



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



**July 18, 2019**

**Manatee County Veterans Council Monthly Meeting**

**Location: American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 in Bradenton, Florida**

Chairman Edwin D. Robinson opened the meeting at 11am with all in attendance reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by prayer from Chairman Robinson (Chaplain Patricia Stiles was absent).

1. **Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Robinson welcomed all in attendance and turned the meeting over to two guest speakers:
2. **Guest Speakers:**
  - a. GOOD LIFE HEALING CENTER (Introduced by Lisa Reese, American Red Cross) Steve Gooding (President) and Cate Berlan (Public Relations Manager) spoke about the services provided to Veterans through their business, Good Life Healing Center. Mr. Gooding and Ms. Berlan offered to pay for lunch at the conclusion of the meeting.
  - b. BRADENTON SENIOR SOFTBALL (Introduced by Sharon Spry, DAR) Lloyd Grantham, President of the Bradenton Senior Softball League challenged the Council to participate in their Memorial Softball Tournament on November 6. The Council's commitment would consist of 2 teams, 12 players to a team, with the players being 60 years of age or over. The challenge was supported by Sharon Spry, for whom her late husband participated in the League. Chairman Robinson offered to serve as a Manager for one of the teams if we were willing to accept challenge.
3. **Recognition of Special Guests/First Time Guests:** J. Scott Martin, Commander of American Legion Post 24 Kirby Stewart. Chairman Robinson congratulated Commander Martin on his becoming Commander and rendered appreciation for the use of the Post for Council meetings.
4. **Roll Call:** Chairman Robinson called for a quorum by having all voting members identify themselves. Chairman Robinson, with assistance from Treasurer Smelser, confirmed the quorum. A quorum was established per MCVC Bylaws.
5. **Minutes of the June 20 Regular Meeting:** Chairman Robinson tabled acceptance of the minutes from the June meeting due to Secretary Carey's absence. A motion for approval of both the June and of this meeting will be entered at the August 15 meeting.
6. **Treasurer Report:** Treasurer Margaret Smelser provided the financial report. There was a motion to file for review. The motion received a second and was passed unanimously. Treasurer Smelser was in a celebratory mood as she informed Council that the application for the 501(c)19 status has been submitted. She thanked Theresa Cobb and Immediate Past Chairman Carl Hunsinger for their assistance. She accentuated her joy over the submission by performing a "happy dance." Chairman Robinson thanked her and her team for her efforts.
7. **Primary Representatives Reports:**
  - a. SARASOTA NATIONAL CEMETERY – John Rosentrater reported that his office will be receiving an Assistant Director at SNC. The selection was Edward Lyons, III. Mr. Lyons is a retired USMC veteran who served as a sniper in Afghanistan. Mr. Lyons will begin at SNC on 04 August.
  - b. TURNING POINTS: Chairman Robinson spoke on behalf of the organization. Plans were underway for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Stand Down event, which will take place on Saturday, 02 November 2019 at the Manatee County Fairgrounds. The planning committee had their first meeting earlier this month. The next planning meeting will take place on Monday, 12 August 2019 at 1:30pm at Turning Points.

**8. Old Business:**

- a. MCVC WEBSITE: At current the MCVC website is down. It is still in tact, but out of public view. Immediate Past Chairman Hunsinger had noted on several occasions that he could no longer apply charges on his personal card after his term as Chairman was over. Chairman Robinson took full accountability of this matter because of his awareness of the issue during his term as Vice Chairman.

**9. Standing Committees:**

- a. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Brian Russ provided updates on current and proposed legislation that effects all Veterans and community. Provided update on the Blue Water Navy Act.

**10. New Business:**

- a. FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: Treasurer Smelser brought up the necessity for the Chairman to establish a Financial Review Committee. The purpose of this committee shall be to review the Treasurer's reports for accuracy and report back to the Council its findings for approval. Chairman Robinson appointed Treasurer Smelser to head the committee, along with Gill Ruderman. Sharon Spry offered to serve on the committee as well.
- b. MC VETERAN OF THE YEAR: Nominations for the Veteran of the Year Award must be submitted NLT the conclusion of the August Regular Meeting. Chairman Robinson stressed the importance of having an abundant field of nominees for the award. Chairman also stressed the need for the potential nominee(s) to focus on his/her contributions towards serving Veterans after their service has ended.

**11. Around The Room:**

- a. Jerry Koontz announced the annual Veterans Day Luncheon sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. The event will take place at 12 noon on Tuesday, 05 November 2019 at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. The club is expecting over 250 in attendance.

13. **Closing Prayer** by Chairman Robinson. Meeting adjourned at 12:02am The next MCVC meeting will be held on Thursday August 16, 2019 at the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24, beginning at 11am.

Respectfully Submitted,

EDWIN D. ROBINSON  
Chairman, Manatee County Veterans' Council  
FOR WILLIAM CAREY, SECRETARY