

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of June 29, 2017

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Secretary Michael Rothfeld, John Mountcastle, Treas. Vice Chairman Ray Quinn not present

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1906 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag, **Judy Davis** 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

Introduction of Guests: Megan Wall, Legal Aid Attorney

Speakers:

Megan Wall: Legal aid is designed to help the poor, elderly and disabled. Legal Aid is primarily funded and responsible to the County. Private attorneys in the county do pro bono work for the Legal Aid Society. County veterans mostly seek assistance with housing, jobs, unemployment, and transportation.

If assistance is needed please contact megan.wall@jaxlwgalaid.org or call 904-827-9921 ext 206.

Steve Kaufman: USAA settled a class action lawsuit and will pay an average of \$ 450. to each qualified claimant. USAA primarily covers veterans and active duty. Questions can sent to Steve: www.SJKPR.com, STEPHEN J. KAUFMAN * PUBLIC RELATIONS, 904-388-7447 * (C) 904-710-0324 * FAX: 388-7100, 2150 Riverside Ave., Ste. 4 * Jacksonville, FL 32204 USA, results@SJKPR.com twitter.com/sjkpr

Committee Reports:

Mac: spoke about the VA committing itself to speeding up the appeals process and going paperless across the country. Veterans Treatment Court will meet twice a month starting in November. Legislation was passed forming the **Florida Veterans Foundation.**

Michael: Michael spoke about how to access and use the Veterans Council Facebook page and website and he encouraged all to send him their organizations newsletters for posting on the Council's website.

Steve: MIAP next military honors will be in September in cooler weather.

John Leslie: Invited all interested to a free presentation on *Mental Health First Aid*. It is designed to teach signs and symptoms' of suicide. It will take place on July 26th, 9am to 5pm at the Courtyard by Marriott on SR 16 in St Augustine. If interested contact John: john_leslie15@yahoo.com

12 veterans are involved now in the VTC, with 4 mentors, still looking for a few more.

Chief Gerald Dedge: spoke about the injury to his son in law, Marine Recon Chris Natto and thanked those involved in the presentation at the Fort for all the useful donations.

Chairman Dudley; gave an update on the Nov. 11th Veterans Day Parade, spoke about his meeting with the Story Tellers Grant representative seeking funds for the DAV van and for the Veterans Treatment Court. Chairman Dudley called for a vote to have our Council continue to work with the 5 County Council of Veteran Council Chairman and it was approved.

Tammy Shirley: (SJC VSO), The Homeless Veterans Standdown will take place on Saturday September 30.

DAV chapter 6, John McGinty presented the Veterans Council with a check for Wreaths Across America.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, July 27**, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Our speaker will be Sara Slettebo of the Assoc. of Veteran Employers and Jeff Robertson VP of Finding the Uniform

Future speakers:

August 31, Kimberly Gibbons, Atlantic Coast Young Marines and Derek Boyd Hankerson, Author, Lecturer, Producer, speaking about the Military History of Ft. Mose

September 28, Bob Buehn, Capt USN (Ret), Coordinator of the UNF Veterans Resource Center

October 26, Review of Veterans' Day Parade activities