



MANATEE COUNTY  
VETERANS COUNCIL

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### June Meeting, Thursday, June 15, 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:** 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 announced that Lakewood Ranch Parade: A great success and thank you to Gill for his organizational skills. Memorial Day Service: Best turn out yet with approximately 150 people in attendance. Gill presented Donald Courtney with the honor of the park being dedicated to him.
4. **Guest Speaker:** Elizabeth Newsome from Veteran Affairs Bay Pines announced that she networking with local Veteran Organization with the focus of Suicide prevention and Awareness by working on the challenges of homelessness, medical and financial needs for veterans.
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Lori Johnson and Patrick Frost from Instride Easterseals were introduced.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 21 people of whom 15 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** April's minutes were voted for approval. Donald Courtney made the motion; Rickard Jensen seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Janice (Spike) Klocke. Chairman Jim Klocke moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.
9. **Primary representative reports:**
  - o **Manatee County Veterans Services:** Nathan reported that they have an opening for staff counselor. Nathan reported that they have a 3-4 week waiting time for appointments.



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- **Manatee Veterans Village (VOA):** Silva reported that they have 4 openings. She stated they have a Part time ILC employment position open.
- **St. Vincent de Paul:** Erica shared that they have after care/homeless and suicide prevention programs.

**10. Nathan Benderson Park** – Dragon Boat Veteran Teams. Rickard Jensen stated that the National races are in July. He shared that Nathan Benderson Park was going to hold festivities on July 3. He stated that he was looking for sponsorships for veterans to participate in a Dragon Boat team – the cost is \$420 per year per veteran. Theresa Cobb made a motion to sponsor three veterans at \$420 each for a total of \$1260. Dave Klien seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.

#### **11. Reports of Standing Committees:**

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Chairman Jim Klocke reported that he is still in the process of changing out the flags. He announced that Manatee County Veteran Services were going to replace the POW flags.

#### **12. Old Business:**

- **2023 Veterans Day Parade:** Next meeting is at Palmetto City Hall on July 13. All are welcome.

#### **13. New Business:**

- **Flagpole at Renaissance Manor ALF Veterans:** Karen Yancy requested a flagpole for the Veterans in this location. An estimate was provided of \$100 for a 25’ adjustable pole. Robert Greene made a motion to cover the cost of the pole and flag for Renaissance Manor. Tom Sweeney seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.
- **Bingoland Income:** Gill Ruderman made a motion that the Bingoland Income be dedicated to the scholarship fund. Theresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.
- **Year Awards: All submissions are due by August 17, 2023.** All submissions should be emailed to Jim Klocke at [jeklocke@hotmail.com](mailto:jeklocke@hotmail.com) and/or Donald Courtney at [donaldcourtney1@verizon.net](mailto:donaldcourtney1@verizon.net).



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- **Veteran of the Year:** To nominate a Veteran for the recognition of their service dedicated to Veterans in Manatee County please submit a one page summarizing a brief personal history while highlighting what they are doing in their community this year. Your submission should include a photograph of the nominee. The photograph should be a head shot. A DD214 is required with the submission.
- **Civilian of the Year:** To nominate a civilian for the recognition of their service dedicated to Veterans in Manatee County please submit a one page summarizing a brief personal history while highlighting what they are doing in their community this year. Your submission should include a photograph of the nominee. The photograph should be a head shot.
- **Auxiliary of the Year:** To nominate an Auxiliary member for the recognition of their service dedicated to Veterans in Manatee County please submit a one page summarizing a brief personal history while highlighting what they are doing in their community this year. Your submission should include a photograph of the nominee. The photograph should be a head shot.

#### **14. Around the Room:**

- Linda with JC Congress announced that the Women's Veterans group will be meeting Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1p @ VFW Post 10141 on 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue – all women are welcome
- Bob Greene announced Bivouac's are present for everyone to take. He stated that a Women's Veterans Dragon Boat team won at Florida state Champion Races.
- Lori Johnson from Instride Easterseals announced they offer a free to veteran Equine therapy program. The program is located in Nokomis and runs for 6 weeks on Fridays. For additional information please contact Lori 407-620-3111 or Patrick 941-704-3535.

**15. 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 11:38am.

**Next Meeting:** July 20, 2023 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler