



**MANATEE COUNTY  
VETERANS COUNCIL**

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### **April Meeting, Thursday, April 21, 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:** Thank you to MOWW, Edger Homer, for the donation of \$110 towards new flags. Thank you to Jim Klocke for the Veterans Park Maintenance
- 4. Guest Speaker:** Chairman, Mr. Robinson, requests that all guest speaker requests be emailed to the secretary, Tricia Sadler. Chairman, Robinson introduced Operations Eco Vets. Dana and Anna from Operations Eco Vets provided a presentation regarding their organization. A call for volunteers and donations were made. Margaret Smelser made a motion to donate \$200 to Operations Eco Vets operation; Don Courtney seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aya". The vote was anonymous for approval. Chairman, Mr. Robinson, introduced Cookie Agan whom provided a presentation on the Wreaths across America. A call for volunteers and donations were made. Vice Chairman, Jim Klocke, made a motion to donate \$500 to Operations Eco Vets operation; Theresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aya". The vote was anonymous for approval.
- 5. Recognition of Special Guests:** Chairman, Edwin Robinson, recognized guests Tony from American Legion Post 2488; David Bradley and Marisol Gomez from Coast Guard Exchange whom provided a brief presentation; welcome and glad to see Margaret Smelser and Ed from Kirby Post American Legion #24. Vice Chairman, Jim Klocke, presented Lee Washington from Manatee County Community Veteran Services with the flagpole top from the old flagpole for all the service he has given to the flagpole project.
- 6. Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 25 people of whom 12 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
- 7. Minutes:** March's minutes were voted for approval. Gil Ruderman made the motion; Woody Schiffman seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.



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**8. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Spike Klocke. Due to a storage unit price increase of 30% a new storage unit was located. Vice Chairman Jim Klocke has the keys. Chairman Edwin Robinson moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

**9. Primary representative reports:**

**Manatee County Veteran Services:** Lee Washington reported that the county veterans program has been renamed to Manatee County Community Veteran Services. He stated this program has open employment positions.

**Volunteers of America:** Introduced new employees. Latoya Pendergrass, ILC, and Paula Jaramillo, Property Manager. Latoya reported that they have 19 veterans at this time. Paula reported that the van is no longer operational and they are working on replacing it.

**SCF:** Lisa Goss has left the SCF and entered into a new position at Ringling College

**Goodwill:** There is a grant to provide certificate trainings for veterans

**Turning Points:** Michelle reports that they have funding for housing and hotel for homeless veterans. She confirmed that the Manatee Standdown is November 5, 2022.

**JCFS:** Sarasota Standdown is Sat. April 23, 2022 at the Sarasota Fairgrounds from 8am to 12pm

**10. Reports of Standing Committees:**

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported flag poles were repaired as of this date. Vice Chairman Klocke reported that he was informed that the current flag size was too large for our flagpoles which is causing the poles to bend. Four new flags 4' x 6' were purchased for the park – 2 by the council and 2 by Manasota Elks. Chairman, Robinson, reported that the old flags that are too large were donated to Wreaths Across America. Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported that the park has fire ants which is currently being treated.
- **Legislative:** No report provided.

**11. Old Business:**

- **Veteran scholarship:** A request was made by Gil Ruderman that the voting members look at the proposed scholarship program and provide feedback.
- **2022 Manasota Military and First Responder Ball:** Chairman, Robinson, reported that the ball was wonderful and thanked the council for the tickets.



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## **12. New Business:**

- **Memorial Day Ceremony** Vice Chairman, Jim Klocke, reported that all arrangements for the ceremony as been arranged except for contacting ME TV. Chairman, Robinson, stated he would make contact with them. A big thank you to Previous Vice Chairman, Don Courtney, for assisting Jim Klocke in the transition to overseeing the ceremony.

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

- Operation Eco Vets has a movie night April 22 from 8pm – 11pm. They show the movie The Outlaw
- Ed from American Legion Post 24 announced Miracles Through Music for Manasota on May 1<sup>st</sup> from Noon to 5pm which will raise money for Veteran Suicide Prevention; concert is free – donations accepted
- Mission BBQ honors Armed Forces in May
- Desoto Parade for Veterans is on 4/30 starting at 7pm in Bradenton; Veterans in the parade should arrive earlier than 6:30pm
- Announcement was made that Rep. Buchanan will be running for congressman overseeing Manatee County
- Don Courtney was held in recognition by Gil Ruderman when he entered him into Veteran Hall of Fame Society Awards. Don Courtney was awarded a Life Time achievement for Volunteering (the 5<sup>th</sup> Florida Veteran to earn this award). This award will take place on May 10, 2022
- SCVC: Sarasota National Cemetery on May 28 will be putting out flags for fallen veterans. Volunteers are requested – contact Ms Richardson 941-448-6299 // Woody reported that a video is available from the Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day event
- National PTSD Service Association, Sandra, announced that she is training K9's for heroes. Check out her web page <https://www.k9s4heroes.org/> and watch the puppies get trained

**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 12:14pm.

**Next Meeting:** May 19, 2022 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

**Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler**