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

Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council called to order at 4:00 p.m. on July 6, 2020 at the Board of County Commissioners Conference Room.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Eric Flores Febles, ACVSO, welcomed everyone to the meeting and all attendees followed up by introducing themselves.

In attendance:
Neal McCoppin  VAC Chairman / Alternate
John Morris  MOAA, Delegate
Joseph Kowalsky  Marine Corps League, Delegate
David Lydon  County Veterans Servicers Officer
Eric Flores Febles  County Veterans Service Office (AVSO)
Randy Stapleford  Florida’s 6th Congressional District
Nick Burnett  Florida’s 6th Congressional District
Billy Jones  MOAA – Regular Attendee
George Bertish  MOAA- Regular Attendee
Hank Mangles  American Legion, Delegate
Charles Hanger  DAV
Dan Waldron  CVA Delegate
Tom Piekarski  VFW Delegate

Correspondence:  None

Guests:  None

Parades & Ceremonies:
- Discussion was made regarding Veterans Day and what a ceremony might look like. Members were asked to contemplate a suggested guest speaker.

Committee Reports:  N/A

Old Business:
- Tom Piekarski related that the Red Cross suspended video documentation of veterans’ stories until the COVID19 emergency is over.

New Business:
- Veterans in the Classroom; Billy Jones, Coordinator spoke of plans to meet with the school superintendent to discuss how the Veterans in the Classroom program will be allowed to present to students in the current environment.
- MOAA Flagler Chapter terminated a membership of a local veteran whose membership was first terminated by MOAA National for inability to provide documentation that he ever was a commissioned officer or a Brigadier General.
- On behalf of local veteran candidates for office, Lydon inquired if the VAC would like to hear from them. Hanger, DAV motioned that the VAC not engage in inviting campaigning to the meetings; it was seconded and passed by the delegates. No to permitting candidates, veterans or otherwise to campaign no matter how subtle.
- Hanger related that Rod Phillips, Volusia County veterans advocate is working toward reestablishing the MOPH Chapter 808 in Flagler County.
- Lydon queried organizations about whether they had enough US flags for cemetery placement. MCL related they would need more next year, they were short. MOAA was thanked for conserving flags by picking them up for use the following year. It saved the county $500 this year. It was encouraged that the other organizations consider doing the same, as flag costs have risen.

Good and Welfare:
- American Legion no regular meetings since March; Executive meetings are conducted via Zoom. The Honor Guard has been participating in some funerals.
- DAV is still closed but is offering service officer claims assistance two days a week. Transportation services to VA appointments are suspended until further notice by order of VA. DAV executive board is still meeting once a month.
- Marine Corps League has not had meetings since March but are scheduled to have an executive meeting 7/7.
- MOAA is not having membership meetings until possibly September. Board of Director meetings have been by telephone conference call.
- VFW Post opened up in June but had to modify business due to state mandates. Committees are able to meet. Bingo starts this week and other events are allowed to be scheduled with appropriate COVID19 guidelines followed.
- CVA assisted a veteran do a household move recently. They are participating in a National Convention in Jacksonville in September 2020.
- Billy Jones reminded the VAC members that the radio show “Veterans On Point” is there to be use and that this platform is a good venue to promote all the local military organizations upcoming events.
- Lydon read a letter from Sen. Scott praising Eric Flores for the fine work he does for veterans on a daily basis.
- Randy Stapleford made a presentation of a card and special challenge coin to Lydon and Febles on behalf of Congressman Waltz for organizing and delivery of congressional letters and military honor cords to high school grads enlisting in the military.

The next VAC meeting will be at 4:00 pm on August 3, 2020 at the BOCC Conference Room, GSB, 1769 East Moody Blvd, Bunnell, FL 32110.

David P. Lydon, CVSO
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