Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council
1769 East Moody Blvd
Bunnell, Florida 32110

American Legion Post 115
Disabled American Veterans 86
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8696
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Marine Corps League 876
Military Officers Association of America
AMVETS Post 113

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on January 7th, 2019 at the AMVETS Post 113, 3400 Steel Rail Drive, Bunnell, FL.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Jeff Vick, Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and all attendees followed up by introducing themselves.

Jeffery Vick American Legion (AL 115) Delegate / VAC Chairman
Neal McCoppin MOAA Delegate / VAC V/Chairman
David Franks American Veterans (AMVETS 113), Delegate
Joseph Kowalsky Marine Corps League, Delegate
George Bertish MOAA Alternate Delegate
David Lydon County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)
Eric Flores Febles County Veterans Service Office (AVSO)
Chris Sleep MOPH, Delegate
Freddie Vazquez Disabled American Veterans (DAV 86) Delegate
Thomas S. Piekarski VFW
Billy Jones MOAA – Regular Attendee
Tanya Whitaker Guest Team RWB
Patrick Juliano City of Palm Coast
Randy Stapleford Florida’s 6th Congressional District
Ernie Audino Florida’s 6th Congressional District

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports: None

Scheduled Guests: Mr. Ernie Audino, District Director to Congressman Michael Waltz, was in attendance and met the members of the VAC.

Parades & Ceremonies:

- The VAC was advised of the date for the Robert J. Beck Military Service Honor Cord Ceremony, April 23, 2019, at VFW Post 8696. The schools have been contacted to begin compiling the lists of recipients.

- The VAC was advised to begin considering prospective keynote speakers for Memorial Day 2019.

- On behalf of Palm Coast Mayor Milissa Holland, Patrick Juliano discussed the city’s idea to alter its Veterans Day ceremony program. He suggested they would like to have an afternoon ceremony at Town Center, with an old-fashioned American BBQ open to the public following. Patrick was not prepared to go as far as saying the city would like to combine ceremonies with the county at this point. Plans will develop as feedback to the plan is received. The Mayor is asking the veterans organizations to help get people /
veterans to attend the event.

Old Business:

- Suicide prevention – Hank Mangles, American Legion Post 115 related he added some prominent information on the post’s website. Tom Piekarski related he has contact with Benjamin Patton (grandson of the storied general), who makes movies about veterans including the issue of suicide. He will share those with Flagler County veterans. Chairperson Vick had nothing to advance on this topic. Chairman Vick related there may be training opportunities for the service organization members, should they desire, in the future. Training would be to help members help recognize warning signs, and how to direct an individual to resources.

- The delegates were asked to review the by-laws, specifically to decide if the Chair and V/Chair election procedures should remain the same.

New Business:

- Chairman Vick related he would no longer be actively participating with American Legion Post 115, and therefore did not know the viability of remaining as the VAC chairman. After some discussion, it was decided to see if Chairman Vick, also a member of MOAA, would be appointed as their delegate, and remain eligible to be nominated as VAC chair for 2019. Nominations and election of chair and vice chair was delayed until the February VAC meeting. Chairman Vick indicated he’d like the opportunity to remain on the VAC as chair.

Good and Welfare:

Randy Stapleford reported that the St Augustine VA CBOC project is delayed for approximately three months due to environmental impact reasons.

Tom Piekarski, VFW announced two meetings he’s holding at the VFW; Modern Era Veterans lunch planning will be 1/11/19, at 2pm and a meeting for tackling how to attract younger members to service organizations will be 1/14/19, at 2pm.

Freddie Vazquez, DAV announced the DAV will be hold a casino night fundraiser at the VFW on 3/29.

The next VAC meeting will be at 4:00PM on February 4, 2019 at the Board of County Commissioners Conference Room.