



North Carolina Veterans Council Minuets
July 19, 2021
American Legion Department of North Carolina
2940 Falstaff Road, Raleigh, NC

Meeting called to order by Acting Commander Brenda Brubaker at 1:00 PM

Invocation: US Navy Chaplain Randy Cash, Adjutant Department of NC American Legion

Pledge of Allegiance: Acting Commander Brubaker

Roll Call/Quorum: Secretary Fran Perez-Wilhite called the roll of Council's officers and member organizations present and logoed on via Zoom. Council Officers present were: Acting Commander Brenda Brubaker and Secretary Treasurer Fran Peres-Wilhite. Member Organizations present were Department of NC American Legion, AmVETS, Fleet Reserve Association, MOPH, MOAA, NCVVA, NC National Guard Association, NC Department of ROA, and VFW Department of NC. Ex-Official Members present were NCDMVA, NCNG, NC VetBiz, USDOL/VETS, US Department of Veterans Affairs, and Office of US Senator Richard Burr.

Introduction of Guest and New Members: Lt Gen, USMC (Ret)Walter Gaskin, Secretary NCDMVA, Michael Merzks, Western Governors University, Past Council's Commanders Elree T. Smith and James Hicks were recognized. New member James Adams, Reserve Officers Association.

Reports - Minuets/Treasurer/Commander:

- The Minuets of the April 12, 2021, Meeting of the NC Veterans Council was approved as printed and distributed on a Motion by Elree T. Smith, VFW and properly Seconded.
- Treasurer Fran Perez-Wilhite rendered the Council's Treasurer's Report, the current bank balance is \$5,545.92. Treasurer Perez-Wilhite also reported that she will be resigning from office of the Council's Treasurer due to an increase of activities in her full-time employment. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote after a proper Motion and Second.
- Acting Commander Brubaker thanked the Council's member organizations for their support by their presence in the gallery of the NC House of Representative as they passed HB 83 by a vote of 100 to 5. Also, it was mentioned that the Council has had four (4) Commanders in 2 years and have managed to push Legislative priorities and reinitiated participation in the Council' activities.

Unfinished Business:

- Updates
 1. Media-Website/PO Box/Social Media/ – The old Council’s Website (.org) is no longer active. Need a new Website where the Council own the domain name. Need suggestions for a new web designer. Past Commander Smith will obtain a US Post Office Box in the Raleigh, NC area.
 2. Legislative priorities – Larry Coleman of the NC National Guard Association offered to use his organization Bill tracking tool to stay informed on veterans Bills.
 3. HB 83 passed in the NC House, currently sitting in NC Senate Rules Committee.
 4. Ray Martin of the Fleet Reserve Association reported that the Green Alert Legislation is dead in the NCGA. Must rely on passage in US Congress. He also reported that the POW/MIA Bill was introduced in May. A recommendation has been made that an Executive Order may be needed to get the Bill some traction.
 5. The Council was updated on the funding of the DMVA. Several Bills have been passed in the NCGA that is striping funds from State Nursing Homes Fund to fund other programs. This reflects a reduction of funds managed by the DMVA.
 6. Michael Merzks of the Western Governor University presented a Veteran Friendly State Proclamation to be presented the NC Governor for issuance by his office.
 7. The issuance of a proclamation by the Governor to honor the Gold, Silver and Blue Stars parents.

New Business:

- Election of officers – This will be the first full election following the change to the Bylaws.
 - Commander – rest of term (1 year)
 - Vice Commander – full 2-year term
 - Treasurer – full two-year term(Commander and Secretary elected on even years, Vice and Treasurer on odd)

Officers nominated and elected

1. Commander – Larry Coleman
2. Vice Commander – Jerry “Jay: Woods
3. Treasurer – Jeri Graham

4. Secretary – Elree T. Smith

- The newly elected leadership team will file the Change of Registered form with the NC Secretary of State to update the Council's Registered Agent.

Report from Ex-Officio Members:

- Steve Wilkins gave a report on VISN 6. VISN 6 has a newsletter that's available to the leadership of the Council's member organizations. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please sign-up.
- Fran supplied an update on activities of the NC Military Business Center.
- Terry Westbrook supplied an update on activities ongoing in the DMVA.

Announcements from Council Members:

- Received reports from member organizations
- Council's secretary asked that members organizations update their information for the roster.

Next meeting date: Next meeting will be held October 18, 2021, at 10:00 AM. Location will be announced at a later date.

Closing Ceremonies:

- Benediction – Chaplain Randy Cash
- Salute to Flag
- Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

For Fran Perez Wilhite
By Elree T. Smith, Secretary
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