

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of December 19, 2019

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

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and SGM Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as presented

Treasurer's Report were approved as presented

Introduction of Guests: None

Speaker: Eddie Creamer, St. Johns County Property Appraiser & Nikki Pontello, PA Office Manager. Mr. Creamer first spoke about of importance of filing for a Homestead Exemption which could then qualify you for other exemptions. Ms Pontello then spoke about Veterans Exemptions i.e., Veteran & Active Duty Military Exemptions. The Veterans Exemptions are: Disabled Veterans Exemption, Totally & Permanently Disabled Veterans, Seniors Combat Related Veterans Exemption, Surviving Spouses of Veterans who died while on active duty exemption, & Deployed Servicemembers exemptions.

There are requirements to qualify for each exemption, so please call 904-827-5500 or email customerservice@sjcpa.us for forms and with questions.

Committee Reports:

Mac: Smoking is not allowed on any VA property, Veterans with student loans now have them forgiven, the VA now has a contract out for 3 years to stop suicides and provide services.

John: VTC sent 10 Mentors to a Melbourne Conference to discuss state-wide issues. Now 26 in program, 23 have graduated in past 3 years. Currently 16 active mentors.

VVA 1084 invites all to "Beach Blast off" from 4 to 1- pm New Years eve.

Ray: Wreaths Across America: was a huge success, with about 300 in attendance. 1400 Wreaths were placed by all Headstones. There is some money left which will go towards next years WAA.

Bill: Veterans Day was a huge success, with over 1000 attending. Plans soon for an AAR and discussion of next year's celebration. We will prepare a year end summary and update our Power Point to include this year's activities.

For the Good of The Order:

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, January 30, 2020**, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

- Jan. 30 St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion, Pledge with Sea Cadets Color Guard
CAPT Ryman Shoaf, USN ret., & Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation
- Feb. 27 Deborah Brannon, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, Maria Jefferson Chapt.
Wendy Lay, Veterans Expo at First Coast Technical College
- Mar. 26 Sharon Unger, President Veterans Village of NE FL
Shiva Thompson, Yoga 4 Change
- Apr. 30 Kathy Fleming, Exec Dir, Lighthouse WW II Coast Guard Project
Carl "Jeff" Lay, 1SG US Veterans Reserve Corps. FL
- May 28 Dr. Roger Smith, Military History of Colonial St. Augustine
- June 25 Reserved pending confirmation

