



April Meeting, Thursday, April 18, 2024

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:** Chairman Jim Klocke opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Dave Klein offered an opening prayer.
3. **Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Klocke requested that all members remind their organizations to pay their MCVC dues. Chairman Klocke stated that Bill Orr has volunteered to head a MCVC fundraiser. Everyone should think of ideas for fundraisers and share the ideas with Janice Klocke, Jim Klocke, or Bill Orr.
4. **Guest Speakers:**
 - Sean Hunt announced that the Bradenton Marauders Baseball Organization will be honoring Veterans on Military Appreciation Night on Saturday May 25, 2024.
 - Larry Leetzow from Freedom Village invited MCVC members to join his "Independent Living Veterans Group" at a future meeting. The group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
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 18 people of whom 11 were paid members and 3 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** March's minutes were voted for approval. Meg Smelser made the motion and Theresa Cobb 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 March 2024. Charlie Fitt moved for the report to go to audit. Janice reported that the cost of our

storage unit will be increasing again. Janice stated that she is in the process of re-applying for several grants.

9. Primary Representative Reports:

- **Manatee County Veterans Services:** Victor McKinsey announced that April is Government Month in Manatee County. A variety of presentations will be offered throughout the month, in a variety of locations. There are still several presentations on the schedule.
- **St. Vincent DePaul CARES:** Al Ainscoe stated that his organization provides housing-based and community support for veterans in permanent housing.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Donald L. Courtney Memorial Park:** Chairman Klocke reported that the new mulch looks great. Theresa Cobb mentioned that some of the signage might need to be updated.

11. Old Business:

- **Scholarship Update:** Gill Ruderman stated that the scholarship committee had interviewed 14 applicants on April 8, 2024 at Lakewood Ranch High School. Donna Fournier helped with the interviews. Our winner will be awarded at a future meeting.
- **Lakewood Ranch, Tribute to Hero's Parade:** Gill Ruderman stated the parade will be on May 26, 2024 at 6:30PM. Contact Joanna Bailey if you would like to participate.
- **2024 DeSoto Grand Parade:** The parade will be on Saturday April 27, 2024 at 8:00PM. A variety of Veterans groups will be participating.

12. New Business:

- **Memorial Day Service:** There will be a Memorial Day Service on May 27, 2024 at 9:00AM at the Donald L. Courtney Memorial Park. The Mayor of Bradenton, Gene Brown, will be introducing the guest speaker. The Mayor of Palmetto, Shirley Groover Bryant, will be the guest speaker this year.
- **Veterans Day Parade 2024:** Janice Klocke stated that we need to start planning now for this year's Veterans Day Parade.
- **Nominations:** For Veteran of the Year, Auxiliary of the Year, and Civilian of the Year for 2024 are due by the August 2024 MCVC meeting.
- **Membership Drive:** We need to increase our MCVC membership. Please give any ideas to Chairman Klocke.
- **Website Revision:** Chairman Klocke and Treasurer Klocke have been looking into getting the MCVC website updated. They received an estimate of \$2000. to update the website. All suggestions are welcome. A Facebook page was also mentioned for future consideration.

13. Around the Room:

- Donna Fournier shared that the next meeting of Women Veterans of the Sun Coast (WVSC) will be Saturday April 20, 2024 at 1:00PM at the VFW Post 10141.

- Charlie Fitt asked for an update on the status of Tunnels to Towers. It is projected to break ground this year.
- Rick Jensen, of Benderson Park shared that his Dragon Boats had recently won 4 races at the Clairmont Races.
- Secretary-Appointed, Molly Boardman stated that she will not be at the May meeting due to some upcoming surgery. Bob Greene kindly volunteered to take the minutes at the May meeting. Theresa Cobb took the May sign-in sheets.

14. **Closing Prayer and Meeting Adjournment:** Chaplain, Dave Klein led the closing prayer. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Klocke at 11:45AM.

15. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at the American Legion Post 24 on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 11:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Boardman

Council Recording Secretary-Appointed