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Post 543 Spearheads Brunswick County Veterans Coalition

The Department of North Carolina American Legion Post 543 has spearheaded an initiative to create a Brunswick County Veteran's Coalition patterned after the New Hanover Veteran's Coalition.

There are three goals of the Coalition: first, to speak with one voice to the political leadership within the county on issues affecting the veterans of the county; second, to coordinate activities of its members and third, to share information which may be of interest to Brunswick County veterans.

The first meeting was held on January 24th with subsequent meetings March and May. These meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday every other month. The coalition continues to grow with representatives from American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans, and other veteran organizations.

Speakers have been invited to enlighten the Coalition members with information relative to veteran interests. Recently, a representative from Congressman Rouzer's office provided information on initiatives the Congressman is sponsoring as well as legislation which is currently being considered at the national level affecting veterans. A representative from the Brunswick County Veteran's Assistance office came to a recent meeting and explained services his office provides to the veterans of Brunswick County.

Meetings are not held at one location. Members of the coalition have volunteered the use of their facilities for these meetings. Thus far meetings have been conducted at American Legion and VFW Posts. Currently, there is only one officer of the organization which is the Chairman, Gary Crowden (Commander, American Legion Post 543). The meetings are very informal and there are no dues collected. Coalition members are invited to bring their comments and concerns to these meetings and meetings are limited to two hours.

The initial feedback from the participants is very favorable. Should any Post choose to visit one of the meetings, the invitation is always open. The next meeting will be held at the Holden Beach VFW on July 12th from 10:00 to noon. Further information on the Coalition can be obtained by emailing the Chairman at garycrowden@aol.com.