committed to the use of our cable access facilities and channels to improve civic participation. The government access channel (9) provides live coverage of Concord Selectmen meetings on Monday nights, and live coverage of Carlisle Selectmen meetings on Tuesday nights, Concord-Carlisle School Committee meetings, Concord School Committee meetings, special Carlisle School Committee meetings, and many of the meetings of local boards and committees. Committee meetings leading up to Concord Town Meeting are cablecast live and streamed on the web, and we also had gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Town Meeting in both communities.

Additionally, we continue to expand our relationship at the high school with CC-Club, a twice weekly after-school club, which produces a monthly news program. In addition, students from two classes have been producing short weather forecasts and 'The Green Minute', PSAs that teach viewers how to be more 'green.'

All of our programming is archived on CCTV's video-on-demand section of the website, which has HD capability for all new content. In 2014, concordtv.org had almost 2,700 unique visitors where people viewed everything from municipal meetings to lectures, political forums and more.

In FY14, CCTV had total revenue and support of \$701,702 with expenses totaling \$315,610.

In anticipation of our new state-of-the-art media production facility in the new high school, the staff and Facilities Committee of the board have gone through a rigorous procurement process to select the vendors best suited to implement our design. CCTV will be spending a significant amount of money to equip the new studio, and this will have a significant financial impact our cash position during 2015. Fortunately, we are going into this year in a very strong position, thanks to the planning of past board members and officers.

CCTV invites all residents to join their community television project. Come in and learn how to operate a camera, edit a program, and share the fascinating activities of Concord and Carlisle with an enthusiastic and interested audience. Our goal is to continually add to the transparency of the Concord and Carlisle communities through utilization of the three CCTV Channels. For more information, a membership form, and to volunteer, please see www.concordtv.org, or email manager@concordtv.org, or call the station at 978-369-5038.

We continue to serve new viewers, welcome and train new producers, and strengthen the bonds that connect citizens and local organizations. As always, community access television relies on local citizens like you to produce our programming and we can't thank you enough for everything you already do!

VETERANS' SERVICES

Richard Krug, Veterans' Services Officer

The Veterans' Services program is mandated according to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 115 and is administered under State guidelines to provide information, advice and assistance regarding benefits to veterans and their families. Every city and town in the Commonwealth is required to have a benefits program for its resident veterans and their dependents, as well as a Veterans' Services Officer. The Veterans' Services Officer must be a war-era veteran and be available to provide assistance. The Town is reimbursed by the State for 75% of benefits paid under this mandated program. With the support of the Commonwealth's House, Senate and Executive Office, Massachusetts is now recognized as having one of the most comprehensive veterans' programs in the nation.

The Office of Veterans' Services, located at 105 Everett St., provides critical services to those who have worn the uniform and their loved ones. For decades, the Department of Veterans' Services has been the leading advocate for veterans and their families in the Commonwealth. The Veterans' Service Officer can help Veterans complete their application for Chapter 115 benefits that offers a need-based program of financial and medical assistance for Veterans and their dependents. The mission of the Veterans' Services Officer has grown to encompass the full range of VA federal benefits, rehabilitation, employment and training services, military records, tax exemptions, annuities, burials and care and decoration of veterans' graves. Financial assistance to qualified veterans and their dependents is provided, in accordance with State and federal regulations.



Veterans Day 2014 at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. From left: Maureen Manning, Brendan Manning

Our veteran population is dropping very rapidly but from 2001 to 2014 we have 45,000 new vets in the Commonwealth. This increase is due to: Women Veterans, Latino Veterans and African American Veterans. This is a very small amount returning compared to veterans that returned from WWII.

Program Implementation

The Veterans' Services Officer responds to daily calls requesting information, advice and assistance. With so many veterans and their families facing profound challenges related to their service and the current economy, the Veterans' Services Officer has become more important than ever.

The Veterans' Services Officer often helps veterans obtain assistance from veterans' organizations as well as other local, State and federal organizations, such as com-

munity services, youth services and Social Security. The Veterans' Services Officer also has been called upon to provide transportation to and from medical appointments for veterans when there is no other transportation available. Currently there are six individuals receiving financial assistance for qualifying Chapter 115 benefits.

The Veterans' Services Officer has been networking with local civic groups, senior citizen groups and area veterans' organizations as well as families of service members currently deployed. He has assisted at veterans' funerals, worked with students during Veterans' Day and Memorial Day exercises, served as a guest speaker in some high school and elementary school classes as well as for Rotary Club of Concord, the Lions Club of Concord, Concord Deaconess, and Concord Park Assisted Living. In addition to reaching out to veterans in obtaining "alternative sources of income," he has generated veteran related programming for the local cable television channel.

For information or assistance on Veterans' Services please call 978-318-3038 or e-mail dkrug@concordma.gov. For information about services, events, and other veterans' organizations please visit Concord's web page at www.concordma.gov/clerk/veterans.htm

The following is a list of applications applied for or services requested from Concord Veterans' Services during the year 2014:

Prescription Benefits	24
Death Benefits	14
Housing Benefits	22
Assisted Living	12
Transportation	4
Aid & Attendance	19
Chapter 115	72
Clothing Donation	5
VA Forms	42
Financial Assistance	72
Social Security	4
Hugh Cargill Trust	3
Military Medals and Flags	24
Military Records	21
Health Benefits	31
Employment	52
SNAP Food Assistance	12
Disability Filing	5
Disability Tax Abatement	59
Veterans' Outreach	17
Hearing Aids	4
Post GI Bill	6