



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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September Meeting, Thursday, September 16, 2021

- 1. Meeting was called to order** at 11:00am by Chairman Edwin Robinson. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 24.
- 2. Invocation:** Chairman Edwin Robinson opened the meeting with prayer – a moment of silence for remembrance of those fallen of September 11 twenty years ago and folks involved in the Afghanistan situation. Edwin Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
- 3. Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Edwin Robinson received thanks from the Manasota Elks Post 2734 for the donation to assist them supporting and volunteering with the Manatee Veterans Village. Chairman honored the Klocke's and Manasota Elks Post 2734 for their dedication to supporting Veterans, specifically at the Veteran Village.
- 4. Guest Speaker:** Jimmie Smith with Concerned Veterans for America gave a presentation regarding advocating for Veterans with the Veteran Affairs health care policies.
- 5. Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 21 people of whom 15 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
- 6. Minutes:** August's minutes were voted for approval as amended. Donald Courtney made the motion; Woody Schiffman seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
- 7. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Margaret Smelser. Chairman Edwin Robinson moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.
- 8. Primary representative reports:**
Manatee County Veteran Services: Lee Washington reported that the flag pole repairs have been resumed now that the staff has recovered from COVID. There are additional recommended repairs that will cost a total of \$2,440. Manatee County will pay for half of this additional cost. Washington announced that Manatee County has identified funds to convert the old jail into transitional Veteran housing.



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Manatee Veterans Village: Tricia Sadler announced three Veterans successfully found permanent housing and three new Veterans will be moving in.

SCF Student Veterans: Lisa Goss reported over 320 Veterans are currently enrolled in SCF. Paycheck for Patriots event will be in November. Marketing for this event will come out soon. Job Fair will be held in person over four campuses with focused areas per campus – Volunteers for resume workshops are needed; tasks include reviewing and creating resumes; “how to” videos are being created. SCF will hold a music concert as a salute to Veterans on Veterans Day.

Turning Points is working on the Standdown

Goodwill Veteran Services is working to employ many Veterans; Todd Hughes sends his regards

9. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Jim Klocke reported that he is getting quotes for repairing or replacing the benches. Current quotes are a total of \$800 to fix them all or \$1,000 for one new bench. Thank you Jim for researching the bench maintenance. A motion was made to complete the repair of benches for \$800 from the general fund. Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney made the motion; Rich Blunt seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval. Large flagpole repairs are under way and require additional repairs. A motion was made to complete the additional repairs to the large flagpoles as recommended for half of the cost – totaling \$1,220. Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney made the motion; Lisa Goss seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.
- **Legislative:** Kevin Wright, DAV Post 18, reported that Representative Tommy Gregory will be local and to contact Kevin with any requests so he can forward them.

10. Old Business:

- **BOCC Pledge Program:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, reports there is an open slot for a volunteer in December. Donald presented the pledge at the last meeting.
- **Veteran scholarship** Rich Blunt from the committee reported that additional guidance from the MCVV members is needed regarding the amount of the grant;



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multiple years or one for the grant; including multiple schools or one (7 high schools in Manatee.) Direct comments to Blunt.

- **Veteran's Day Ceremony:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, reported he is looking for guest speaker for the ceremony.
- **Award Submission:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, reported that there two for Auxiliary of the Year, two for volunteer of the year and no submissions for Veteran of the year. After discussion MCVV members agreed to extend applicants for one more month. A motion was made to suspend application guideline of one page summary and accept two page submission for Auxiliary of the Year. Woody Schiffman made the motion; Tricia Sadler seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye" or "Nay" for opposing. The vote was ruled by the "Nay" for opposing. In October submission will be posted on the website for review and voting.
- **Discussion of Change in Membership Requirements:** Committee to change By Law wording to open membership up to individuals was represented by Gill Ruderman. Ruderman stated more research was needed and that this topic be tabled for the time being. Chairman, Edwin Robinson requested the research to continue.
- **Recruitment of Members:** Chairman, Edwin Robinson, is writing a letter that will be delivered by Bob Greene with the BIBWAC publication
- **Manatee 2021 Standdown** November 6 from 8a-12p. Application has been approved to have a table. Sadler to create a schedule to man the table. Sign up will happen at the October meeting.

11. New Business:

- **2022 Officers:** Nominating committee was formed for the recruitment of new board members. The committee consists of Treasurer, Margaret Smelser, Lee Washington, Kevin Wright and Tricia Sadler.

12. Around the Room: Community Events were presented:

- American Legion Department of Florida announced their Golf Tournament on 4/9/22 at Post 1 in Titusville. The proceeds are the children and youth.
- American Legion Family Children & Youth Announces an exotic Eastern Caribbean cruise in November 2021.
- Knights of Columbus announced 30th Annual Military Ball from 5-9pm on November 6, 2021. All proceeds go to SE Guide Dogs Paws for Patriots Program.



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- Manatee County has three employment positions open in the Veteran Program – please see the Manatee county website employment opportunities
 - Woody Schiffman reported that the rededication of Sarasota statue DAV had a great turn out on August 14th. He announced that Bob Moffitt, Music Man, is offering to provide entertainment by playing the Saxophone to seniors and Veterans for free at nursing home and rehab facilities. For additional information see Woody.
 - Sarasota Veteran Center is open provides services for Veteran trauma survivors. Please see Dwight English for more information.

13. Closing Prayer: Chairman Edwin Robinson led the closing prayer.

14. Meeting Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Edwin Robinson at 12:16pm.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2021 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler