

**MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL**  
**January 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes**  
**Kirby Stewart American Legion Post #24, Bradenton, Florida**

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- 1. Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by Chairman Edwin Robinson**, with all in attendance reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a prayer from Chaplain Pat Stiles.
- 2. Chair Comments:** The Chair welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year. Chairman Robinson encouraged the Council to re-ENGAGE in the work of the Council.
- 3. Guest Speaker:** Deb Kehoe spoke on behalf of Homes for Our Troops. They are beginning their campaign on their next home. She desired to have the support of MCVC on their print advertising through the use of the Council logo. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Roll Call & Minutes:** There were less than 10 paid members for the new year and the Chair exhorted past members to get their dues in to the Treasurer. Roll Call was held with 8 members in attendance and 4 officers in attendance. Minutes of the November meeting were approved unanimously by a voice vote.
- 5. Reports**
  - A. The Treasurer's Report** was presented and unanimously approved subject to review. **Treasurer Margaret Smelser** stated that promised PepsiCo donations have not been paid. The Chair mentioned he would follow-up on the issue.
  - B.** A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 budget. Motion passed unanimously.
- 6. Old Business:**
  - A.** The Chair reminded everyone that our membership application is on the website.
  - B.** It was mentioned that Punta Gorda will have their Veterans Festival **March** 28-30, 2020. The title of the festival will be *Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans 2020* and will feature country music star Lee Greenwood.
  - C.** Jim Klocke said that the Flag program is dormant and volunteers are needed if the program is to continue.
- 7. Standing Committees**
  - A. Legislative:** It was mentioned that the VA's Blue Water Navy Act services was effective as of 1 January 2020, but approx. 83% of applicants will have to resubmit their applications.
  - B. Veterans Park** –Jim Klocke discussed stated the flags in the Park will be displayed on Federal holidays. He also encouraged the assistance of volunteers to help with raising and lowering of the flags.
- 8. New Business:**
  - A.** The Chair mentioned that 2020 dues (\$50) are due and that a 2020 list of representatives be provided by each organization.
  - B.** It was stated that the Manatee Co. Health Fair will be on Jan.25<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM till 1:00 PM on the Riverwalk.
  - C.** Gil Ruderman mentioned that we are looking into a venue change for our MCVC meetings to a more centralized location. Namely, the Kiwanis Hall at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. Chairman Robinson stated that this will be discussed in Executive Team meeting.
- 9. Around the Room:** Members mentioned various programs & projects.
- 10. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer by Chaplain Stiles at 12:25 PM.  
**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the MCVC will be **Thursday February 20, 2020 at 11:00 AM at American Legion Kirby Stewart Post #24.**

*Respectfully Submitted, William F. Carey, Secretary*