



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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September Meeting, Thursday, September 21, 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:** Chairman Jim Klocke and 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 reminded all voting members that there will be a vote for "Year Awards" at the October meeting. Candidates are being passed out and will be emailed prior to the October meeting. Chairman Jim Klocke announced that VFW Post 12055 donated \$750 toward the Manatee Veterans Day Parade 2023. Klocke requested a volunteer Honor Guard for a Veterans event on November 10th at the Presbyterian Village.
- 4. Guest Speaker:** Linda Gould with Play for Life. Gould shared the Play for Life program which currently is providing free Pickleball kits to Veterans. Please go to P4L.org website for additional information or contact Linda Gould at 941-320-5171.
- 5. Recognition of Special Guests:** Greg Steinberg and Mason Johnson from Nathan Benderson Park attended in place for Rickard Jenson. They introduced themselves and announced information on the training for the Rowing Olympic tryouts.
- 6. Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 20 people of whom 14 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
- 7. Minutes:** August's minutes were voted for approval. Donald Courtney made the motion; Theresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was unanimous for approval.
- 8. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Janice (Spike) Klocke. Janice announced the storage unit cost is going to be increasing to \$118 and that the scholarship fund has \$4,214 in it. Chairman Jim Klocke moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.



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9. Primary representative reports:

- **Manatee County Veterans Services:** Renee reported her department has hired a new employee which started training this week. She started as of October 1 she will have the funding for two additional staff positions. Renee reported that she does not have an update Veteran Homeless Housing Project.
- **Manatee Veterans Village (VOA):** Paula reported that the VOA Veterans Village has two openings currently. She extended thanks to the Manasota Elks VOA V#2734 for hosting a BBQ at the Village.
- **St. Vincent de Paul:** Erica announced that the Sarasota Standdown is Saturday 9/23/23 at the Sarasota Fairgrounds from 8a-12p. All buses in Manatee and Sarasota Counties will provide free transportation for Veterans to and from the Standdown. Flyers available.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Chairman Jim Klocke announced that MCVC does not own the Donald L Courtney Veterans Park like the Board had assumed. Donald Courtney stated he spoke to the County and City which denied ownership then went to Manatee Memorial Hospital whom verbally agreed the park could go into the hands of the MCVC. Donald Courtney reported that it was a verbal agreement. Charlie Fitt announced that Carol Whittmore could have additional information but that he thought the City owned it and incorporated it in with the Riverwalk project in 2009. Without ownership or a Memo of Understanding (MOU) the MCVC will have to file for a permit 3 months in advance and purchase special event liability insurance of 1M for each event at the DLC Veterans Park. Janice Klocke and Tricia Sadler will continue to research and communicate with the City Special Event staff, Kelly Thomas. Updates and further discussion will take place at the October meeting.

11. Old Business:

- **2023 Veterans Day Parade:** Next meeting is at Palmetto City Hall on September 28 at 11am. All are welcome. Postcards are going to be distribute through a mailout which Theresa Cobb volunteered to address and mail out.
- **Manasota Elks** hosted a Cookout at Veteran Village on September 16, 2023 at 12pm. 17 Veterans attended.



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- **Concert and Food at the Park** – proposed to hold a concert at Donald Courtney Veteran Park on a Sunday afternoon in either November or December. This is on hold until ownership of the park is determined.

12. New Business:

- Manatee Standdown – Jim Klocke requested MCVV members think about getting a table at the Manatee StandDown on November 4 from 8a-12p. This subject will be voted on at the October meeting.
- Wreaths Across America – Bob Green for PUP Tents and Theresa Cobb for AL Auxiliary #325 announced that donations are being collected for Wreaths Across America. The cost is \$17 each this year. Donald Courtney made a motion to donate \$85 to PUP tent (mail to: 6601 23rd Ave W. Bradenton, FL 34209) marked for Local cemetery and \$85 to AL Auxiliary #325 (Mailed to: 3412 US Hwy 301 N #103 Ellenton, FL 34222) marked for local cemetery. Janice Klocke seconded the motion. All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was unanimous for approval.

13. Around the Room:

- Lakewood Ranch Elks is holding a fundraiser for a disabled Veteran in 10/7/23 from 4:30p until the music ends. The cost is \$25 and it includes Texas Roadhouse food and music. For tickets call 941-272-2855.
- Manatee DAR is holding a dedication ceremony for the Revolutionary War Patriots on October 21 at 10am. It is being held at Donald L Courtney Veterans Park. Invitations are available for everyone to take.
- Rep Buchanan representative, Susannah Paige, requested nominations for the Congressional Veteran Commendation. The deadline for nominations is October 6, 2023. Please visit Buchanan.house.gov/congressional-veteran-commendation to submit your nomination.
- Bob Greene announced the Bivouac’s are present for everyone to take.

14. Closing Prayer and Meeting Adjournment: Vice Chairman Tom Sweeney led the closing prayer. As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Klocke at 11:47am.

Next Meeting: October 19, 2023 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler