

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of January 28th, 2016

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld; Treasurer John Mountcastle
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag

Vice Chairman Quinn gave the Invocation

Last month's minutes were approved as presented at the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented at the meeting.

Speakers:

Dr. Larry Crane, Guardian Ad Litem: The GAL7 Foundation passionately supports the right of every foster child to grow up with dignity, to be valued as an individual, and to feel secure in a safe environment. Their immediate needs are for male volunteers and children's clothes. www.GuardianadLitem.org 1-866-341-1425

Alia Reimer, Exec. Dir., SJC Habitat for Humanity: Habitat provides low income housing for county residents with a low verifiable income. Requirements- verifiable income, resident of county for one year, able to do 100 hours volunteer work for Habitat.

Alison Simpson, Historian FL National Guard: Alison gave a short history of the FL National Guard, several historical military officers, the St. Augustine National Cemetery, and some of the brave men buried there, the historic art gallery and a description of the Museum. Tours are available.

Committee Reports:

Joe McDermott, SJC VSO: the VA Secretary will be simplifying the appeals process to make it faster and easier to file a claim. The VA has declared Camp Lejeune drinking water contaminated. Reservists are now included in this ruling.

Kathy Church, FL State Coordinator MIAP: Kathy again thanked the Council for the car. She is now going to be working with Craig Funeral Home.

Fred Dupont: Representing the Veterans Council, Fred attended a meeting of "Veterans Meet Up". They are a young group of veterans that are "organized" differently than older veterans groups. They get together to get out of the house, their goal is to prevent suicide in veterans.

Jim Wright, Veterans Treatment Court: COL, ret., Judge H McGillin is now in charge. Program will be starting shortly, it requires coordination of judge, prosecutor, attorney, psychologist, substance abuse counselor all to select, and assist incarcerated veteran.

George Linardos, MOAA: reminded all to support & buy tickets for the MOAA fundraiser, "Sounds of Freedom", March 18th at the Amphitheater. St Augustine & Ponte Vedra High Schools will be participating.

Ray Quinn, Vice Chairman VC of SJC: nomination are now open for the COL Ed Taylor Award and for the FL Veterans Hall of Fame. Please contact SGM Quinn for more info.

Harry Manford, USMC Oldest City Detachment: The Toys for Tots Christmas program was an over whelming success with toys given out to over 3000 local needy children.

Meeting ended at 8:25 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 25th, 7 pm, Elks Lodge.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Rothfeld, Secretary, VC SJC