

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of October 27, 2016

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle

Vice Chairman Ray Quinn not present

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag

Ron Birchall 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.

Visitors:

Several visitors were present and introduced

Speakers: Bob Adelhelm, founder of Vets 4 Vets and the Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society.

Bob spoke about the recent Vets 4 Vets Quarterly Gathering in the Veterans Memorial Arena. The goal of Vets 4 Vets is to inform, share information and connect veterans to other NE FL veterans. Vets 4 Vets is not an organization, rather it is a movement that deals with issues affecting veterans and their families. The group is also trying to reach out to younger veterans and get them involved and unite all to deal with local, state and national issues that affect veterans. "United We Are Strong".

Bob finished up by informing all of the inequity of the Jacksonville Memorial Wall criteria. He is trying to have a Marine's name placed on the Wall who committed suicide suffering from PTSD.

Committee Reports:

Joe McDermott, SJC VSO: The DAV Chapter 6 used Mac's office for assistance to veterans suffering from hurricane damage.

The VA met with local officials recently to discuss ways to cut amount spent on the new VA Outpatient Clinic which is still under negotiations with the County.

Kathy Church: Kathy updated Council on the last interment in south Florida, with over 200 in attendance. She will announce dates for upcoming Vero Beach and Sebastian ceremonies when the information becomes available.

George Linardos: Tickets are still available for the MOAA Lee Greenwood concert and George asked all to go back to your organizations and see if they would buy groups of tickets for their members. The concert is to benefit local veteran's groups and help is needed by all to make this a success.

Michael Rothfeld: Michael spoke about the dates, times, location of the FREE Military Film Festival as well as who the speakers for each documentary would be.

Chairman Dudley: Vets 4 Cops is now an LLC and more information to follow in months ahead. Chairman Dudley said Liberty Pines and Valley Ridge will again be hosting Veterans Day events and will pass the specifics to us as he gets them. Sebastian Middle School is collecting clothes, socks, food, etc. for Homeless Veterans, if you have donations please let the Chairman know.

The St. Augustine National Cemetery Wreaths Across America program is still short of funds and may not be able place a wreath upon each headstone as we have done in the past. WAA is still short \$ 4230. Deadline for donations is Nov. 17.

New Business: Jim Bush from Florida Power and Light presented Chairman Dudley with a check for the Veterans Council in the amount of \$ 1500. John McGinty from Vietnam Veterans of America, St Augustine Branch presented the Council with a check for Wreaths Across America. Jerry Hanchett also presented a check from SAR for \$150 for WAA.

Meeting ended at 2030

PLEASE NOTE DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING IS NOT THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17th, 7 pm, Elks Lodge # 829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine

Respectfully submitted by Michael Rothfeld, Secretary, Veterans Council SJC

