



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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May Meeting, Thursday, May 18, 2023

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 11:01am 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 the Revolutionary Patriot Sign donated by the DAR Manatee is installed at the Veterans Park.
4. **Guest Speaker:** No Guest Speakers
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Bill Orr from JC Congress. His organization visits homebound veterans, organizes veteran contributions to local parades, hosts a veteran bowling league and is assisting organizing a Women's Veterans group.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 22 people of whom 12 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** April's minutes were voted for approval. Janice Klocke made the motion; Theresa Cobb 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:** Renee presented the various Memorial Day events happening in the local area – Marauders Game honoring Veterans May 27th and 5pm (they are looking for a Veteran to throw the first pitch); Sarasota National Cemetery on 5/27 at 10am; Anna Maria Memorial Day ceremony and city celebration on May 29 from 10a – 12p at the city pier; Heroes Parade in Lakewood Ranch on May 28th at 7pm (vendors and celebration starts at 6p on Main Street); Sarasota Veterans 5k Hike from 8a-2p with lunch at Bayfront (hike



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starts at War Memorial Park); and Manatee County Veterans Ceremony at Donald L Courtney Veteran Park at 9am on May 29th.

- **Manatee Veterans Village (VOA):** Silva introduced herself and announced she is the new IOP there - Latoya is leaving. They have 5 openings and one veteran will be coming on staff to help out.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Chairman Jim Klocke reported that he painted the Blue Star and maintained the walk ways at the Veteran Park. The flags will be up for Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. Flag lines were replaced by Niagara Signs – he donated his time and services. Thank you cards/letter to be sent to Niagara Signs and the new Maintenance person at Manatee Memorial Hospital for excellent ground keeping – Frank Escobar.

11. Old Business:

- **Scholarship Program:** Award recipient, Samantha Rees, was present for today's meeting. She shared her thanks and her plan for her future after graduation.
- **2023 Veterans Day Parade:** Next meeting is at Palmetto City Hall on July 13.
- **Lakewood Ranch Parade:** May 28, 2023 at 7pm Gill Ruderman stated the parade will start on Main Street. There will be a vehicle and walkers holding a banner. Please be in the staging area (Lakewood Ranch Medical Center) at 5pm. MCVC will be handing out beads donated by the senator's office.
- **Memorial Day Service:** May 29, 2023 at 9am located that the Doanld L. Courtney Veteran Park. Mayor Brown is the guest speaker; We will be honoring Donald Courtney and the park renaming at that time. MCVC will be handing out beads donated by the senator's office.

12. New Business: none

13. Around the Room:

- Linda with JC Congress announced that the Women's Veterans group will be meeting Saturday June 10th from 1-3p @ VFW Post 10141 on 51st Avenue – all women are welcome
- Career Source, Gilbert Humphrey, announced they still were offering free laptops for veterans. He announced the county had approved a tiny home village which will provide permanent homes for Veterans. He stated the location will be at the



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Public Works location at 63rd and Cortez. Renee from Manatee County confirmed and stated no details were available at this time.

- Dick Moore from Post VFW 10141 introduced himself.
- Bob Greene announced 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 11:49pm.

Next Meeting: June 15, 2023 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler