

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD (CCVAB) MEETING MINUTES

Prepared and Submitted by Wilbert Jordan, Secretary

2:30 PM Tuesday, June 26, 2018

VFW Post 6330, 732 Veterans Parkway, Jonesboro, GA. 30238

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order, by Chairman of the Clayton County Veterans Advisory Board (CCVAB), Clarence Burnough, at 2:30 P.M. This meeting was held at the Clayton County Headquarters Library, 865 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro, GA. 30236. Location was changed due to unavailability of VFW Post 6330.
- II. Roll Call: CCVAB Secretary, Wilbert Jordan, called the roll. Present: Wilbert Jordan, Kenneth Gilmore, Preston McGee, Leonard Morgan and Clarence Burnough; Absent: Paul Winfrey.
- III. Minutes from May 24, 2018 were not available.
- IV. Old Business:
 - 1) Community Stakeholders Veterans Support Group: The Chairman and the Secretary, with the assistance of the Board members, are compiling a list of community stakeholders and the services they can offer; using the stakeholders who attended this meeting as a starting point.
 - 2) Grants: The Clayton County Library System is gathering information to see what grants are available to assist veterans in Clayton County.
 - 3) Employment for Veterans: Kenneth Gilmore submitted a list of jobs to Mrs. Linda Ellerby, Assistant Director of Library Services. The Library will publish the list online and have hard copies available at the Headquarters Library and all the Clayton County Library branches. Many veterans use the Library's computers to search for jobs online. They will be able to choose from the list the jobs they are qualified for.
 - 4) Release of Incarcerated Veterans: We're still seeking ways to assist them. Employers who currently hire released incarcerated veterans are Home Depot, Fresh Express, Publix, Kroger, and some employers at the State Farmers in Forest Park.
 - 5) VetFest – Health Fair, Car Show , Benefit Assistance: tentative dates: Aug. 25th, Sept. 8th, or 9th. Sponsored by Visions Outreach – still looking for a location so date can be finalized.
 - 6) Veteran Breakfast: Visions Outreach will host this event at the Riverdale Towne Center, Nov. 10th. Vietnam era veterans, who did not receive Gov. Deal's certificate, will receive them. Leonard wants CCVAB to assist in getting the word out to veterans. It will be helpful to put this on TV Channel 23.
 - 7) Breakfast for Veterans and their families, hosted by Visions Outreach, at Dave and Busters, in Gwinnett County, on Dec. 22nd
 - 8) Bonding Classes for ex-offenders: Leonard Morgan – Location of classes: Department of Labor, 1630 Phoenix Blvd., College Park, GA. 30349. Thursdays at 2:00 P.M.
 - 9) Invited Veterans Affairs Advisory Board of DeKalb County: Wilbert Jordan was asked to invite them to pick a date from the following meeting dates: May 15th, June 12th, Aug. 14th, Sept. 11th, Oct. 9th, Nov. 6th, Dec. 11th. They will get back to us with a date.
 - 10) Veterans Court: Wilbert Jordan sent a copy of "County Applies for Grant to Create Veterans Treatment Court", an article in The Henry County Times* to Courtney Rushin, Assistant Clerk of the Commission, on April 5, 2018. CCVAB agreed that the Clayton County Board of Commissioners should take action to bring a Veterans Treatment Court Program to Clayton County. We also agreed that the Commissioners should send a representative to Henry County Board of Commissioners.** This is now in the hands of Clayton County Board of Commissioners to take action.
 - 11) Honor Vietnam Era veterans: Leonard Morgan – Clayton County needs to do something to honor our veterans who served during the Vietnam Era. These veterans were treated very badly! They are aging. They need to be thanked for their service. The County can ask the businesses to assist them in honoring them, by giving them special discounts, etc. We are waiting for the Clayton County Board of Commissioners to take action.

- V. New Business: 1) Chairman Burnough and the Clayton County Library System printed flyers to announce future dates and location of the meetings of the Clayton County Veterans Advisory Board. Until further notice, meetings will be held at the Headquarters Library, 865 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro, GA. 30236, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. A copy of the flyer is attached.
- 2) Open Forum: Wilbert Jordan made a motion to suspend the Regular meeting to gather information from veterans and organizations that work with veterans. Kenneth Gilmore seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- a) Chairman Burnough stated that the purpose of this Forum was to find out what the veterans want and need and to report this information to the Clayton County Board of Commissioners. Chairman Burnough also invited the organizations that were present to tell the veterans what they had to offer them.
- b) The Library was the first presenter. The Library trains veterans for employment, how to use computers; offers financial literacy classes. They will be available to help veterans gather information to get their benefits.
- c) BB&T Bank representative informed the Board and those present that the new CEO for BB&T has set veterans support as one of his top priorities. They will be offering special training on financial literacy; how to improve your credit; offer special assistance to veterans who want to start a business; or to assist veterans who have an established business to get financial assistance at the library.
- d) Way Point Veteran Services – locate housing, pay rent, file claims with VA, find jobs, job training
- e) Southern Crescent Veterans Services – in process of setting up one-stop shop in Clayton County – Services will include medical, assist with preparation and filing VA claims; help veterans find jobs; work with DFACS to get assistance for veterans and their families. All physicians and other medical staff will offer their services on a pro bono basis.
- f) Black Veterans Helping Veterans – assist with filing VA claims; help veterans locate jobs
- g) Questions from veterans – What assistance can Clayton County give veterans; does Clayton County offer any grants to veterans with financial needs; why doesn't Clayton County put out more information on what assistance is available to veterans in the county; why does it seem as if information for veterans is kept secret; will there be more open meetings like this
- h) Chairman Burnough thanked those present for their participation in this Forum. The veterans and organizations left and we resume our Regular meeting.
- Chairman Burnough asked the Board members to think about the information that was just gathered; and how we could use this to present to the Clayton County Board of Commissioners so they may help the veterans. Chairman Burnough said the CCVAB needs to be a catalyst to help bring together all the organizations that are supporting veterans in our community. Working with the Library, we will prepare a resource list to assist the veterans of our community.

VI. Next meeting: We will hold our next meeting at the Headquarters Library, 865 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro, GA. 30236. Chairman Clarence Burnough set the meeting time for 1:00 PM on Tues., July 10, 2018. The Veterans Public Forum will follow at 2:00 P.M., at the same location.

VII. Other Business: There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Burnough called for a motion to adjourn. Preston McGee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kenneth Gilmore seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment: The Clayton County Veterans' Advisory Board Meeting of June 26, 2018 was adjourned at 3:58 P.M.

**A better alternative may be to invite Cobb County Veterans Court representative to speak to Clayton County Board of Commissioners to further explain the benefits of this Court; with an emphasis on how this would save the County money. Cobb County already has a working Veterans Treatment Program.