

MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL

July, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Recorded ZOOM Meeting

1. **Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Chairman Edwin Robinson** via Zoom, with a prayer and all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
 2. **Chair Comments:** Chairman Robinson stated that for the foreseeable future, the meetings of the Council will take place via ZOOM. This is in recognition of and sensitivity to those members of the Council who are at high risk for contracting COVID-19. Chairman has heard from many Council members that they do not feel comfortable as yet being in a building among a large group of people.
 3. **Guest Speaker:** There were no Guest Speakers at this meeting.
 4. **Recognition of Special Guests and First Time Guests:** Chairman Robinson recognized Bob Greene, who returned to the Council after addressing medical issues. Chairman was jealous of Mr. Greene's new beard.
 5. **Roll Call & Minutes:** Roll Call was conducted by Treasurer Margaret Smelser (in the absence of Secretary William Carey), and quorum was established. Chairman Robinson stated the minutes of the June meeting would be tabled to August due to Secretary's busy schedule and the Chairman not being able to publish the minutes in time for the meeting due to his new position at Turning Points taking a lot of time.
 6. **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Treasurer Smelser, and unanimously moved to review.
 7. **Organizational Reports:** **Lee Washington (Manatee County Veterans Svs.)** reported that the offices have moved to a new building, located at 305 15th Street West. Due to COVID restrictions, the building is not open to the public. Also, Lee reported their female veterans campaign is coming to an end. He said that many female veterans were not seeking their earned VA benefits. **Todd Hughes (Goodwill Veterans Svs.)** reported that Carlos Moreira (USFSM Veterans Success) was being promoted to 1st Sergeant. Also, the office is open to help veterans with employment and employment related matters. Jobs are available. Send clients his way. **Chairman Robinson (Turning Points)** reported that there will be a Stand Down committee meeting on Monday, 20 July at 1:30pm via ZOOM. **Richard McDaniel (JFCS)** reported that both organizations are able to assist veterans with emergency housing assistance with funds through the CARES Act.
 8. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Veterans Day Ceremony/Awards Update:** Vice Chair Don Courtney stated that he will allow another couple of weeks to confirm alternate plans, but he said that if a decision was made today, the Veterans Day Ceremony and Awards Presentation would be similar to our Memorial Day Ceremony. It would be presented virtually either using the Manatee County BOCC Chambers or at Veterans Monument Park. Due to current events, the Parade will be scrapped for this year. Vice Chairman asked that if anyone knew of a potential guest speaker to please let him know. As for the awards program, Chairman Robinson encouraged members to submit nominations in all categories, to encourage a more competitive field of candidates.
 7. **Standing Committees** – No reports from either the Legislative or Veterans Monument Park committees
 - 8, **New Business:**
 9. **Around the Room:** Members mentioned various programs & projects.
 10. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer by Chairman Robinson at 12:15 PM.
- Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the MCVV will be **by Zoom on Thursday August 20, 2020 at 11:00 AM**

FOR THE SECRETARY

Respectfully Submitted,
Edwin D. Robinson
Chairman