



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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August Meeting, Thursday, August 18, 2022

- 1. Meeting was called to order** at 11:02am by Chairman Edwin Robinson. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 24.
- 2. Invocation:** Chairman Edwin Robinson 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 Edwin Robinson stated there was a date error on the August agenda.
- 4. Guest Speaker:** Deanna Hall, American Legion Dept. of FL Women's Veteran Chairperson. Ms. Hall presented and advocated for Women Veterans rights. She invited all to a FREE Breakfast Ceremony on September 17, 2022 at the American Legion Post 266 Sarasota. It starts 8am.
- 5. Recognition of Special Guests:** Chairman Edwin Robinson welcomed Rich Greenberg – leader the veterans community at Del Web association; Chirstina Manley with Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists announcing the HVRP grant for housing and employment for veterans; Ed Peda and TJ Owings from American Legion Post 24.
- 6. Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 26 people of whom 14 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met. Secretary announced a thank you card that was received from EcoVets for supporting them.
- 7. Minutes:** July's minutes were voted for approval. Woody Schiffman made the motion; Margaret Smelser 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 Edwin Robinson moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit. Chairman Edwin Robinson stated that the formation of a Financial Audit Committee will take place at the September meeting.



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9. Primary representative reports:

Manatee County Veteran Services: Renee Medina reported that the Pack Act was granted in Manatee County. She stated the Veteran Affairs is implementing Veterans assistance and health care for war time exposures like Agent Orange and Gulf time.

Volunteers of America: Molly Boardman from VOA reported that they have 14 veterans with six openings.

Sarasota County Veterans Commission: No report provided.

USFSM Office of Veterans Success: No report provided.

Turning Points: Standdown is November 5, 2022. Zoom meeting for agencies and organizations is scheduled for August 27th at 12pm. This is a zoom meeting.

SCF Student Veterans: No report provided.

Goodwill Veterans Services: Chairman Edwin Robinson reported on behalf of Todd Hughes. He announced “Let’s Buddy Up” meetings in both Sarasota and Venice. This meeting is for Veteran Fellowship and a meal is served.

JFCS: No report provided.

St. Vincent DePaul CARES: No report provided.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported that flags will be going up on September 2nd and will remain up until September 12, 2022. This will be for Labor and Patriots Day.

11. Old Business:

- **Veterans Day Ceremony:** Don Courtney stated there was a planning meeting on August 18 (today) at 2pm in the conference room at Palmetto City Hall. All are welcome to attend.
- **Yearly Awards:** On behalf of the committee Vice Chairman, Jim Klocke, stated several submissions for all categories have been received. There are three for Veteran; two for auxiliary; and two for civilian. Submissions have a deadline of August 18th, 2022 with vote at the October MCVC meeting. Send all submissions to Vice Chairman, Jim Klocke. Hard Copies of the submissions will be available at the September meeting.
- **Video Recording of Meeting:** Tabled until September meeting due to additional legal information required
- **Website Redesign:** No report provided.

12. New Business: No New Business reported



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13. Around the Room:

- Dave Klien representing Manatee JC's announced on Luncheon on September 24th, 2022 at \$10 to the public and Veterans are free at the Bradenton Women's Club. Mr. Klien reported the women are forming a Veterans Ladies Honor Guard. A motion was made for the MCVV to donate \$500 towards the uniforms for the Veterans Ladies Honor guard. Woody Schiffman made the motion; Joanne Kelderman seconded the motion; Before the vote a discussion and amendment to the motion was made. The discussion was about the budgeted and already allocated funds. Donations were made specific for this cause. An amendment to the original motion to \$380 and \$150 restricted funds received today for the Ladies Honor Guard be donated towards their uniforms. Tricia Sadler made the amended motion; Ed Padilla seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
- Tom Sweeney reported that \$11,800 was raised through two fund raisers for Southeast Guide Dogs
- Elks Post 2734 announced the BBQ at the Veterans Village went great. They had 6-8 volunteers to assisted. They were able to provide lunch and a time of fellowship for Veterans living at the Village currently and in the past.
- Rickard Jensen for the Nathan Benderson Park and Dragon Boats provided the stats for the recent tournaments. Congratulations to the Dragon boat teams for ranking 2nd in the USA and 4th in the World! He invites all people and veterans to come on out and try Dragon Boating on August 27th at 9am.
- Ann Miller, Eco Vets, stated that they were awarded a grant from Kiwanis to secure six spots for women veterans in their horticulture program.
- Ed Padilla presented on Veteran suicide prevention. He introduced TJ Ownings as a Veteran that is becoming a first point of contact, like himself, for veterans experiencing depression and suicidal thoughts.
- American Legion Post 10141 announced a POW Recognition ceremony followed by Lunch on September 17, 2022 at noon.

14. Closing Prayer: Chairman Edwin Robinson led the closing prayer.

15. Meeting Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Edwin Robinson at 12:02pm.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2022 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler