

MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL
September 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Recorded ZOOM Meeting

1. **Meeting was called to order at 11:01 am by Chairman Edwin Robinson** via Zoom, with a prayer (Chaplain Pat Stiles was absent) and all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
 2. **Chair Comments:** Chairman Robinson did not have any specific comments for this section.
 3. **Guest Speaker:** There were no guest speakers at the meeting.
 4. **Recognition of New Members and First Time Guests:** Chairman Robinson recognized Katie Nicholson as part of the new management team at Manatee Veterans Village. Chairman also recognized Paige Morrison, who is employed by Congressman Vern Buchanan's office.
 5. **Roll Call & Minutes:** Roll Call was conducted by Treasurer Margaret Smelser (Secretary William Carey was absent), and a quorum was established. Chairman Robinson advised members to review the minutes of the June, July and August meetings that had been previously emailed. **Motion by Vice Chair to accept the Minutes of all three meetings as published, seconded by Lisa Goss (SCF). Motion was approved unanimously by voting members.** Chairman Robinson, at the suggestion of Treasurer Smelser, also pledged to place in the archives of the Council a note stating the Council did not meet in March, April or May due to COVID.
 6. **Reports**
 - A. **The Treasurer's Report** was presented and will be moved to review.
 - B. **Primary Representative Reports:** Chairman mentioned the Veterans Treatment Court activities during COVID. Katie Nicholson spoke about the new team and new direction at Manatee Veterans Village. Tricia Sadler (Volunteers of America), spoke on her role as Post Exit Counselor. Chairman spoke of John Rosentrater's new role at Florida National Cemetery. And that a new Director will be in place at Sarasota National Cemetery. Carlos Moreira spoke about an advocacy project with the SCVC regarding the "Unconditional Surrender" statue in Downtown Sarasota. Lisa Goss spoke about the Paychecks for Patriots virtual job Fair on November 12. Chairman, speaking for Turning Points, gave an update on a modified Stand Down event in November.
 7. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Veterans Day Ceremony/Awards:** Vice Chair Don Courtney updated members on the awards for this year's Veterans' Day ceremony. Vice Chair stated that even if there is just one person in each category, there must be an approval by the voting members.
 - B. **Veterans Monument Park:** Jim Klocke mentioned that flags have flown at Veterans Monument Park with no issues and no vandalism.
 8. **Standing Committees:** No reports from Standing Committees
 9. **New Business:**
 - A. **Nominating Committee:** Chairman Robinson appointed a 3-person Nominating Committee to address the nominations for the 2021 Executive Team. It was established that Gill Ruderman, Jim Klocke, and Les Martin will serve as the Nominating Committee. Those interested in running for an position on the Executive Team (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer) should see any member of the committee.
 10. **Around the Room:** Members mentioned various programs & projects. Immediate Past Chairman Carl Hunsinger spoke specifically on activities with Manasota Veterans.
 11. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer by Chairman Robinson at 12:15 PM.
- Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the MCVV will be **by Zoom on Thursday Oct 15, 2020 at 11:00 AM**

Respectfully Submitted, Edwin D. Robinson, Chairman **FOR:** *William F. Carey, Secretary*