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

American Legion Post 115
Disabled American Veterans 86
Italian American War Veterans Post 7
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8696

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 4:06p.m. on January 9, 2017 at the Finance Department Conference Room.

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

Jeffery Vick American Legion (AL 115)
George Stockley American Legion (AL 115)
David Lydon County Veterans Service Office (VSO)
Eric Flores Febles County Veterans Service Office (AVSO)
George Schnaudigel Disabled American Veterans (DAV 86)
Richard Mikola Marine Corps League/Purple Heart
Billy Jones Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
George Bertish Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Neal R. McCoppin Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Randy Stapleford Office of Congressman Ron DeSantis (FL06)
Robert Beck Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Guest Speaker: Joe Roberts from the Daytona Beach/Palm Coast Career Source Center was presented to the VAC meeting attendees. He talked about an event that is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM at the Salvation Army location in Bunnell, FL. The title of this event will be “Veterans In Need Stand Down.” This event is planned with the collaboration from a large group of organizations. Organizations such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, the County Veterans Services Office, the Salvation Army, Food Pantry, Flagler County Human Services, Ormond Strong, Marine Corps League, VFW, Career Source, and many others. He explained that the intention of this event is to reach out to not just the homeless Veterans population, but to reach out any other large group of Veterans that may be in need. This event will be advertised via the local radio station ads and flyers. Parking will be available. He also clarified that participating vendors would have to set up early and park in the overflow parking lot behind the Salvation Army building.
In addition, he gave a brief explanation about what his nonprofit organization does. He explained that Career Source is a nonprofit organization that provides employment services such as building resumes, interview preparation, job searches tools to a wide range of people and that they do have a program that is tailored to Veterans that have a service connected disability.

David Lydon asked the DAV representative if they could provide transportation during this event and Mr. Schnaudigel replied that he believed that transportation can only be provided to Veterans that are going to medical appointments and back but that he will call Orlando VA Medical Center and will do the research to verify if they can use the transportation for this event. Mr. Stapleford said that if there are any issues with Gainesville or Orlando Medical Centers regarding the use of VA vans for transportation that to please let him know about it.

David Lydon reminded and encouraged all attendees to pass the word to their local organizations and if they’d like to participate and have a booth set up for this event to please contact the County Veterans Service Office.

Correspondence: VSO David Lydon reviewed and discussed the January Information Booklet with the members and briefed them on the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) news summary, and the Department of Veterans Affairs news release.

Committee Reports: None

Parades & Ceremonies: Flagler County ACVSO reminded all VAC attendees to begin preparing for the 2017 Memorial Day Ceremony. The Veterans Services Office is looking for suggestions regarding the guest speaker for this ceremony. David Lydon stated that he had someone in mind, but that he is still looking for suggestions.

Old Business: None

New Business: David Lydon reminded everyone that the VAC by laws calls for an annual election for the new VAC Chairman and Vice Chairman. He stated that if the VAC member’s were happy with the way that the Chairman and Vice Chairman is currently being chosen (rotating among local organizations) they can all choose to keep it that way also. Mr. Bertish suggest keeping it the way is currently running and everyone agreed upon. David Lydon said that he was going to talk to Mr. Rutigliano to see if he had a specific rotation. The new VAC Chairman would be Mr. Robert Beck (VFW) and the VAC Vice Chairman would be Mr. George Schnaudigel (DAV) for calendar year 2017. David Lydon stated that he was trying to cut this meeting short today due the Four Chaplain Proclamation schedule at 5:00PM at the BOCC Conference Room.

The CVSO mentioned that he would like to see the VAC membership body to grow. He stated that he is going to try to get more members from the community to be involved and that our goal should be to help Veterans in need, Veterans Welfare, and to promote Patriotism and Americanism. There are other organizations in other adjacent Counties that are more robust than ours and that we are trying to go in that direction and eventually become a nonprofit organization/501(c) (3).
This organization will be better organized and will require more involvement from all members. Some of the benefits of having a 501(c) (3) organization are that with the power that it may eventually gain, it may commit to and plan major events for Veterans, and perhaps one day if population deems necessary, for example, make suggestions to open a VA Community Based Out-Patient Clinic in Flagler County. If that need should arise we may help with this by having renewed influence and with the help of local organizations such as the Salvation Army, VFW, etc. This implementation will take time.

