

Northeast Georgia Veteran Organizations Coalition

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2013

I. Persons Present:

NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL	PHONE
James E. Gilmer	Commander	VVA 772	jegilmer@att.net	7705322532
Asberry Turner	Commander	American Legion Post 328	turner@yahoo.com	
Dave Dellinger	Commander	American Legion Post 7	dtdellinger@charter.net	7707187676
Paul Godfrey	Personal Affairs Officer	Georgia Mountain Chapter Military Officers Association of America	paulwaynegodfrey@charter.net	6789717194
Johnny Varner	Adjutant	American Legion Post 328	legionpost328@gmail.com	
Gary McBride	Legislative Liaison	Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17	gmseven11@gmail.com	7705035117
Stephen McGruder	VSO & DOL Services Specialist	American Legion Post 328 & Ga Dept of Labor	tmcgruders@aol.com & Stephen.mcgruder@gdol.ga.gov	7707182811

II. Call to Order

1. The meeting began at approximately 7:15 pm

III. Deliberations

1. James Gilmer opened the meeting and asked Paul Godfrey to read the notes from the last meeting. Paul reported that one action item from the last meeting was to establish a coalition Website. He announced that the Website had been established (<http://HallCountyVeteran.org>) and requested all coalition members to create an account on the site.
2. The coalition discussed several recent and ongoing actions to support veterans in need. As a result, the group determined a need to establish a protocol for determining eligibility and need in providing support to veterans in need. A draft protocol will be posted on the private portion of the coalition Website HallCountyVeteran.org and coalition participants will provide suggested changes, additions, and deletions. The goal is to develop a consensus protocol that all organizations may use. OPEN (Action Paul Godfrey/Coalition)
3. The coalition also determined that the coalition Website would contain a password protected page to identify to all coalition participants the name and other pertinent information about veterans being provided assistance by their organization.
4. Paul Godfrey told the group that GMCMOAA was beginning work on their signature event, the wounded warrior golf tournament in June at Lake Lanier Islands. They have a target of 20 warriors (<http://www.GMCMOAA.org>).
5. Dave Dellinger advised that he had been contacted by a supplier of personalized footballs about providing/selling wounded warrior personalized, or other personalization, to veteran organizations. Dave cited an example of footballs with the UGA 1980 football schedule and Vince Dooley's signature as an example of the type work that might be available.

6. Dave Dellinger advised the group that American Legion Post 7 would again be sponsoring the Gainesville Memorial Day Parade and said support from other organizations was both welcome and solicited. Organizations were asked to provide volunteer names to Dave. OPEN (Action: Dave Dellinger/Coalition)
 - a. Each organization was asked to provide a "float."
 - b. There will be four bands this year, thanks to Butch Miller's help.
 - c. It was suggested that Dave contact Dr. Vincent Ramsey, advisor to the UNG Gainesville Campus Student Veterans Organization, about their participation.
 - d. Governor Nathan Deal has been asked to serve as the parade marshal.
 - e. It was suggested that Remington Youngblood, founder of Chage4Georgia (www.change4georgia.org) be considered for honorary Marshall for the parade.
7. Dave Dellinger reported that the Military Pavillion at Post 7 (planned to be made available for all veteran organizations at minimum cost when completed) could use additional donations to see it to completion.
8. Gary McBride informed the coalition of the DAV Chapter 17 award to the Sigma Omega fraternity at the UNG Dahlonega campus for their contribution of all their "Gold Rush" collections to the DAV.
9. Gary McBride informed the group of the Chaplain consortium in Leesburg, Virginia and solicited all area chaplains to attend. (see Atch 1)
10. Gary McBride reminded the group of the DAV Chapter 17 initiative to provide help and support to veteran students at the two UNG campuses and the invitation to each veteran organization to participate. This will be an ongoing activity to help student veterans and a good recruiting opportunity as well. The dates of the next on-campus session will be provided. OPEN (Action: Gary McBride).
11. Stephen McGruder, VSO of American Legion Post 328 and DOL Services Specialist, advised the group that a similar opportunity was being worked in conjunction with the DAV #17 to help veterans seeking employment.
12. David Cooper, American Legion Post 328 Senior Vice Commander, advised the group of the posts efforts in sponsoring both Boys State/Girls State and the American Legion Oratory Competition. More details to be provided. OPEN (ACTION: Post 328)
 - a. It was suggested that CCA may want to provide some financial support to the Boys State/Girls State \$200-250 cost per participant to attend the two-week session at Georgia Southern.
13. Charles Brown, VFW #8452 thanked attendees to the ProCareRX dedication ceremonies.
14. Charles Brown also advised that the VFW was a recipient of a \$10K donation.
15. Charles Brown gave the group a heads up that racing team tours may be possible in the future.
16. Charles Bryan, Marine Corps League Detachment 665 Commandant, reported on the MCL Scholarship being set up at UNG.
17. Bill Kokaly, Representative Doug Collins staff, advised the group that Doug was ready, willing, and able to support veterans organizations as required.
18. Future meetings were agreed to be every other month, starting in January, on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. The next meeting will be March 6, 2013.
19. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Godfrey
Personal Affairs Officer, GMCMOAA

YOU ARE INVITED...

FOR INFORMATION,
CONTACT BOB UBER:

TELEPHONE
(336) 430-8414

rwuber@
gmail.com

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Major General Robert F. Dees, U.S. Army, Retired, served in the military 31 years, commanding units from platoon through division level. After a post-retirement business career with Microsoft, Bob and Kathleen (his wife of 38 years) led non-profit endeavors to assist troops families, and veterans with recovery and resiliency amidst the trauma of war, becoming nationally recognized in this arena.

Dr. Eric Scalise, Ph.D., Ed.S. Professional Counseling, M.Ed. Marriage and Family Therapy, is currently Vice-President for Professional Development with the American Association of Christian Counselors, and formerly Department Chair of Counseling Programs at Regent University, and President of Beacon Counseling & Consulting. Eric has over 30 years of clinical experience in leading therapeutic retreats. He is also the father of two Marine sons, both combat veterans.

Mr. Phil Downer, J.D., USMC Vietnam veteran and currently President of Discipleship Network of American (DNA), rose to senior partner in a 50- attorney law firm. Phil is now a popular speaker at marriage conferences with his wife of 40 years, Susy, at men's conferences with their son, Paul, and at family conferences with Susy, Paul, and their daughter, Anna.

Chaplain (LTC) & Mrs. David

Mikkelson have served as a military couple for 29 years, first in the U.S. Marine Corps, and as an Army chaplain for 16 years. They will speak on maintaining "The Chaplain's Family" in today's military environment. David served in combat as a Brigade Chaplain in 1ID, and he now directs the Family Life Chaplain Training Center in Ft. Bragg, NC.

BE ENCOURAGED AND INSPIRED



Location: National Conference Center (Leesburg, VA)



Gen. Bob Dees



Dr. Eric Scalise



Phil Downer



Chaplain (LTC) & Mrs. David Mikkelson



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