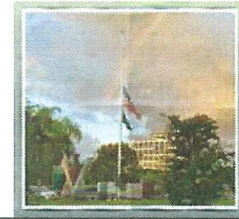




MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 1881  
BRADENTON, FL 34206  
WWW.MY-MCVC.ORG



**Minutes of the August 15, 2019 Meeting**  
**Manatee County Veterans Council Monthly Meeting**  
**Location: American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 in Bradenton, Florida**

Chairman Edwin D. Robinson opened the meeting at 11am with all in attendance reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by prayer from Chaplain Patricia Stiles.

1. **Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Robinson welcomed all in attendance.
2. **Guest Speakers:** There were no Guest Speakers
3. **Recognition of Special Guests/First Time Guests:** John Rosentrater (Sarasota National Cemetery) introduced Edward Lyons, III. Mr. Lyons is the new Assistant Director at the Cemetery. Steve Nichols of Manasota Veterans introduced their newest Board Member Capt. Michael Hartford (USN, Ret.). Jeff Duncan introduced himself as the new Clinical Director of Volunteers of America – Manatee Veterans Village.
4. **Roll Call:** In the absence of Secretary William Carey, Treasurer Margaret Smelser called for a quorum by having all voting members identify themselves. Chairman Robinson, with assistance from Treasurer Smelser, confirmed the quorum. A quorum was established per MCVC Bylaws.
5. **Minutes:** Chairman Robinson presented both the Minutes of the June 20<sup>th</sup> and July 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting. Motion was made to waive the reading of the Minutes for both the June and July meeting. Motion received a second. Motion passes unanimously. Motion was made to accept the Minutes of both the June 20<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Meetings. Motion received a second. Without discussion or objection, motion passes unanimously.
6. **Treasurer Report:** Treasurer Margaret Smelser provided the financial report. There was a motion to file for review. The motion received a second and was passed unanimously.
7. **Primary Representatives Reports:**
  - a. MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES (Lee Washington) – As of this afternoon the memorial site for our fallen heroes in Manatee County will be live on the county website. It will feature the names of our fallen service members to include from Afghanistan and Iraq, along with audio bytes from their family members, friends and/or their service mates.
  - b. MANATEE VETERANS VILLAGE – There will be a picnic at the village next Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. The Manasota Elks will serve as the hosts for the event. All veterans and family and friends are invited to this event.
  - c. SARASOTA NATIONAL CEMETERY – Director John Rosentrater announced Saturday, September 7 at 9:00am, the Cemetery will host a “POW/MIA-o Ree.” The event will include the Boy Scouts from the community. The names of every veteran interred in the Cemetery will be read. Assistant Director Edward Lyons, III. gave remarks. Chairman Robinson thanked Assistant Director Lyons for his service and welcomed him to attend future meetings.
  - d. STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA STUDENT VETERANS – The organization is gearing up for a new Fall Semester, beginning August 19. There will be a new slate of officers who will attend Council meeting in future days.
  - e. TURNING POINTS: Chairman Robinson spoke on behalf of the organization. Plans were underway for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Stand Down event, which will take place on Saturday, 02 November 2019 at the Manatee County Fairgrounds. The planning committee is moving steadily. The next meeting will take place on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at Turning Points. Motion was made



to donate \$250 to Turning Points for the Stand Down. Motion received a second. Without objection, the motion passes unanimously.

**8. Old Business:**

- a. MCVC WEBSITE: Les Martin, Webmaster at American Legion Post 24 Kirby Stewart remarked that the website is a work in progress, but it is operational. The new website will be [www.mymcvc.org](http://www.mymcvc.org) (same address, without the hyphen). It was agreed up on by consensus that the financial sections of the website be secured access. Chairman Robinson rendered thanks and officially appointed him as Council Webmaster.
- b. BRADENTON SENIOR SOFTBALL CHALLENGE – Chairman Robinson spoke spiritedly about the Howard Spry Memorial Softball Tournament to take place on November 06 at Palma Sola Park. Chairman Robinson asked for able members to step up and become part of one or two teams to participate.

**9. Standing Committees:**

- a. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Brian Russ provided information that Congressman Buchanan sent out a communication encouraging veterans to begin utilizing the features of the Mission Act. There was also an update from the VA regarding new disability ratings as it pertains to auto-immune deficiencies and infectious diseases. He also spoke on the Heroes Partners Program.
- b. VETERANS MONUMENT PARK – Jim Klocke reported that all is well at the park. Due to the recent rains the weeds will be taken care of next week.

**10. New Business:** There was no New Business

**11. Around The Room:**

- a. Lakewood Ranch Elks announced that on November 13, at their lodge, they will be hosting a Veterans Free Luncheon from 12pm to 3pm.
- b. Jerry Koontz announced the annual Veterans Day Luncheon sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. The event will take place at 12 noon on Tuesday, 05 November 2019 at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. The club is expecting over 250 in attendance.
- c. Lisa Reese of the American Red Cross has a new box of Comfort Kits. Council members are invited to take one and give to a Veteran in need.
- d. Gill Ruderman reported that the Financial Review Committee did not meet this morning before the meeting. They will attempt to meet after the meeting. Also, Megan Schrader of Life Pharmacy would make an appearance to present a check to the Council as Life Pharmacy donates 10% of their OTC proceeds to a non-profit organization. Lastly, after some effort, MCVC has been approved and will now receive a monthly check from Bingoland's proceeds.

**13. Closing Prayer** by Chaplain Stiles. Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm The next MCVC meeting will be held on Thursday September 19, 2019 at the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24, beginning at 11am.

Respectfully Submitted,

EDWIN D. ROBINSON  
Chairman, Manatee County Veterans' Council  
FOR WILLIAM CAREY, SECRETARY