



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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January Meeting, Thursday, January 18, 2024

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 11:02AM by Chairman Jim Klocke. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 24.
2. **Invocation:** Chairman Jim Klocke opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.
3. **Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Klocke stated that Molly Boardman is the new Secretary-Appointed, following Tricia Sadler's resignation. Jim Klocke also called for more activity within the membership.
4. **Guest Speaker:** There were no guest speakers.
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** There were no special guests.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by the Secretary-Appointed, Molly Boardman. Present were 15 people of whom 10 were paid members and 3 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** November's minutes were voted for approval. Charlie Fitt made the motion and Meg Smelser seconded the motion. All voting members voted for approval of the minutes by stating "Aye". The vote was unanimous for approval.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Janice "Spike" Klocke, for November and December 2023. Chairman, Jim Klocke moved for the reports to go to audit. Janice reminded all members that membership dues for 2024 was due January 1, 2024. Janice reported that the Kiwanis Club gave MCVC a generous donation of \$2000 for 2024.

9. **Primary Representative Reports:**

- **Manatee County Veterans Services:** Renee Medina reported that they had hired people for 2 new positions, which brings them to a total of 9 Veterans Service Counselors.
- **Manatee Veterans Village (VOA):** David Zareceny stated that they were accepting donations of: pillows, standing lamps, small furniture, a carpet cleaner, and food at this time.

10. **Reports of Standing Committees:**

- **Donald L Courtney Memorial Park:** Chairman Jim Klocke reported that the new names for the 2023 winners of Veteran of the Year, Auxiliary of the Year, and Civilian of the Year need to be engraved on the Stone at the Park. Benderson Park will be donating old banners to be used as weed cover under the mulch at the Park.

11. **Old Business:**

- **2023 Veterans Day Parade/Ceremony:** Chairman, Jim Klocke announced that there would be a future, separate meeting held to critique the pros/cons of the November 2023 Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony. Meeting day and time TBD.
- **Audit Committee:** Treasurer, Janice Klocke asked for 2 more members to join Meg Smelzer on the Audit Committee. Charlie Fitt and Gill Ruderman volunteered to be on the committee. The Audit Committee plans to meet on February 15, 2024 at 10:00AM, before the regular meeting.

12. **New Business:**

- **Fundraisers:** Jim Klocke asked the membership to think of some possible fundraisers for the future. Two ideas were spaghetti dinners or pancake breakfasts.
- **2024 Budget:** Janice Klocke presented the Proposed 2024 Budget. The budget will be voted on at the February meeting.
- **Scholarship Update:** Gill Ruderman reported that the scholarship information letters have gone out to all of the local high schools.
- **Chaplin:** Meg Smelzer suggested that MCVV renew the full time Chaplin position that we have had in the past.

13. **Around the Room:**

- Molly Boardman shared a thank you note that MCVV received from Cookie Agan for our donation to Wreaths Across America, 2023.
- Women Veterans of the Sun Coast: The next meeting will be Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 1:00PM at the VFW, Post 10141.
- Upcoming Events at American Legion Post 24: Charlie Fitt described a variety of upcoming events: Sock Hop, Saturday, January 20, 2024, 6-9:00PM, Four Chaplin's Ceremony, Saturday, February 3, 2024, 11:00AM, Vintage Wheels Car Club, 34th Annual Classic Car Show at the Elk's Lodge, Sunday, February 4, 2024, 10:00AM- 2:00PM.

14. **Closing Prayer and Meeting Adjournment:** Chairman, Jim Klocke led the closing prayer. As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Jim Klocke at 11:35AM.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at American Legion Post 24 on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 11:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Boardman

Council Recording Secretary-Appointed