

# CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Prepared and Submitted By Wilbert Jordan, Secretary

7:35 P.M., Monday, January 28, 2019 at Clayton County Headquarters Library, 865 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro, GA.  
30236

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clarence Burnough at 7:35P.M. at the Clayton County Headquarters Library, 865 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro, GA. 30236.
  - II. Roll Call: CCVAB Secretary, Wilbert Jordan, called the roll. Present: Clarence Burnough, Kenneth Gilmore, Wilbert Jordan, Paul Winfrey and Wilbert Jordan. Absent: E.J. Childs and Leonard Morgan. E.J. Childs submitted his resignation.
  - III. Minutes from previous meeting: Secretary Wilbert Jordan read the minutes from December 10, 2018 meeting. Kenneth Gilmore made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Paul Winfrey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
  - IV. Old Business: 1) Clayton County Veterans Court: Chairman Burnough gave an update on the first Veterans Court hearing.. This Veterans Court Team went to Cobb County on December 14, 2018, at 8:00 A.M. They observed the Cobb County Veterans Court in action. The case involved a Clayton County veteran who was involved in an incident in Cobb County; so, the case was transferred to Clayton County Court system. Chairman Burnough has been tasked with coordinating to make sure every veteran has a mentor. One of the Court's requirements is that every veteran has a mentor.. Chairman Burnough will be recruiting mentors for this Court Program. He's working to develop a mentorship program where they can train mentors to carry out their responsibilities. Wilbert Jordan asked, "What are the requirements to be a mentor?" judge Mack agreed that combat veterans should be preferred for mentors. at veteran. all areas affecting the family. Chairman Burnough is still working on getting copies of the Veterans Court handbook that pertains to mentors, so we could look and see if we have any suggestions for changes. He said that everything in the book is not carved in stone; so, changes can be made. Wilbert Jordan commented that it looks like they have a good start; we really need this in our county. Veterans Court is looking for a minimum six-month commitment from the volunteers. Chairman Burnough said will probably stay beyond the initial six months. He is considered a volunteer; and is not being paid. Department of Senior Services: Chairman Burnough met with Tori Tanks, Director of Senior Services has invited CCVAB to a meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2018, at 2:00 P.M. He and Mr. Silver are co-chairs of the committee to select the "Veteran of the Month" They have selected Paul Winfrey as the December Veteran of the Month" He will be honored at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners. Tori Tanks wants to have a "Meet and Greet" with the Clayton County Veterans Organizations in January 2019. The December "Veteran of the Month" and the January "Veteran of the Month" will be introduced at this "Meet and Greet". Senior Services will provide refreshments. Kenneth Gilmore and Wilbert Jordan have been appointed to serve on the Senior Services Veterans Committee. There was no "meet and greet" in January. Jobs for Veterans: Kenneth Gilmore will be meeting with Charlie Pugh soon. Charlie Pugh started giving Kenneth a list of jobs that are immediately available for veterans. Kenneth forwarded this list to the library. This information will be passed on to Mrs. Ellerby to be posted on the library website. This information will also be passed on to CCVAB members so they can disseminate it to their contacts. Wilbert Jordan wanted to know if this information could be shared with other organizations that are not veterans organizations.
- 2) Last month, CCVAB member E.J. Childs wanted to know what is being done to get this information out to the public. Kenneth Gilmore said that what we discussed at this meeting shows we are fulfilling our goal of getting the word out. We get the information to Mrs. Linda Ellerby and she publishes it on the library website.
  - 3) Kenneth Gilmore suggested the Board compile a list of information gathered to support veterans – jobs, education benefits, housing benefits, discounts available to veterans, etc. He is still working on gathering information for this list.

4) Kenneth Gilmore wants to put information online that tells veterans how to file claims with the VA. Wilbert Jordan and Paul Winfrey agree that this would not be in the best interest of the veterans. They believe that veterans should not be encouraged to file their own VA claims. The average veteran does not have the necessary knowledge or training to file successful VA claims. They believe it would be better to have the veterans seek assistance from the Service officers of the veterans organizations, in their communities. E.J. Childs suggested we appoint a POC to make sure this information is being placed on the library's website. Chairman Burnough asked Kenneth Gilmore to be this POC. He accepted.

5) Group Discussion: young Marine veteran, out in California, who shot up bar and killed 12 people, including himself and a First Responder. We discussed what we could possibly do to prevent such a tragedy in our community. Law Enforcement had visited this veteran's house on many occasions because of disputes. After the first time, it would have helped if he had been identified as a combat veteran in need of treatment for PTSD. They should have determined whether he had any weapons and remove them for the safety of the community and himself, as well. He should have been placed, involuntarily, in the hands of the VA for mental evaluation. It would be very helpful for First Responders to be trained to know signs and symptoms of PTSD and what steps to take.

V. New Business: Assist veterans with filing VA claims: Paul Winfrey and Kenneth Gilmore are still assisting veterans with claims at VFW Post 6330.

2) The Homeless Veterans Workforce Development Program: Wilbert Jordan received an concerning a VA grant to work with 16 metro Atlanta countries, spearheaded by Hope, Atlanta. This grant will provide housing for 150 homeless veterans, other assistance for 300 veterans, job and other assistance. This Program will help Clayton County homeless veterans, by addressing one of the key issues CCVAB was set up to address. The Director of this program is a retired, disabled Marine Corps veteran. This Program will have a positive impact on the homeless population in Clayton County.

Reflections: Wilbert Jordan, looking back over 2018, this Board has the following successes: pushing for creation of Veterans Court, hosting community stakeholders' meeting of community organizations working with veterans, establishing working relationships with Senior Services and Clayton County Library System, working with veteran service organizations in conducting their programs, establishing a process to work with Department of Labor to gather information to help veterans with employment. One complaint: Stakeholders accused CCVAB of not following up. We need to do a better job in 2019.

VI. There being no further business to discuss, Leonard Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kenneth Gilmore seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Burnough set the next meeting for Mon., Feb. 18, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., at Clayton County Headquarters Library, 865 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro, GA. 30236. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.