David asked the DAV representative if they could provide transportation during this event and Mr. Schnaudigel replied that he believe that the transportation is only provide to Veterans that are going to medical appointments and back but that he will Orlando VA Medical Center and will do the research to verify if they can use the transportation for this event. Mr. Stapleford said that if there are any issues with Gainesville or Orlando Medical Centers regarding the use of VA vans for transportation that to please let him know about it.

David Lydon reminded and encouraged all attendees to pass the word to their local organization that if they like to participate and have a booth set up for this event to please contact the County Veterans Service Office. Mr. Mikola asked for clarification about who was providing the hot dogs for this event and David Lydon stated that Pastor Silano would be the person providing these items. The Marine Corps League will also provide water. Joe Roberts, for logistics purposed, asked Mr. Mikola if their group would like to be located in or outside the facility and he stated that outside is preferred. Mr. Lydon stated that VFW would bring about 20 tables and about 40 chairs to the event. Joe Roberts also stated that they received permission from the owner of the location to preposition everything in the afternoon, after 2:00PM, the day before the event.

**Good and Welfare:** Mr. Lydon mentioned that the VSO received a donation from the Jewish American War Veterans Association of $150.00 worth of Publix gift cards for Veterans in need during the holidays and that we still have some of them available.

Mr. George Schnaudigel (DAV 86) commented that there is a possibility that the Daytona VA Out Patient Clinic (OPC) where going to use their facilities to provide some mental health services. More information will follow regarding these services.

Eric Flores Febles mentioned to the VAC meeting attendees that Mr. Paul Renner, Florida’s 24th District State House Representative, contacted our office this morning. He would like to know about any issues or concerns that may be affecting our Veterans community and any ideas that could help our Veterans community that he (Mr. Renner) could bring up to the legislature’s attention. David Lydon encourages everyone to share this information and any other information from this meeting to your organization. George Stockley asked to please email any information to all delegates so they can pass it along to their organization.

The ACVSO asked all attendees that if any of their organization would like to advertise a future activity or event in our next information booklet, please fax it or email to us no later than the week prior to our next VAC meeting.
David Lydon reminded everyone about the Four Chaplains Ceremony scheduled on February 5, 2017 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM at the VFW Post. He also mentioned that the County Veterans Service Office will have a table set up on Saturday and Sunday at Flagler Home and Lifestyle show. Mr. Mikola mentioned that the Marine Corps League will not be participating at the Home Show this year.

The Flagler County Social Services Department Point in Time (PIT) Count, when the nation counts the unsheltered homeless, will be conducted on January 26th and 27th. Teams will go out to the places where we know homeless folks "hang out" or camped in order to get a good estimate of the numbers of homeless in our county and to understand the causes of homelessness here. Our numbers of homeless determine the funding we are eligible for from the government and for grant determination. It requires an hour for training and then going out on the afternoon of January 26th or the morning of January 27th. For those of you interested, there is a training requirement. VSO will participate to assess the number of homeless veterans in the county. Trainings will be conducted on:

- The training on Jan.12th is from 11:00am -12:30pm at the Emergency Operations Center Building 3, 1769 E. Moody Blvd. Bunnell, Room B.
  OR
- The training on Jan. 20th is from 6:00pm – 7:30pm at the Florida Hospital Flagler, 60 Memorial Medical Parkway, Palm Coast Room D.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. Next VAC meeting will be on February 6, 2017 in the Board of County Commissioners Conference Room, 1st Floor.

[Signature]
David Lydon, CVSO
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Bunnell, FL 32110
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