



MANATEE COUNTY  
VETERANS COUNCIL

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### April Meeting, Thursday, April 20, 2023

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 11:00am by Chairman Jim Klocke. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 24.
2. **Invocation:** Vice Chairman Tom Sweeney opened the meeting with prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
3. **Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Jim Klocke announced that the Veterans Park had been renamed to honor Donald Courtney. The new name is Donald L. Courtney Veterans Park. Chairman Jim Klocke shared that DAR Manatee Chapter toured the Veterans Park in March – several ladies were in attendance. During that tour the placement of the newly donated Revolutionary War sign was decided. Chairman Jim Klocke finalized his comments with announcing that VFW 12055 is donating a new bench with engraving on it to the park.
4. **Guest Speaker:** No Guest Speakers
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Patrick Elkins from SCF and Kelsey Buskland from St. Vincent de Paul
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 20 people of whom 15 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** March's minutes were voted for approval. Janice Klocke made the motion; Dave Klein seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Janice (Spike) Klocke. Chairman Jim Klocke moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit. Theresa Cobb inquired about the flag program funds being moved to scholarship fund as previously voted and approved on. Treasurer, Janice Klocke, stated she would take care of that oversight.
9. **Primary representative reports:**



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- **Manatee County Veterans Services:** Renee announced that the last Veteran Benefits lecture was being held Monday April 24, 2023 from 9a – 11a at 1401 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Bradenton. Renee shared that Veteran offices would be closed the first week of May due to everyone attending training.
- **SCF:** Patrick Elkins that last week was a National Conference where Google announced that they were offering a \$10,000 scholarship for veterans. He stated that next weekend that veteran students were volunteering to conduct a beach cleanup.
- **St. Vincent de Paul:** Natasha stated they were continuing to house homeless veterans; Kelsey is the healthcare advocate for veterans; Erica Snyder is promoting the SSG Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (brochures provided).

#### **10. Reports of Standing Committees:**

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Chairman Jim Klocke reported there is a need for a total of ten 4' x 6' and one 3' x 5' new flags. Motion was made by Robert Greene for MCVC to purchase the flags needed from the restricted funds. Rickard Jenson seconded the motion. All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.

#### **11. Old Business:**

- **Scholarship Program Update:** Gill Ruderman provided an update. He reported there were 5 cadettes that made a submission. Sammantha Reese was the winner. There is a luncheon on April 26, 2023 to present the award to her. All are welcome – please RSVP today. MCVC will pay for Sammantha, her guest and two board member's lunch.
- **2023 Veterans Day Parade:** Applications and Scholarship information have been mailed; next meeting is at Palmetto City Hall on July 13. Key note speaker will be Lee Washington; need Honor Guard.
- **Lakewood Ranch Parade:** May 28, 2023 at 7pm Gill Ruderman stated the parade will start at near the Grove restaurant on Main Street. There will be a vehicle and walkers holding a banner. More information will be provided.
- **Desoto Parade:** April 29, 2023 at 7pm. Gather at Bradenton High at 3pm. Parking at the Performing Arts on 3<sup>rd</sup> with transport to High School via Bill Orr will be provided. MCVC will be using a pick up that is being donated by Gettel Toyota Bradenton.



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## **12. New Business:**

- **Memorial Day Service:** May 29, 2023 at 9am located that the Doanld L. Courtney Veteran Park. Mayor Brown is the guest speaker; Honor Guard is Palma Sola Post 10141; MEtv will be present.
- **Storage Unit:** Chairman, Jim Klocke, reported that the unit needed to increase in size to 10’x10’ to house some furniture donations for newly housed veterans. He reported the price increased by \$20.00. Donald Courtney made a motion for the council to pay for the increase; Theresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.

## **13. Around the Room:**

- Operation Eco Vets, Ann, announced that they are in immediate need for a new home. This land needs to have about 1.25 acres and a well. Ann states this is an crisis situation from OEV and will entertain any offers. Please contact her directly with any ideas or leads. 941-321-9382
- Nathan Benderson Park Dragon Boat, Rickard, announced they had won the gold medal trophy. He offered for all veterans to come out and enjoy friendly competition with Dragon Boat racing.
- Career Source, Gilbert Humphrey, announced they still were offering free laptops for veterans. He stated they were having a hiring event for veterans on April 26, 2023 at Manatee Technical school; 2<sup>nd</sup> chance Law Enforcement employment position available please contact Gilbert directly 941-867-6023; Florida transport is offering to provide the education for up to 10 veterans to be certified in the construction field starting the first week of May – requirements: must have valid drivers license, pass drug screening, have own transportation - contact Gilbert directly
- Bob Greene announced Bivouac’s are present for everyone to take.
- Gill Ruderman reminds everyone to check the expiration dates on your driver’s license to avoid any complications for reinstatement.

**14. Closing Prayer and Meeting Adjournment:** Vice-Chairman Tom Sweeney led the closing prayer. As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Klocke at 11:45pm.

**Next Meeting:** May 18, 2023 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler