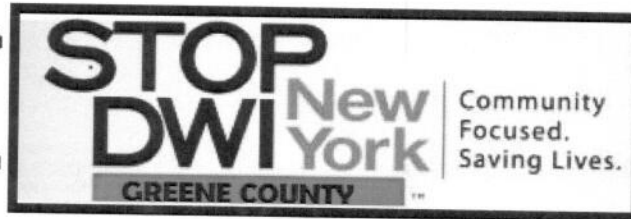


GREENE COUNTY
S.T.O.P. – D.W.I. PROGRAM



Sheriff Greg Seeley

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

GREENE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FOR CALENDAR YEAR

2016

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 2016.

ENFORCEMENT:

The final reported numbers for 2016 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. Resulting from these arrests there were 865 tickets issued for a DWI related offense as well as 104 tickets issued for driving while their license was suspended due to an alcohol related suspension/revocation.

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. The amount of expenditures was \$137,465.73. The STOP DWI Program had a surplus of \$16,926.68 for year 2016.

In April 2016, The 32nd Mid-Hudson STOP DWI Enforcement Conference was held in New Windsor, NY. The Program sponsored attendance by county enforcement personnel, as well as probation and prosecution individuals. Many topics were discussed and several relationships forged between coordinating personnel. Greene County STOP DWI assisted in funding the audio/visual aids used during the conference. Overall, this component area functioned normally during 2016.

COURT RELATED:

PROSECUTION OF CASES :

During the 2017 year, the District Attorney's office handled 466 DWI cases. 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 Stanzone 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 is \$25.00 per person which 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. It has been suggested that the fee be raised to some degree. 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 2016 year the Victim Impact Panel was presented in the Coxsackie Athens School District as well as the Catskill School District. 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 2016 year the D.A.'s Office used STOP DWI money for the following purposes:

\$2,000.00 – Extradition of Felony DWI offender from Florida. It should be noted that upon sentencing of that offender the DA's office required that part of the sentence included restitution to the STOP DWI program for the extradition cost. In fact restitution was paid in full from the bail money that was posted before the defendant fled the jurisdiction of the Court. That money was re-deposited into the STOP DWI account.

\$700.00 – Purchase of two additional “Word Programs” that were installed on the computers of staff personnel. These programs made it possible for all personnel to create “indictments and special informations” required for the prosecution of Felony DWI and DWAI drug offenses.

\$4,900.00 - Purchase of laptops to be used in all court rooms by District Attorney Office staff so that the office can track and keep up to date all DWI offenses.

\$24,000.00 – Divided among A.D.A. salaries for their work in the prosecution of DWI and DWAI drug offenses.

\$1,000.00 – Publications on prosecution of alcohol related offenses and update on DWI Laws and case law

PROBATION:

Money supplied to this department in 2016 by Greene County STOP DWI once again was \$47,600. \$28,600 covered approximately 50% of the salary of Senior Probation Officer (SPO) Lisa Grasse, who supervises the vast majority of the DWI probationers. As of this writing, SPO Grasse supervises some 57 offenders, totaling 62 cases. Of her caseload, 28 cases are felonies (including 5 in which the final conviction is not expressly that of a DWI offense, but still driving-related), and 29 are misdemeanors (including 1 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 officer 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 total probation case load.

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 she implemented the program in 2014, she has been the department's point person 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 2016, 17 offenders had such devices for a total of 2,662 service days, which, at an incarceration cost of \$85/day, amounts to projected savings of \$226,510.

Lastly, the Probation Department, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office, runs the aforementioned DWI Victim Impact Panel. SPO Grasse spearheads this effort, including interviewing prospective speakers. Proceeds collected from the panel are viewed as revenue for the STOP DWI program. In 2016, 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 2016, a total of \$6,925 was collected from offenders at \$25 each, with another \$400 collected via "donations" from offenders, for a total of \$7,455, a significant increase from the \$6,075 collected from this program in 2015.

As the ignition interlock monitor for probation sentences imposed in the county, the Probation 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 2016, a total of 47 sentences were submitted relative to conditional discharge sentences reported to the Sheriff's Office, and 23 probation sentences, for a grand total of \$7,290 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 2016- \$19,000; which offsets county expense toward the salary of a probation assistant for the Probation Department. In 2016 that assistant's duties continued to include oversight of the Department's community service program, in addition to her receptionist duties, updating probationers' addresses in the 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 2016, 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 70 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.

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 support this program to the fullest extent possible.

SUMMARY:

The program continued to develop in its 36th year of operation While it persists in the fight against occurrences of DWI related issues, Greene County STOP DWI works 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 continues to flourish. The program 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