

NORTHEAST GEORGIA VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS COALITION MEETING MARCH 4, 2015

EMAIL	LNAME	FNAME	POSITION, CURRENT OR FORMER	PHONE
Richwatts86@gmail.com	Watts	Richard	Senior Vice Commander, VFW Post 8452	7706541157
sailorskchief@aol.com	Browne	Dave	President, VVA 772	7709001286
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dt Dellinger@charter.net	Dellinger	David	Commander, AL Post 7	7707187676
Dgod72@aol.com	Godfrey	David	Commandant, MCL Det 665	7705192995
Stephen.mcgruder@gdol.ga.gov	McGruder	Stephen	Commander, AL Post 328	3022416228
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Meeting began OA 1900 hrs

RECURRING ISSUES

The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) status

Veteran Jobs. Department of Labor Veteran Jobs Seminar 1000 hrs, March 18-19 at DOL building on Atlanta Highway.

OLD BUSINESS

Post 328 van to DAV for local transport (no report).

2015 GA Legislature bill asks all military retired pay to be tax exempt (no status).

The need for PSTD informational/recognition training (no issues at this time)

Formalizing the coalition as the Northeast Georgia Veteran Organizations Coalition. Draft articles of incorporation passed out for review and comments. (Attached)

NEW BUSINESS

What should we do about organizations claiming to support vets in our area. We discussed actions by individuals, single veteran organizations, and the coalition were discussed.

a. Individuals –

▪ Personal confrontation.

- Some success in past with “phony” organizations.
- Some risk to the individual.

▪ Complain to media when they cover.

- Recent efforts to do so resulted in a reporter claiming it was not the paper’s job to background check their stories.
- It was commented that the media is just interested in filling up columns.

b. Single Organizations.

- The procedures above could be followed by organizations as an extension of their vetting of individuals.
- Coordination would be needed with other organizations to determine who is going to do it.
- Potential for cross purposes

c. Coalition – the lack of a formalized structure limits the effectiveness of coalition action. As an example, see the attached invitation to press to attend this meeting.

d. Stephen McGruder noted that we have vetting procedures for providing assistance to veterans. He suggested we similarly Vet these organization first via their POC. These could be done by individuals, or organizationally by an organization representative.

• Individual Vetting

- Check for valid DD 214. (If not available, offer to assist the individual in obtaining)
- Ask for current circumstances

- Ask for substantiation of need
- Check for service connected disability (VA letter)
- Ask for negative background information
- Organization Vetting
  - Check for number of veterans served
  - Check for legality/purpose of the organization (incorporation & affiliation)
  - Check for qualifications of service providers, if any.
  - Ask for results of the organization to date
  - Determine if organization goals are in line with coalition goals
- Individuals are recommended to the appropriate organization for assistance on favorable vetting.
- Organizations recommended to the coalition for inclusion on favorable vetting.

ACTION (Continuing discussion/consideration in each organization)

ATTACHMENT 1 - DRAFT ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
THE NORTHEAST GEORGIA VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS COALITION**

I, the undersigned natural person of the age of twenty-one (21) years or more, who is a citizen of the State of Georgia, acting as incorporator of a corporation under the Georgia No-Profit Corporation Code, do hereby adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation.

1. The name of the corporation is: The Northeast Georgia Veteran Organizations Coalition.
2. The corporation shall have members. The members of the Corporation shall consist of the military veterans who shall have been recommended by a member of the Board of Directors and shall be members of local organizations. Such organizations must be affiliated with state-wide or national organizations. These organizations shall be those whose representatives are listed as initial directors of the Corporation in Section 6 hereof and of such other organizations as shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and elected to join the coalition at any meeting of the members by a vote of three-fourths of all of the members present. Each member shall have one vote.
3. The number of Directors shall be fixed by the Bylaws, but not be less than five (5) nor more than thirty-five (35). The initial Directors shall be the head (Commander, Commandant, President, Chairperson, etc.) of the participating veteran organizations. The leader of any other organization is elected to join the coalition shall become a member of the Board. Directors shall serve until their replacement in their organizational leadership role by their organization.
4. The corporation's initial registered office address which is the business address of the initial registered agent is: 5888 Meadowfield Trace, Flowery Branch, Hall County, Georgia 30542.
5. The name of the corporation's initial registered agent is Paul W. Godfrey who is a resident of Georgia.
6. The organization and role of the individuals who are to serve as the initial directors until their successors are appointed and qualify are as follows:  
Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8452  
Commander, American Legion Post 7  
Commander, American Legion Post 328  
Commander, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17  
Commandant, Marine Corps League Detachment 665  
President, Military Officer Association of America Georgia Mountain Chapter 18  
Chef de Gare, 40 and 4 Voiture 1317  
President, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 772  
Director, Korean War Veterans of Georgia  
Chairman, Georgia Statewide Veteran Treatment Court Task Force  
State Court Judge, Hall County Veteran Treatment Court
7. This corporation is organized, and shall be operated and administered, as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization qualifying under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, as now in effect or as may hereafter be amended.
8. The purposes for which the corporation is formed are: to promote the common interests and goals of the veteran organizations that are members of the corporation; to advocate policies in Georgia that will advance the well-being and opportunities of those veterans of the uniformed services of the United States of America; to enhance public awareness of the benefits, contributions, accomplishments, and needs of the veterans.

**9.** No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, any member, director or officer of the corporation, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation and to make payments and distributions in the furtherance of the corporation's purposes.

**10.** In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, all of the remaining assets and property of the corporation shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities and obligations of the corporation and for necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to one or more organizations, as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under § 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, and whose purpose is to assist United States uniformed-service members, as the Board of Directors shall determine. In no event shall any of such assets or property be distributed to any individual member, director, officer, or any private individual.

**11.** To the fullest extent permitted by the State of Georgia, as now in effect or as may hereafter be amended, no officer or director of the corporation shall be personally liable for damages in any proceeding brought by or in the right of the corporation, or in connection with any claim, action, suit or proceeding to which he or she may be or is made a party by reason of being or having been an officer or director of the corporation.

**12.** The name and address of the Incorporator is Paul W. Godfrey, 5888 Meadowfield Trace, Flowery Branch, Georgia 30542.



**ATTACHMENT 3 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**March 2015 Calendar**

~ March 2015 ~						
◀ February						April ▶
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 1100hrs Canton, GA., Vietnam Veterans Event  1800 hrs Lakewood Baptist Church, Gospel Music event, DAV
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 1000 hrs Veteran Jobs Event. Department of Labor Bldg, Atlanta Highway, Ganesville	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 <a href="#">Vietnam Veterans March on the Capitol</a>	31	Notes:			

# April 2015 Calendar

~ April 2015 ~						
◀ March						May ▶
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Golden Corral's Camp Corral Event. Supports Veteran's Children. No Uniforms.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	Notes:	

## **ATTACHMENT 2 – Invitation to Gainesville Times**

From: Dr. Paul Godfrey <pgodfrey@charter.net>

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 2:38 PM

To: 'jgill@gainesvilletimes.com'

Subject: Invitation to Attend the Marine Corps League Det#665 Meeting and the Northeast Georgia Veteran Organization Coalition Meeting

Jeff,

Glad we could chat on the phone. First, the invites.

You are invited to attend the Marine Corps League Detachment 665 monthly meeting this Saturday at 9:30 am. The meeting is held in the VFW Building at 1955 Delta Drive in Gainesville. Briefly, the Marine Corps League seeks and supports Marines and Navy Corpsmen that need aid and assistance be it financial, moral support, or help in penetrating the bureaucracy.

You are also invited to attend the Northeast Georgia Veteran Organization Coalition which meets bi-monthly. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2015. The member organizations, and a principal attendee, include American Legion Gainesville Post 7 (Dave Dellinger) and Flowery Branch Post 328 (Stephen McGruder), Marine Corps League Detachment 665 (David Godfrey), Disabled American Veterans Georgia Chapter 17 (Sam Smith), Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 8452 (Charlie Brown), Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 772 (Dave Browne), Military Officers Association of America-Georgia Mountain Chapter 18 (Ray Chastain), Korean War Veterans of Georgia (Paul Scroggs), Forty and Eight Voiture 1317 (Tom Reesman), Georgia Statewide Veterans Treatment Court Taskforce (Harold Nash), and Hall County Veteran Treatment Court (Judge Gene Roberts, Nikki Allemani)

Know that, whether or not you wish to write a story you are welcome.

One of the primary missions of each of our organizations is to help veterans in need. We all follow the watch words of veterans' helping veterans. In fact, several years ago a few members of several of our organizations saw the desirability of informally getting together to share information about efforts and activities of their organizations in this effort. They felt that this might help their individual organizations to better achieve their common and unique primary missions. In fact, the coalition we have today grew from those efforts.

Our efforts include helping veterans with both physical and psychological difficulties and even those involved with the criminal justice system. The suicide issue is not unknown to us and some members of our organizations have been working in an attempt to actually address the issue. Getting veterans to be part of one or more of our organizations is one such effort. I cite the work of the Marine Corps League Detachment 665 as an example. The Veteran Treatment Courts set up in our area last year are already paying dividends and I believe provide a stellar model for courts throughout our state that are struggling with that issue. We even have members of our coalition working to help these statewide courts in that struggle.

Together the eleven veteran organizations of the coalition represent a membership well over a thousand veterans. In addition, we have two non-veteran organizations that have met with us and worked with us to address veteran support issues. Each of our organizations has one or more service officer who work(s) with veterans both in and out of our organization to get them the services they need. They primary work with the VA to ensure the physical or mental care these veterans have earned through their service is made available to them. However, they also work through with veterans in seeking what they earned from the military services, including upgrades of their discharges. Because they are part of statewide and nationwide organization, the service officers can tap resources and expertise needed to be successful in this endeavor.

The veteran organizations in our area also help veterans in need with direct and indirect financial aid. Last year thousands of dollars were raised and spent in direct support of these veterans - the homeless to the heatless, the dislocated to the desperate. We also raise and expend funds to provide enriching experiences to the



wounded warriors among us such as the annual Warriors Golf event the MOAA works to put together. More funds were raised and spent on community projects such as Boys State, Children and Youth Expos, and Toys for Tots, all of which help not only veterans but the community. We do this completely as volunteers with less than a few percent of the money raised being spent in overhead, and that is almost all spent on paying sales taxes (e.g., taxes and fees on the gas bill paid for a veteran temporarily on hard times who couldn't pay a heating bill in the winter). What we hope we have earned is not only a good reputation among veterans in the community but also a very good reputation and high esteem within the community. The community turnout at the Memorial Day parade, run by coalition member organizations, stands testimony to that. In addition, the contributions of all our members to their communities serve to enhance that reputation.

I know we are all pleased when someone takes it upon themselves to help veterans in need. But, I also know that several of us are concerned about the use of veteran assistance moniker to raise money that doesn't seem to go to helping veterans. Some are also concerned about those supposedly doing good deeds in support of these veterans when the "good deeds" only seem to be done for the camera. Recently, even some nationally publicized veterans groups like the Wounded Warriors raise questions in some minds about the very high percentage of funds collected that go to overhead and not the veteran. Yes, I know they have arguments as to why that expense is necessary. But anytime motives or circumstances can be questioned, they will be and they will tarnish our hard won reputation.

Paul

Dr. Paul W. Godfrey, Lt. Colonel, USAF (ret)  
Georgia Mountain Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
Personal Affairs Officer  
Membership Chair