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 February 4th, 2019 at the Board of County Commissioners Conference Room.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, David Lydon, CVSO, welcomed everyone to the meeting and all attendees followed up by introducing themselves.

- Neal McCoppin: MOAA Delegate / VAC Chairman
- David Franks: American Veterans (AMVETS 113), Delegate
- Joseph Kowalsky: Marine Corps League, Delegate
- George Bertish: MOAA Alternate Delegate, V/Chair
- David Lydon: County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)
- Eric Flores Febles: County Veterans Service Office (AVSO)
- Chris Sleep: MOPH, Delegate
- Thomas S. Piekarski: VFW, Delegate
- Hank Mangles: American Legion, Delegate
- Billy Jones: MOAA – Regular Attendee
- Tanya Whitaker: Guest Team RWB
- Randy Stapleford: Florida’s 6th Congressional District

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports: None

Scheduled Guests: Mr. Ray Parker attended to share information about the Volusia County Veterans Museum and Education Center, and to encourage veterans to be guest speakers at the center. Each Tuesday afternoon, the center hosts veterans who will talk about their military experience before a small audience of citizens, students etc.

Parades & Ceremonies:

- Details of the Robert J. Beck Military Service Honor Cord Ceremony, April 23, 2019, 6pm, at VFW Post 8696, was discussed. The schools have been contacted to begin compiling the lists of recipients. Both JROTC detachments have been advised. VFW Post commander was suggested to emcee. Ed Waller the county’s first JROTC instructor was a suggestion for guest speaker.

- The VAC was advised to begin considering prospective keynote speakers for Memorial Day 2019. There is a tentative “yes”, form Congressman Waltz to be the guest speaker, per Randy Stapleford.

- CVSO Lydon’s recent conversation Palm Coast Mayor Milissa Holland, revealed the city is planning to hold a Veterans Day (noon to 4pm) ceremony and follow-on patriotic BBQ open to the county residents. It’s still being discussed within city government. The mayor said the main contribution from veterans groups is to get out the membership to take part. More to come…

1
Old Business:

- Since last meeting, Jeff Vick has resigned from the VAC and declared he is limiting his participation now with the American Legion and MOAA. Given that, the VAC will proceed with nominations and election of a new chairman and vice-chairman. The VAC nominated Neal McCoppin, MOAA as chairman, and George Bertish, MOAA as vice-chairman.

- What will be the VAC’s involvement with Lifeline’s suicide prevention effort. It was decided to assist with promoting and disseminating their information fliers and keeping open the possibility of our organizations receiving basic training.

- By-laws review; no changes deemed necessary at this time.

- New veteran outreach; trying to attract younger members into the county’s veterans services organizations. Discussions regarding canvassing Daytona State College for prospects.

- Team RWB waiting on a Flagler Chapter until resolving some national and state organizational structuring.

New Business:

None.

Good and Welfare:

Tom Piekarski, VFW asked the VAC for advice about the Modern Era veterans picnic lunch, which was supposed to be Feb 23. There appears to be a lack of interest and no one has signed up. The VAC suggested he consider postponing the event to another date, possibly Armed Force Day, May 18th, and give it another shot.

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

David Lydon, CVSO
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