



MANATEE COUNTY  
VETERANS COUNCIL

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## January Meeting, Thursday, January 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:** Chairman Edwin Robinson stated the focus of this year is "Do Something!" Chairman Robinson welcomed new first time and returning guests to the meeting.
- 4. Guest Speaker:** No guest speakers present.
- 5. Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 22 people of whom 10 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
- 6. Minutes:** November's minutes were voted for approval. Theresa Cobb made the motion; Richard Blunt seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
- 7. Treasurer's Report:** Last years Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Margaret Smelser. Chairman Edwin Robinson moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit. Newly appointed Treasurer, Spike Klocke, presented the proposed 2022 Budget. Motion was made to move \$500 from budget line Scholarship to Miscellaneous. Motion was made Tricia Sadler; Jim Klocke seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
- 8. Primary representative reports:**
  - Manatee County Veteran Services:** Lee Washington was not present for an update.
  - Manatee Veterans Village:** Karen Yancy reported that they had two open beds and that new staff have been hired. Ms. Yancy thanked everyone for the holiday donations.
  - Sarasota County Veterans Commission:** Marty Donner Sarasota is focusing on Giving Challenge in April 2022. Srq Vets is working on Veteran home repairs.
  - Sarasota County Veterans Council:** Carlos Moreica reported Sarasota will have low-income housing units for Veterans that will be managed by St. Vincent de Paul. This will provide housing for



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10-12 Veteran individuals and 2 Veteran families. Mr. Moreica reported Nathan Benderson Park is looking to form a Veteran Dragon Boat team, the SCVC has two new board members – Rick and Carmen, reported the next SCVC meeting is next Thursday at Post 32233 at 4pm. Mr. Moreica provided information on new website for free at home COVID tests. **University of South Florida:** Mr. Moreica reported local research is being completed for veteran suicide rates for Manatee and Sarasota counties; awarded \$10,000 from Dorothy R Adams Foundation \$10,000 for professional devolvement and mental health and wellness for veteran students; and Department of Defense Critical Thinking training being completed in February. Program for active duty being transitioned into civilian life to be trained. **Goodwill Veteran Services:** Todd Hughes reported that there is a new grant to provide job skill training for Veterans with Black and/or Hispanic Veteran and Veteran Families. He asked that people contact Randy at 941-355-2721 ext 351 for additional information. Mr. Hughes announced information regarding the “Lutz Buddy Up” dinner. It is a monthly dinner for Veterans only providing support. **Turning Points:** Mr. Robinson reported that turning Points is holding annual Point In Time survey event on Monday January 24<sup>th</sup> that is part of the national homeless head count. They are looking for volunteers.

#### 9. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported flag poles were not repaired as of this date. He reported that yard work at the park would be completed in the next week or two.
- **Legislative:** Kevin Wright was not present to report.

#### 10. Old Business:

- **Veteran scholarship:** October meetings regarding the scholarship were read and discussion took place. The conclusion is that the Scholarship Committee would present at the February meeting regarding additional details for the scholarship program.

#### 11. New Business:

- Vice Chairman Jim Klocke asked about Shirts/Promotional items. Members stated there was a person at the Red Barn Flea market that had the logo as well as Manatee Apparel.
- Elks Order presents Army of Hope Celebration at Post 5011 to help deployed Veterans that need assistance. \$12 at door that includes food and alcohol on March 6<sup>th</sup>.



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- Chairman Edwin Robinson called for a 2021 Audit Committee to be formed. Volunteers were Teresa Cobb, Gil Ruderman and Tricia Sadler. Report will be presented at February meeting.

**12. Around the Room:** Secretary was not present for Around the Room Details

**13. Closing Prayer:** Chairman Edwin Robinson led the closing prayer.

**14. Meeting Adjournment:** As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Edwin Robinson.

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

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