



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

## AGENDA 9/10/2015

- Call to Order
- Invocation
- Pledge
- Sunshine Law
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes
- Introduction of guests
- Old Business
- New Business
- Open Discussion
- Last words
- Adjourn

August 11, 2015

### Call to Order:

President Robin Carney called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., Denise Williams, CVSO provided the invocation. Robin Carney led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Sunshine Law, and Carol West, VSO held roll call.

Members present for today's meeting are, President Robin Carney, Bud Wallen, Doug Tait, Marvin Desselle, Harry Oakley and Michael Brigante. Non-voting members present, Highlands County Commissioner Jack Richie, Denise Williams, and Carol West.

Marvin Desselle made the motion to accept the July minutes, seconded by Michael Brigante, motion carried.

### Old Business:

President Robin Carney stated we have three vacancies on the board, one for Member at Large, one for Sebring, and one for Lake Placid. Four resumes were read for consideration, one representative for Lake Placid and three representatives for Sebring. A paper vote was held for 6 voting members who were present. Non-voting member Carol West counted the votes. Voted in for Sebring was nominee Michael Basile, for Member at Large nominee Michael Brigante, and for Lake Placid nominee Marvin Desselle. Denise Williams will prepare the consent and action item agenda's for the board meeting September 1, 2015. Letters will be mailed to the new members and individuals not chosen.

### New Business:

Denise Williams has secured the Bert J. Harris Ag Center for the VA Benefits Fair on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Advisory Board and the VSO will be spearheading this project. Advisory Board members should bring ideas for this benefit Fair to the next meeting. Larry Roberts is promoting a VA Benefits Fair in Avon Park on September 12, 2015.

Administrative Assistant Sarah Carter has been promoted to a position in the Road and Bridge Department, volunteers will assisting at the VSO when available.

VSO Carol West will be deploying to Germany for 4 months, beginning in September 2015.

Ms. Williams passed out handouts on Military Sexual Trauma. The House has recently passed a bill on this issue. The VSO saw 338 clients in July. Numbers were down from previous months because Denise was out of the office on military training.

Ms. Williams asked for a volunteer to find a homeless camp in Highlands County to drop off some clothing, toiletries and other useful items. President Carney volunteered.

### Open Discussion:

Medal of Honor Memorial (MOHM) update provided by guest Harry Oakley, Chairperson of the MOHM. Everything is progressing, the MOHM has received approval for the land north of the Veteran Service Office.

President Carney revisited the issue Mr. Tait had begun last meeting about the Advisory Board website being sorely out of date. Even though the VSO contacted the Public Affairs Officer, it is still out of date. Commissioner Richie stated he would have the site updated.

Next meeting will be held September 10, 2015, at 3:30pm in the Veteran Services Office.

**Adjourn:**

Motion was made by Bud Wallen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michael Brigante. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.