



Highlands County
Veterans Advisory Board
Veteran Services Office
7209 South George Boulevard
Sebring, Florida 33875 -5847

AGENDA

**Next meeting
Thursday,
October 6, 2016
3:30 p.m.**

Call to Order:

**Invocation
Pledge
Sunshine Law
Roll Call
Approval of Minutes
Introduction of Guests**

Old Business:

New Business:

Open Discussion:

Last Words:

Adjourn:

July 7, 2016

Chairman Robin Carney called the meeting to order at 3:30p.m. Denise Williams provided the invocation, and Chairman Carney led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Sunshine Law and roll call were read by Chairman Carney in the absence of an official secretary. Members present for today's meeting are: Chairman Robin Carney, Bud Wallen, Vice Chairman Harry Oakley, Doug Tait, Michael Basile, and Marvin Desselle. Non-voting members present: Denise Williams, Highlands County CVSO. One guest was present: Byron Oakley.

Old Business: Motion was made to approve the February 18, 2016 meeting minutes by Bud Wallen and seconded by Michael Basile. Motion unanimously approved.

New Business:

There is one current open position on the Advisory Board, Michael Brigante (Member At Large), resigned for health reasons. Two positions will be open in September, Donald (Bud) Wallen(LP) will have fulfilled his maximum allowable service on the VAB, and Robin Carney(SEB) will have completed 1 term on the VAB. In May, Secretary Carter forwarded the information to Gloria Rybinski to post and advertise the open positions. Only one application was received, from Robin Carney to fulfill a second term. Ms. Carney's application and DD214 were reviewed by the board, and a motion was made by Michael Basile and seconded by Marvin Desselle to accept Ms. Carney for a second term. A vote was taken with unanimous approval. Ms. Carney's term will be 9/2016-9/2019.

Doug Tait made a motion and seconded by Bud Wallen for Madam Chairman Carney and Vice Chairman Oakley to be reelected and continue in their current positions.

Mr. Tait asked the board, at their convenience, to visit the website for "Your Grateful Nation". Also, he asked for suggestions on how to find veterans for employment. A discussion was held with many different ideas for Mr. Tait.

Mr. Desselle asked the board to be aware of HR2493, Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act of 2015. It directs the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs (VA) to jointly establish the K-9 Companion Corps program for the awarding of grants to assist nonprofit organizations in establishing, planning, designing, and/or operating programs to provide assistance dogs to certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans who have certain disabilities. Defines "assistance dog" to mean a dog specifically trained to perform physical tasks to mitigate the effects of such a disability, except that such term does not include a dog specifically trained for comfort or personal defense.

Bert Harris Agriculture Center for this purpose. More information at a later date.