



North Carolina Veterans Council Minuets

July 25, 2022

The Commons at Congdon Yards

410 W. English Road, High Point, NC 27262

Meeting called to order by Commander Larry Coleman (NCNGA) at 10:00 AM

Commander Coleman introduced official from High Point, NC that hosted to North Carolina Veterans Council's July 2022 meeting.

Patrick Davis, Executive Director Heroes Center, High Point, NC

Victor Jones, High Point City Councilman, Heroes Center, High Point, NC

Melody Burnette, President Visit High Point Tourism Bureau

Brian Norris, High Point Chamber of Commerce

**Invocation:** Jay Wood (VFW), Vice Commander/Chaplain North Carolina Veterans Council

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Jeri Graham (MOAA), Treasurer North Carolina Veterans Council

**Roll Call/Quorum:** Secretary Smith (VFW) called the roll of Council's officers and member organizations present and logged on via Zoom. Council Officers present were Commander Larry Coleman, Vice Commander/Chaplain Jay Wood, Treasurer Jeri Graham, and Secretary Elree T. Smith. Michael Merzke, Sergeant at Arms was excused. Member Organizations present were AMVETS, Fleet Reserve Association, MOAA, MOPH, Montfort Point Marine Association, NC National Guard Association, Reserves Organization of America, VFW Department of NC and Vietnam Veterans of America NC State Council. Ex-Official Members present were NC Brain Injury Advisory Council, NCDMVA, NC Department of Commerce, NC Military Business Center, Raleigh Alpha Lambda Chapter of Kappa Epsilon Psi Military, Inc., US Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Report – Minutes:**

Council's Secretary Smith (VFW) made a Motion to approve the Minuets as printed and distributed to members subject to any corrections or deletions. The Motion was Seconded by Brenda Brubaker (NCVVA) and passed by voice vote.

**Introduction of Guest and New Members:**

- 1) Bradley Moses, Veterans Research Engagement Panel
- 2) Patrick Davis, The Heroes Center

**New Members:** There was no new member application to consider.

### **Guest Speakers Presentations:**

- 1) Bradley Moses, VetREP Model provided a brief history and mission of the Veterans Research Panel. Additionally, with the assistance of Karrie White, he provided a presentation entitled Veteran and Veterans Caregivers Engagement in VA Research The VetREP Model. The full presentation is available for viewing on the Council's website: [ncveteranscouncil.org](http://ncveteranscouncil.org).
- 2) Patrick Davis, Executive Director of the Heroes Center, High Point, NC provided a brief history and programs provided by the Center to local veterans. To view the full presentation please visit the Council's website: [ncveteranscouncil.org](http://ncveteranscouncil.org).

### **Reports – Treasurer/Commander/Vice Commander/Committee:**

#### **Vice Commander/Legislative Report:**

- 1) Vice Commander Wood (VFW) rendered a report on North Carolina Veterans Council Proposed Legislative Priorities 2022. A list of Council's Proposed Legislative Priorities was provided to the Council's member organizations for their review. The Council's Legislative Committee members are requested to respond by September 1, 2022, their organization's ranking of the proposed priorities.
- 2) Jeri Graham (MOAA) Legislative Committee reported on the recent past North Carolina Budget. The final NC State Budget Bill did address an issue related to a class of Federal Uniformed Service Retirees not included in the previously signed legislation that provided tax exemption to retired members of the US Armed Forces.
- 3) There will be a VA My Hometown VA Benefits event in Charlotte, NC August 18-20, 2022.

#### **Secretary:**

- 1) Secretary Elree T. Smith (VFW) reminded member organizations to update their leadership information following their annual meeting.

#### **Treasurer:**

- 2) Treasurer Jeri Graham (MOAA) rendered the Council's Financial Report of Receipts and Disbursements. Receipts for the period were \$450.00 and Disbursements were \$348.00

#### **Commander:**

- 3) Commander Coleman (NCNGA) reported on three items that the Council should focus on as we strive to meet the needs of the veterans of the state.
  - a. Seeking member organization to host next Council meeting.
  - b. Please submit your dues for the 2022-2023 membership year.
  - c. When sending in your new leadership team, please provide your membership numbers.
- 4) Commander Coleman (NCNGA) opened the floor for the nominations of the Commander, Vice Commander and Secretary of the NC Veterans Council.
  - a. Commander Jay Wood (VFW)
  - b. Vice Commander Tammy Williamson (MPMAC38)
  - c. Secretary Larry Coleman (NCNGA)

- 5) With no additional nominations from the floor, the officers were elected by accumulation.

### **Voting Member Organizations Reports:**

- 1) AMVETS, Larry Reid reported that July 30, 2022, they will be participating in a motorcycle ride to Washington, DC.
- 2) MOAA, Jeri Graham reported that MOAA participated in grand style in the Advocacy In Action in Washington, DC.
- 3) Fleet Reserves, Ray Martin reported that there is an online training program for Veterans Service Officers.
- 4) Vietnam Veterans of America, Brenda Brubaker reported:
  - a. The VA Health Care has produced a pocket card with questions that veterans should ask their medical providers.
  - b. VVA has a brochure relating to conditions caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other defoliants used during the war in Vietnam.
  - c. The Military Caregiving Guide produced by AARP and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.
- 5) Montford Point Marine Association, Tammy Williamson reported, the Durham VAMC is seeking veterans to participate in the eat well program.

### **Reports from Ex-Officio Members:**

- 1) NCDMA, Terry Westbrook reported:
  - a. Edward Sinclair is the Department's Field Operations Manager.
  - b. The Independent Fund and the Veteran Treatment Court or two organizations that is advocating for the same thing. A suggestion has been made that they reorganize in to one group.
  - c. The Kernersville State Veteran Home is waiting for a certificate of occupancy.
  - d. The Governors Working Group has established Veterans Housing Sub-Committee.
  - e. Mission 85 a Regional Nonprofit Veterans Service Organization has been organized. The Veterans Bridge Home is the North Carolina lead agency.
- 2) Additional notes:
  - a. There will be a Veterans Standdown in Durham, NC September 17, 2022.
  - b. There will be a Goldstar Family Dinner August 27,2022, to be held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, 4700 Emperor Blvd., Durham, NC. The time for the event is from 5:00 – 8:00 pm.

**Unfinish Business:** There was no unfinished business.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

### **Closings:**

Closing prayer was offered by Chaplain Jay Wood

Meeting was close in due form Commander Coleman at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elree T. Smith, Secretary

North Carolina Veterans Council

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