



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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November Meeting, Thursday, November 16, 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:** Chairman Jim Klocke and 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 reported no meeting in December 2023 – see everyone in January 2024.
4. **Guest Speaker:** There were no guest speakers.
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** There were no special guest.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 19 people of whom 13 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** October's minutes were voted for approval. Donald Courtney made the motion; Janice Klocke seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was unanimous 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. She reminded all members that membership dues for 2024 have a deadline of January 2024.
9. **Primary representative reports:**
 - **Manatee Veterans Village (VOA):** Katie reported that the VOA Veterans Village has ten open beds at this time. David Zareceny stated that donations are on hold for the moment.
 - **St. Vincent de Paul:** Tom Rodgers, Peer Mentor, stated they have housing for veteran program. They are holding a Moving Celebration day where they will be accepting donations of appliances, furniture and household items to furniture apartments for veterans moving into permanent housing.



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10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Tricia Sadler reported that the DAR dedication ceremony was a great success and that Jim Klocke, Chairman, had been awarded with a pin honoring his part in the sign being installed. Jim Klocke reported that the flags are up and will remain up until after Thanksgiving's.

11. Old Business:

- **2023 Veterans Day Parade/Ceremony:** Tom Sweeney reported that the Mayor of Palmetto was happy with the Veterans Day parade and ceremony. He stated there were some areas for improvement for the next parade/ceremony. Specifically, the pa system, the gap in the parade of 20 minutes, and time in between parade and start of ceremony. Kevin Wright, Military Matters commented on the lack of honoring the Grand Marshall. He stated he was appalled at the disorganization at the parade line up and lack of honoring the Grand Marshall. Jim Klocke stated that he appreciated the feedback and improvements would be made for the next one.
- **Manatee County Standdown:** Janice Klocke reported that approximately 300 people were served with 150 were veterans. She stated 350 volunteered from local organizations.
- **Kiwanis Luncheon:** Jim and Janice Klocke attended. They stated it was a great luncheon and MCVV was awarded \$2000.00.

12. New Business:

- **Audit Committee:** Margaret Smelser volunteered. Two more volunteers will be required in January.
- **2024 Budget:** Proposed budget will be presented at the January meeting.
- **Board Position Open:** Tricia Sadler is resigning from secretary position. Volunteer for Secretary is needed.

13. Around the Room:

- **Manasota Elk Lodge:** Holding a Thanksgiving Dinner for Veterans Village. All are welcome. Volunteers needed. Serving approximately 35 ppl.
- **Nathan Benderson Park** – Had a float in the Lakewood Ranch Parade on Veterans Day. Received a gold medal for the Lake Hendo race. All are welcome to experience Dragon Boat racing. Chairman congratulated Rickard for his Veteran of the Year award.



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- **Bob Greene** – thank you for the Wreath Across America Donation. BIVWAC's are available.
- **Military Ball** on April 20, 2024 at IMG Academy. \$75 per person
- October 13th was the **Navy Birthday** - AL Post 24 celebrated by serving cake
- **Army/Navy Game** on December 9th
- **Noel Freesh** stated he has a portable flag pole available for anyone whom needs it – needs some TLC
- **JC Congress:** During the 2024 Manatee County Fair there will be a veteran parade in the fairgrounds – January 16, 2024. The theme for the participants is grandparents and grandchildren. Desoto parade is April 27, 2024.
- **Women Veteran of Suncoast:** Meets at 1pm at American Legion Post 10141 on November 18, 2023.

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 11:41am.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler