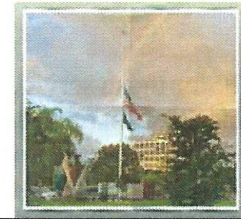




MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 1881  
BRADENTON, FL 34206  
WWW.MY-MCVC.ORG



**Minutes of the September 19, 2019 Meeting**  
**Manatee County Veterans Council Monthly Meeting**  
**Location: American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 in Bradenton, Florida**

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and Welcome:** Chairman Edwin Robinson began the meeting at 11:00 am, this date, with all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain Pat Stiles leading us in an Opening Prayer. The Chair then welcomed all in attendance and guests were then introduced.
2. **Chair's Comments:** The Chair shared his comments with all, specifically citing that:
  - A. The US Air Force 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary was September 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - B. The Executive Committee will need to meet a week prior to our general meeting.
  - C. The Chair and it officers would like to hear how we are doing after three months into their term.
3. **Guest Speakers: None**
4. **Roll Call, Minutes and Treasurer's Report**
  - A. **Roll Call** was conducted by the Secretary, Bill Carey, who confirmed a Quorum.
  - B. **August 2019 Minutes** were tabled by the Chair to next month's meeting.
  - C. **Treasurer's Report (Margaret Smeltzer)**
    1. **Treasurer's Report** was provided, in hard copy for members, by Margaret Smelzer and explained. A copy of the report was posted on the website as well A motion to accept the report, subject to audit, was made and seconded and a **unanimous vote approved the report, subject to audit.**
    2. **The Treasurer** mentioned a she received a donation request from Turning Point for their Veterans Program, which is separate from their *Stand-Down* that we also financially support. She made a motion that a donation be made to Turning Point and left the donation amount open for discussion by the membership. The motion was amended to a donation of \$200 and seconded. A **unanimous voice vote approved the motion.**
5. **Representatives Reports**
  - A. **MC Veterans Court – Secretary Carey**
    - (1). Bill Carey updated members on the current status of Veterans Court and mentioned that we had four graduates in the last few months and gained four new participants. The workload hovers at about 12 participants. He stated that Mentors both male and female are always a need.
    - (2). The Chair mentioned that Judge Lon Arends is the new Presiding Judge. He was instrumental in starting the Court four years ago. The Chair also mentioned that he would try to get Mr. Alfred James, the Court Director to come and give the Council an update on the status of the Court.
    - (3). Past Chair Carl Hunsinger led a discussion about the Court being un-funded and that legislation has been drafted to get it funded, along with Veterans Courts throughout the State. Upon completion of discussion, a motion was made and seconded that a donation of \$300 be made to Veterans Court for their PTSD Workbooks. A **unanimous voice vote approved the motion** that a donation of \$300 be made to Veterans Court for their PTSD Workbooks
  - B. **Sarasota National Cemetery (SNC) - John Rosentrater**
    - (1). John updated the council on the success of **POW – MIA ceremony** held on Sep. 7 that was managed and directed by the Boys Scouts. Every veteran interred at the Cemetery had their name read aloud. This consisted of over 21,100 names.
    - (2). John also explained the **Missing in America Program**, which seeks out unclaimed remains at funeral homes, then conducts research on who are veterans and conducts a proper veteran's burial for them. SNC will have such an internment next Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> for 15 or more such veterans.
    - (3). John also mentioned that there would be a **Veterans Day Mass** at the Plaza on Nov.11 at 11:00 AM and that the new SNC Assistant Director is Mr. Ed Lyons, who is helping institute some new security measures.
    - (4). In response to a question, John clarified eligibility for federal benefits included:
      - a. for those service members prior to 1980 - serving one day in the military

b. for those service members after 1980 - one needs to serve two consecutive years active duty

(5). Pat Stiles clarified that the **American Legion Act**, recently passed by Congress had to do only with membership in the American Legion, which is a congressionally chartered veterans' organization.

**C. Turning Points – Chairman Robinson**

(1). The Chair emphasized and explained the upcoming **Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> Stand Down** to be held at the Manatee County Fairgrounds on **Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8 AM till Noon**. The **next planning meeting** for the Stand Down will be Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at Our Daily Bread facility at Turning Points.

**6. Old Business**

**A. Senior Softball Challenge** – The Chair and Sharon Spry explained the Bradenton Senior Softball Challenge scheduled for Wednesday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at Palma Sola Park. Twelve members over 60 years young are needed to form a team. Chairman Edwin Robinson will manage the team. A \$2,000.00 award will be presented to the winning team

**B. Veterans Day Parade** – Vice Chairman Don Courtney discussed plans for the Veterans Day parade. The next planning meeting will be held at Palmetto City Hall on Sep. 27<sup>th</sup>. All are invited.

**C. Veteran of the Year Award** – Jim Klocke mentioned we had 4 nominees for the award and the names are on the website (*mymcvc.org*). *Voting will take place next month. A motion was made and seconded* that the Standing Rules be amended to include that voting for this award will take place at the October meeting each year. **A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.**

**7. Standing Committees**

**A. Legislative** – **Brian Russ** will provide an update at the next meeting in October.

**8. New Business: - None**

**9. Around the Room (Discussion), Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

**A.** Meisha Richardson discussed the Golf Tournament and asked members to consider donating to and participating in the Tournament. Expenses and costs were explained. Proceeds are used to support various veterans and military organizations, including Wreaths Across America. **A motion was made by the Vice Chair and seconded that \$300 be donated to *Wreaths Across America*. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.**

**B.** After Discussion by attendees, a closing Prayer was given by Chaplain Pat Stiles. **A motion for adjournment was made, seconded and unanimously approved by members.** The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

**C. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:18 PM.**

**D. Next Meeting :** **The next meeting will be Thursday October 21, 2019 at 11:00 AM** at American Legion Kirby Stewart Post #24.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*William F. Carey*

William F. Carey, Secretary