

MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL
January 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Chairman Edwin Robinson. The meeting was held at the Kiwanis Hall Manatee Performing Arts Center.

2. Due to the absence of Chaplain Pat Stiles, Chairman Robinson opened the meeting with a prayer, The Pledge Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

3. Due to the absence of our Recording Secretary, Theresa Cobb was asked to become Recording Secretary Pro-Tem for this meeting only.

4. Guest Speaker: There was no guest speakers at this meeting.

5. Recognition of New Members or First time Guests: there were no new members or first-time guests.

6. Roll Call & Minutes: Roll Call was conducted by Treasurer, Meg Smelser in place of Secretary William Carey (who was absent). There were eight paid voting members present and a total of Fifteen members in total attendance.

7. Election of the 2021 officers was held, before any business was conducted, due to the fact it was not done officially at the November meeting.

8. Officers Elected for 2021 Term:

Chairman: Edwin Robinson

Vice Chairman: Courtney

Treasurer: Meg Smelser

Recording Secretary: open

No discussion was necessary. Kevin Wright made the motion to accept the Slate as listed. Theresa Cobb seconded. Motion carried

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report:

Council Chairman Robinson thanked all council members and board members for their belief in him for another term. He then discussed plans for this years activities suggested were ways to possibly engage in more out reach projects for veterans in Manatee County. Examples: Homelessness, Mental Help for Veterans in need and more education were discussed. These are the visions of the council going forward.

B. Recording Secretary Pro tem- The minutes of the November meeting were posted on the Council webpage. There was one corrected noted. Courtney made the statement “no action was taken.” Lee Washington agreed with Explanation and closed the discussion. All voting members agreed the subject was closed.

C. Treasurer Smelser stated the correction to the November budget was noted. “Turning Points” donation, Vice chairman Courtney seconded the motion to accept the November corrections. Motion Carried

Treasurer Smelser also stated an audit committee was needed for the year end 2020 plus November and December reports for review. Volunteers for the committee are Don, Courtney, Lee Washington, and Theresa Cobb. A date and time to be announced. The report to be completed before the next meeting and reports will be given at that time. Meg also reported that all tax forms for the council had been filed. We are in good standing again. Discussion for Dropping the mail box was tabled until the next meeting in February.

The Manatee County Veterans Council annual report was passed out to those in attendance, along with the restricted funds reports. As well as the December balance sheet by Treasurer Smelser. There being no questions from members, the reports were filed for review.

D. Vice Chairman Courtney made a motion to send \$300.00 to Sarasota National Cemetery for their Memorial Day services this year. As there was no discussion, Theresa Cobb seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Representative Reports:

Lee Washington stated that Manatee Veterans Services, and COVID 19 clinics for Lee County & Bay Pines are for veterans age seventy-five and older. Veterans under the age of seventy-five will see primary VA doctors and you will be notified.

Anita who is a representative of the Manatee Veterans Park reported there are sixteen current residents and they have four vacancies. Tricia Sadler has also joined the Parks Team. She is a member of the Manatee DAR Chapter will serve one the council as a second, in place of Sharon Spry.

Chairman Robinson is leaving and going to St Paul’s as Affairs Officer.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Robinson stated he received a donation to the council from Lakewood Ranch Elks #2855 in the amount of \$500.00 for the Flag program.

Chairman Robinson stated the Legislative seat is still open. If anyone is interested contact Edwin or Don.

There was no report from Congressman Buchanan's office.

Jim Klocke who is Park manager gave his report. Three flags are needed. Manatee Elks donated \$200.00 to buy new flags. The park is in good shape after trimmings were done. The Flags flew for Martin Luther King Day.

Webmaster Les Martin reported that he needs updates for the webpage. For any ongoing events members have scheduled for their organization. Please send this information to Edwin or Don for approval. Once approved he will put the information on the webpage.

Discussion followed regarding possible outreach activities for the council to explore.

1. Homes for Troops
2. Veterans Village Park activities
3. National Cemetery Events
4. Walk-a-thon events
5. Children and Youth program
6. Veterans Relief Awareness programs.

Lee Washington reported for Gill Ruderman a possible program of a scholarship funded by the Council many good ideas were presented.

Dwight English, Sarasota Outreach Specialist gave a short report on whole health prevention programs at the VA center.

Starting January 4, 2021, on AM radio station 1490, will be open for military matters, every Monday at noon their newsletter goes out by email every Friday.

10. Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer by Chairman Robinson. A motion was made by Don and seconded by Meg to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 P.M.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the MCVV will be at 11:00 A.M at the Kiwanis Hall Manatee Performing Arts Center on February 18, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary Pro-tem (for January 2021 meeting ONLY)

Mrs. Theresa Cobb