



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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October Meeting, Thursday, October 20, 2022

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 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
3. **Chairman's Comments:** No Chairman's comments
4. **Guest Speaker:** No Guest Speakers
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Chairman Edwin Robinson welcomed Charlie Fitt with American Legion Post 24. Charlie stated that he had free tickets for any Veteran that wanted to attend the Kiwanis Veteran Appreciation Luncheon on November 8th at Noon. Chairman Edwin Robinson gave Gill Ruderman the floor to introduce his guest, Chuck Slenker. Mr. Slenker is a service officer for VFW Post 12055.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 18 people of whom 12 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** September's minutes were voted for approval. Teresa Cobb made the motion; Rickard Jensen 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 Edwin Robinson moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit. Chairman Edwin Robinson stated that the formation of a Financial Audit Committee will take place at the November meeting.
9. **Primary representative reports:**
Manatee County Veteran Services: Renee Medina reported that her department has tickets for the Kiwanis Veteran Appreciation Lunch on November 8th at 12pm that could be picked up at the Manatee County Veteran Services office. She reported that she was



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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fully staffed and they are catching up on the back log of requests of assistance. Renee stated that her department would be at the Standdown in November. Renee announced that Veteran's Disability would be increasing next year by 8.1%

Volunteers of America: Latoya Pendergrass announced a BIG thank you to Manasota Elks for the storage unit they donated and to Lakewood Ranch Elks for hosting a tailgate party last week for the Veterans at the Village. Latoya announced there are currently 15 Veterans at the Village. She states she is interviewing several Veterans to fill the remaining beds.

Sarasota County Veterans Commission: No report provided.

USFSM Office of Veterans Success: No report provided.

Turning Points: Standdown is November 5, 2022 at the Manatee Fairgrounds

SCF Student Veterans: No report provided.

Goodwill Veterans Services: Chairman Edwin Robinson reported on behalf of Todd Hughes. He announced Todd is looking for Veterans that are willing to work as there are jobs out there.

JFCS: No report provided.

St. Vincent DePaul CARES: No report provided.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported that flags will be going up before Veterans Day and will remain up for three weeks. Clean up is currently being completed for the Veteran's Day Ceremony.

11. Old Business:

- **Veterans Day Ceremony:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported that the parade has been canceled and there will be a ceremony at the park. The ceremony will be on November 11 at 11am. There is a speaker, singer, services for each military branch and presenting the of the Year awards.
- **Yearly Awards:** The paid members of the council voted for the "Year of" awards: The Veteran of the Year is David Klein; Civilian of the Year is Thomas Sweeney and Auxiliary of the Year is Tricia Sadler.
- **Constitution Updates:** Margaret Smelser provided proposed changes to the constitution in writing and verbally for review of paid members. The proposed changes include that boards members are eligible to vote despite their voting position within their paid organization. The second proposed change is the nominations for board position will be made by a committee that will be formed in September; the committee will announce the nominees at October meeting and



**MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL**

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voted on in the November meeting. The third proposed change is that boards members will be one of the two representatives of a council organization. The fourth proposed change is that the term of office is two years and the max term is two consecutive terms. The changes will be voted on at the November meeting.

- **Nominations for Board Members Committee:** Teresa Cobb reported for the committee by announcing that the nominations for 2023 Boards members are as follows: Chairman – Jim Klocke; Vice Chairmen – Thomas Sweeney; Tressure – Janice Klocke; Secretary – Tricia Sadler. The council will vote at the November meeting.

12. New Business:

- Manatee County Veterans Directory – Teresa Cobb requested that MCVVC update, print and distribute them. She states that it has been several years since the directory was updated and distributed. Chairman, Edwin Robinson and Robert Greene volunteered to update the directory and gather printing costs.

13. Around the Room:

- Exchange reported that due to being fully staffed they have new hours in Manatee. She shared basic information on the Star Card and other offers they currently have.
- Rickard Jensen for the Nathan Benderson Park and Dragon Boats invites all people and veterans to come on out for two new paddle events – 10/23 Survivors and 11/12 Veterans paddle. He announced that Nathan Benderson Park is having a Halloween at the Tower Event on 10/25 – Free Event with \$5 per car parking
- Tom Sweeney with Lakewood Ranch Elks announced a Veterans appreciation lunch on 11/10 from 12p-2pm. Veterans are Free and spouses are \$8.00. This will be at the Lakewood Ranch Elks.
- Kevin Wright announced that today at 5pm US Representative for Florida's 16th congressional district Vern Buchanan will be at the Manatee County Performing Arts Center for a speech.

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

15. Meeting Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Edwin Robinson at 12:02pm.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2022 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler