



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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January Meeting, Thursday, January 19, 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:** 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 announced that during his elected term he would like to have more of a community presence.
4. **Guest Speaker:** No Guest Speakers
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Lien Whipple, widow of Woody Whipple is visiting today; Ms. Toni Gardner representing Manatee JC's; Chris Keilty representing SY Commission; Gilbert Humphrey and Will Collazo representing Career Source
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 24 people of whom 13 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** November's minutes were voted for approval with correction on the year on the next meeting. Don Courtney made the motion; Charlie Fitt seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Janice (Spike) Klocke.
9. **Primary representative reports:**
 - Manatee County Veteran Services:** Victor McKenzie reports that they are adding new cases due to the Pact Act every day
 - Volunteers of America:** Latoya Pendergass reports that the Village has 16 beds filled and several referrals are being considered.
 - Sarasota County Veterans Commission:** Carlos Moreica reports that SCVC will be meeting 1/26 at 12pm in Venice and again at 6pm in Sarasota. Their guest speakers will be Richard Wallace and Dr. Layla. The Sarasota Stand Down will be April 22 at the



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fairgrounds. Carlos announced a paid position with the Sarasota Court as a Veteran Liaison is available – for more info please see him.

USFSM Office of Veterans Success: Carlos Moreica reported that Cyber Security certification class is moving forward. Funding to provide full scholarships for the nursing program for veterans has been approved. Residen certification class are being offered at no charge. Carlos has tickets to a Salute Basketball Game on Saturday 2/15/23, please contact him for more details.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Chairman Jim Klocke reported that flags were up for holidays. He reports that new flags will be exchanged for ones that are getting damaged. All new flags will 4' x 6' which will reduce the wear and tear on the flag poles. Manatee DAR is donating a Revolutionary War Monument. There will be a tour at the park for DAR members to see the park on March 24th at 10am.

11. Old Business:

- **Constitution Updates:** Representing the By-laws updates Margaret Smelser reviewed the final proposed changes to the constitution. The proposed changes to Article 4 Section 5 include that boards members are eligible to vote despite their voting position within their paid organization. The motion at the November meeting to leave Article 4 Section 5 the same as it currently states that board members are not eligible to have another vote outside of their organization vote was voted on. All voting members voted for leaving it by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.
- **Financial Audit:** Financial Audit Committee consists of Margerat Smelser, Tricia Sadler and JoAnne Kelderman. Audit Committee will review 2022 financials prior to next meeting.
- **Scholarship Update:** Submissions forms have been sent out to Manatee County JROTC instructors.

12. New Business:

- **2023 Veterans Day Parade:** Tricia Sadler and Janice Klocke to form an interest letter to the community businesses regarding participation in the 2023 Veterans Day Parade, including Palmetto and Parrish High School bands and JROTC's.



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- **2023 Proposed Budget:** A motion was made to accept the proposed budget for 2023 as is. Tricia Sadler made the motion; Charlie Fitt seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval
- **Military Ball:** Scheduled for April 15th at the IMG Academy. Chairman Jim Klocke proposed that MCVV pay half of paid members tickets making the individuals financial responsibility being \$25.00. Chairman asks that members think about getting a table which seats 10 people.
- **Pledge Allegiance Program:** Chairman Jim Klocke request Veteran volunteers to say the pledge at the Manatee County Meetings. The next two meetings are Jan 31 at 9am and Feb 14 at 8:30am – see Jim to volunteer.

13. Around the Room:

- Bob Greene announced Bivouac’s are present for everyone to take.
- Toni Gardner requested volunteer opportunities where she can be of assistance.
- Gill Ruderman announced that Lakewood Ranch is having a parade on May 28 in the evening. He suggested that MCVV consider participating. Chairman Jim Klocke stated there would be a sign up at the February meeting to participate.
- Kevin Wright announced that April 29 in Bradenton would be the Desoto parade. Dave Klein volunteered to contact Bill Ore to find out details to participate and report at February’s meeting.
- Gilbert Humphry with Career Source announced that there is a program for Veterans to receive free laptops. See him for details. He announced that Career Source has several job fairs planned for 2023.
- Tom Sweeney reported that Amry of Hope event is scheduled for March 5th from 12p – 4p at Elks @ Lena Lodge. The address is 4602 Lena Rd. Lakewood Ranch. Cost is \$15 includes lunch.
- Charlie Fitt suggested contacting Chief of FDLE to be a guest speaker.

14. Closing Prayer and Meeting Adjournment: Chairman Jim Klocke led the closing prayer. As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Klocke at 11:59pm.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2023 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler