

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of March 31, 2016

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld; Treasurer John Mountcastle
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1854 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:

Deborah Ronson: General Manager, Home Instead Senior Care

Our Aid and Attendance benefit is for veterans and spouses for long term care. Requirements-an Honorable Discharge. This is for a non service connector disability. A single/married veteran gets a maximum monthly benefit of \$ 1789/\$ 2120. Have to be 65 or over, serve 90+ days active duty, and serve 1 or more days in a period of wartime. Veteran disability has to include one of the following: assistance with daily living, bathing, personal hygiene, dressing, toileting, eating and or mobility.

Similar requirements apply to a surviving spouse.

If you think you qualify or seek have questions call Deborah at: 904-794-9450.

Ted Vinski: Affordable Health Outreach. Affordable represents most of the large health care providers in FL. Veterans may be eligible for subsidies thereby reducing their plan cost. Ted Vinski: 904-592-2614

Anas Benjelloun: Territory Manager, ClearCaptions. This is a federal program that assists veterans with hearing loss and speech problems. The Caption phone has a volume control and a no delay caption system. There is no cost for these phones, except a small .87 to \$ 1.30 federal charge per month.

To qualify, 1) have to have a hearing loss 2) need internet service 3) need a phone line with a dial tone

If you want more info call Anas at: 904-568-4562.

Committee Reports:

Joe McDermott, SJC VSO: The VA is starting a new nationwide audiology (904-475-6126) and optomology (386-755-3016) program where you can schedule your own appointments.

The Homeless Veterans Standdown is on August 27th, setup on the 26th at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge.

Ray Quinn, Jacksonville National Cemetery. The 50th Vietnam Commemoration went very well with over 125 Vietnam veterans in attendance. The event in St. Augustine National Cemetery was organized and led by VN vet Bob Dinkins. Both events were very successful.

The Memorial Day event at Jacksonville National Cemetery will be on the Saturday prior to Memorial Day so as not to conflict with Jacksonville's ceremony.

Michael Rothfeld: Michael spoke about plans to reactivate the now dormant VC website. More info to follow.

Chairman Bill Dudley: A vote was held to determine the location of the next Veterans Council meeting. The membership voted to return to the Elks Lodge, Non Elks will have to use the front lodge entrance by the moose and water fountain.

The VC and MOAA will again be hosting a Veterans Day Parade again

The Veterans Treatment Court is near ready to launch.

Meeting ended at 8:40 pm

NOTE NEW LOCATION--Next Meeting: Thursday, May 26th, 7 pm, Elks Lodge # 829, A1A S., St. Augustine

Respectfully submitted by Michael Rothfeld, Secretary, VC SJC