



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



May 16, 2019

Manatee County Veterans Council Monthly Meeting

Location: American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 in Bradenton, Florida

Chairman Carl Hunsinger began the meeting at 11:05 am with all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by prayer from Pat Stiles.

Chairman Hunsinger welcomed all in attendance and briefly went over the agenda. He also informed all about a new forum at Goodwill Manasota Veteran Services called “Lutz Buddy Up”. Carl announced that this would be his last Council meeting as Chairman and the June meeting will be led by newly elected officers.

1. New Members/Guests: New members and guests were introduced.
2. Chairman Hunsinger called for a quorum by having all voting members identify themselves. The Chair and Vice Chair confirmed the quorum with an updated membership roster. A quorum was established per MCVC Bylaws. Our Secretary Lance Biddle was absent for this meeting.
3. April Minutes: There was a motion on the floor to accept the minutes as presented. We had a second and the motion was carried unanimously.
4. Treasurer Report: Margaret Smelser provided the financial report. The specifics can be reviewed on the website at www.my-mcvc.org under the secured page. There was a motion to file for review. The motion received a second and was passed unanimously.
5. Manatee County Veterans’ Services: Lee Washington announced that he will accept the Manatee County Memorial Day Proclamation. The Marine Corps League Det 588 will present the colors.
6. Sarasota National Cemetery: John Rosentrater provided an update on services provided at the cemetery. He also included information on related benefits and recommended that more information be obtained from your county Veteran services office as well as other VSOs. He discussed the upcoming Memorial Day ceremony to be held at the cemetery as well as the placement of flags for fallen Veterans. Every second Wednesday of the month we have a ceremony for internment of unaccompanied Veterans.
7. Veterans Court Manatee County, 12 Judicial Circuit: Bill Carey informed all that we had one more successful graduate. We still need volunteer mentors and a female Veteran mentor is needed immediately.
8. Sarasota County Veterans Commission: Nothing new added. Carlos Moreira is their new President.
9. Turning Points: Edwin Robinson provided an update on what Turning Points has done for Veterans.
10. Old Business: Margaret still needs help to complete the financial forms and unfortunately the individual that offered to help is on vacation all summer. Carl Hunsinger offered to assist our Treasurer, Margaret.
11. Standing Committees:

- a. Legislative Update: Brian Russ provided updates on current and proposed legislation that effects all Veterans and the community. One of the highlights was the recent passing of the Agent Orange presumptive Blue Water Bill.
- b. Veterans' Monument Park: New annual awards stone slate will be erected soon. The park main flag lighting still needs to be repaired and the county is currently scheduled to take care of this.
- c. Memorial Day 2019: Edwin Robinson provided an update on schedule of events. Information has gone out to the media and is on the website. The event is set for 27 May beginning at 0900. Edwin Robinson made a motion to pay for Memorial Day event from the general funds. The committee requires \$1200 to pay all debts related to the event. The motion was seconded with discussion on the floor as to whether we had the funds. Of course, the treasurer's report was read earlier in the meeting identifying more than enough funds to cover the cost. There being no further discussion we had a second and the motion was approved unanimously.
- d. Elections: The following candidates ran unopposed and only a single vote is required. It was decided to call a hand vote which unanimously elected all candidates for their perspective office for one year beginning at the June 2019 meeting. Congratulations to our new Manatee County Veterans' Council officers.
 - 1) Chairman - Edwin Robinson
 - 2) Vice Chairman – Don Courtney
 - 3) Secretary – Bill Carey
 - 4) Treasurer – Margaret Smelser

12. New Business: None.

13. Outgoing Chairman Hunsinger briefed all on a successful transition for newly elected officers. He provided a thumb-drive containing MCVC related documents to include; minutes, treasure's report, agendas, legislative documents, certificates of appreciation, past member rosters, Military Ball, Memorial Day event, Veterans Day event, website (images, event flyers, photos) and many other documents. He also provided the new Chairman a storage box that includes past documents, photos and many other items. The key to the storage facility was also handed off to Edwin Robinson. As a reminder; unless the Council has financially conducted a transfer of the website, the account will be closed on July 1, 2019 which means the website will cease to exist and a new one will need to be recreated. The same thing holds true for the Facebook page attached to Carl's personal FB account.

14. Around the room remarks and discussion. Several Veteran related events that can be found on our website www.my-mcvc.org.

15. The next MCVC meeting will be held on Thursday June 20, 2019 at the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 and at the same time of 11am.

16. Closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 11:59am.

///ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED///

Carl Hunsinger
For the Secretary
Manatee County Veterans' Council