

From: Dr. Paul Godfrey <pgodfrey@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2012 7:47 PM
To: 'Gary McBride'
Subject: notes of the 24th

A meeting was held on October 24th at Gainesville State College (GSC) in the Military Affairs office (created to provide support to veterans at GSC) about what support our area veterans organizations can provide vets at the colleges.

The President of the Student Veterans Organization at GSC and Dr. Vincent Ramsey (faculty advisor), the President of the Student Veterans

Organization at North Georgia College and State University (NGCSU) David Brown, the DAV Chapter 17 Legislative Liaison Officer Gary McBride and

another chapter 17 member Paul Godfrey were in attendance. The DAV representatives also provided assistance to student vets who needed help

regarding their disability claims from 10am to 2pm. Nine students at the campus, three of whom were Marines, enrolled in the DAV so the DAV could

take their case to the VA for resolution.

Some of the items discussed were:

1. Bring issues discussed here to Coalition of veterans groups in Hall County at their November 5th meeting. (agreed)
2. Continued bi-monthly sessions at GSC with DAV, and other organization reps, in attendance to help student vets.(agreed)
2. Monthly sessions at NGCSU.(agreed)
3. November 12th Roll-Call Veterans Day event. Invite all vet groups.(agreed)
4. November 14th All Veterans event Change4Georgia.
(<http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=254415>). Invite all vet groups (agreed)
5. Discussed future need for DAV sessions at Oconee and Cumming Campuses.(ongoing)
6. Discussed honor guard for Nov 12th event. (ongoing)
7. SVA funds. (ongoing)
8. Value of e-benefit and my healthy vet. How to use sessions? (ongoing)
9. Identifying vets at the colleges and in the community. About 175 vets at GSC, 400 at NGCSU (ongoing)
10. Discussed "Vet Upward Bound" grant application to DOE by GSC (Debra Pilgrim). Helps pay for vet's prep classes.(ongoing)
11. Discussed Military Affairs space planned at NGSC. Said to be USO like (ongoing)
12. Discussed VA certifying reps. David Brown is at NGCSU. GSC in FinAid Debra Hightower and Vickie Poole. (ongoing)
13. Discussed Chapter 33 versus other methods for vets to fund education. (ongoing)
14. Identified need for information to be disseminated and difficulties of same. (ongoing)
15. What interaction can area veteran groups provide? (ongoing)

The three main issues of the other area veterans groups, as identified in area coalition meetings, were the same as the student organizations.

a. Identification of veterans in general and veterans needing assistance in specific. While overall numbers of vets in a particular area, or even

college, are available from online (e.g., census) and government organizations that support vets (e.g., VA clinics), the identification of

individual veterans is blocked due to privacy laws. Veterans must self identify.

b. Obtaining financial resources needed to assist veterans. Some organizations have signature fund raising events, e.g. GMC MOAA Golf Tourney,

most other organizations rely on donations, raffles, etc., handled by a small number of members of the organizations, to raise funds.

c. Small numbers of members of organizations participating in Veteran Support activities and dwindling roles. While some organizations have

increased their roles and participation recently, recruitment and instigation of enthusiasm remain a problem.