

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD (CCVAB) MEETING MINUTES

Prepared and Submitted by Wilbert Jordan, Secretary

2:18 PM Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Clayton County Headquarters Library, 865 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro, GA. 30236

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order, by Chairman of the Clayton County Veterans Advisory Board (CCVAB), Clarence Burnough, at 2:18 P.M. This meeting was held at the Clayton County Headquarters Library, 865 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro, GA. 30236.
- II. Roll Call: CCVAB Secretary, Wilbert Jordan, called the roll. Present: Wilbert Jordan, Kenneth Gilmore, Paul Winfrey, Leonard Morgan and Clarence Burnough; Absent: Preston McGee.
- III. Minutes from June 26, 2018 were read. Leonard Morgan made a motion to accept minutes as read. Kenneth Gilmore seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- 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. List will not be published until we get more stakeholders.
 - 2) Grants: The Clayton County Library System is gathering information to see what grants are available to assist veterans in Clayton County. They are still looking to see what grants are available.
 - 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. Kenneth is working with the Library to develop a plan on how they will be able to publish the information.
 - 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. Tabled until we can get further information on how we can assist these veterans.
 - 5) VetFest – Health Fair, Car Show , Benefit Assistance: tentative dates: Aug. 25th, Sept. 8th, or 9th. Sponsored by Visions Outreach – tentative location will be Towne Center in Riverdale, GA.
 - 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. Date and time still in place.
 - 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: Paul Winfrey informed the Board that Clayton County has funded the Veterans Court. Judge Mack will be in contact with us.
 - 11) Honor Vietnam Era veterans: We are waiting for the Clayton County Board of Commissioners to take action.
 - 12) 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. The flyers were distributed.

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. The meeting was suspended to allow the Open Forum to take place. Our meeting reconvened and we discussed ideas that had been brought up during the Open Forum.

e) Southern Crescent Veterans Services – Keith Horton – gave a presentation about this new non-profit; plans to be a one-stop shop in Clayton County, accessible by MARTA – an umbrella for organizations that work with and help veterans; better to speak as one voice, rather than each organization speaking as individuals. Each organization will maintain its individual identity, but will work with the collaborative to have one solid voice for the veterans in our community. The collaborative could seek grants and supervise fundraisers that would benefit all veterans; not just individual organizations.

f) Stephon's House – a transitional living community that provides housing and specialized supportive services for veterans - Vivian Hughes asked the CCVAB to help with their upcoming fundraiser – The Men of Clayton County Fashion Show, Sat., Nov. 3, 2018, 6 to 10 P.M., at the Morrow Center.

h) Chairman Burnough thanked those present for their participation in this Forum. The veterans and organizations left and we resumed our Regular meeting.

Chairman Burnough said we need to ask each organization to submit to us, in writing, what their organization does for veterans. Wilbert Jordan said it's key that we do our own research, to make sure that these organizations are actually providing the services they are promising to veterans.

Wilbert Jordan made a motion that we only list organizations that we have researched. This motion was seconded by Kenneth Gilmore. Motion carried unanimously.

After hearing from the presenters, Board members agreed that there are four major areas that need to be addressed: Housing, Jobs, Transportation, Health Care.

V. 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., Aug. 14, 2018. The Veterans Public Forum will follow at 2:00 P.M., at the same location.

VI. Other Business: There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Burnough called for a motion to adjourn. Leonard Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Winfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Adjournment: The Clayton County Veterans' Advisory Board Meeting of June 26, 2018 was adjourned at 4:10 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.