



MANATEE COUNTY  
VETERANS COUNCIL

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### May Meeting, Thursday, May 20, 2021

- 1. Meeting was called to order** at 11:00am by Chairman Edwin Robinson. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 24.
- 2. Invocation:** Chairman Edwin Robinson opened the meeting with prayer. Edwin Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
- 3. Chairman's Comments:** Chairman, Edwin Robinson, spoke about the change of location for MCVV monthly minutes to American Legion Post 24.
- 4. Guest Speaker:** There were no guest speaker at this meeting.
- 5. Recognition of New Members and First Time Guests:** There were no new members or first-time guests. Chairman, Edwin Robinson, introduced the new commander of American Legion Post 24, John Doucette, as a special guest to the Council.
- 6. Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were ten paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
- 7. Minutes:** April's minutes were voted for approval. Teresa Cobb made the motion; Rich Blunt seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was unanimous for approval. It was established that January meeting were posted on the website. Motion was made and withdrawn by Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, for January minutes to be voted for approval. The motion was withdrawn due to Treasurer, Margaret Smelser, asking for time to review January minutes. January minutes will be voted on at June's meeting.
- 8. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Margaret Smelser. Chairman, Edwin Robinson moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit. Treasurer reported that a balance owed from previous treasurer had been paid in full on May 6, 2021. A thank you note has been sent to him.



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## 9. Primary representative reports:

- **Manatee County Veteran Services** announced that the city is making a move to establish transitional housing for homeless veterans. The city is currently looking for a location. Lee Washington reported on the Maudras baseball game on Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup> stating that two veterans from the Manatee Veterans Village wanted to attend. Lee Washington confirmed that non-veterans associated with the council will be extended the \$5.00 entrance fee. Anyone wanting to attend from the council please contact Chairman, Edwin Robinson, by Tuesday May 26, 2021 and arrangements will be made.
- **Manatee Veterans Village reports** that their buildings were treated for termites over the past several weeks.
- **JFCS** was reported by Chairman, Edwin Robinson. He shared information about the Sarasota Stand down and Amnesty Court on June 26, 2021 at the Sarasota Fairgrounds.

## 10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Jim Klocke reports five new flags are in place at the park. Per Mr. Washington, the large flags are up and flying while a company is located to make repairs to the rigging mechanism. Don Courtney mentioned Palmetto Elks might have a grant that would be used for this project and suggested Mr. Klocke reach out to them.
- **Legislative:** Kevin Wright, DAV Post 18, stated there is no report due to a lack of changes in the items in legislative review. On a local front, Mr. Wright congratulated Mr. Washington being newly elected state representative for Veterans.

## 11. Old Business:

- **Memorial Day Ceremony:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, reported the service is being held outside at the Veterans Memorial Park. It is to start at 9 am. A singer for the National Anthem and Honor Guard has been identified. The guest speaker is Rich Blunt. Mr. Courtney reported all organizations that will be presenting wreaths should arrive at 8:30 am. Vice Chairman states there will not be any tents or additional seating available. Teresa Cobb volunteered to donate nine cases of water for the event. A congress representative, David Sarney will be attending.



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- **BOCC Pledge Program:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, has a signup sheet for all Veteran volunteers to present the Pledge of Allegiance at the open ceremony at the Manatee County meetings which are held on Tuesdays at 9am. Mr. Courtney mentioned that all veterans volunteering write a brief bio to be read. Please see Donald Courtney for additional questions and to volunteer.
- **Veteran scholarship** Tricia Sadler made the motion to create a committee regarding establishing a scholarship; Les Martin seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was unanimous for approval to form a committee. Margaret Smelser, Donald Courtney and Rich Blunt serve as the committee at this time. A report will be made at June meeting.
- **February 2020 Minutes** required and need to be reviewed. Chairman, Edwin Robinson and Margaret Smelser will work on this.
- **Amendment to January minutes.** Teresa Cobb stated a correction was needed to be made to the January minutes prior to voting in June. She states the correction is to the name St. Vincent de Paul. Margaret Smelser made the motion to approve the amendment of January’s minutes; Donald Courtney seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was unanimous for approval to review. A copy of revised minutes will be submitted by Teresa Cobb to webmaster, Les Martin.

## 12. New Business:

- **Waive AL Post 24 dues for council.** Motion was made and withdrawn after discussion from the council, by Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney to waive the American Legion Post 24 membership dues. Council members
- **Storage Unit** Chairman Edwin Robinson is now the second contact person on the unit. Upon assessment current storage unit is the best value and space. Margaret Smelser, Treasurer, requested key control system. Chairmen to speak to previous chairman about keys. Lee Washington suggested purchasing new lock and keys instead of tracking down old keys. No decision was made.
- **Council participating in community:** Suggestion #1 – Concert in the Park; Suggestion #2 Food Truck Event. Several questions regarding parking and hospital approval were asked by council members. Chairman, Edwin Robinson, requested informal emails be sent to him and a formal discuss will take place at the June’s meeting, including parking and electricity concerns.
- **Increase council membership:** Consider opening membership up to individuals as well as organizations. To be discussed at June meeting.



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- Teresa Cobb requested that the Council pay for a portion of the Large Flagpole repairs. This topic will be visited at the June meeting.

**13. Around the Room: Community Events were presented:**

- Ed Padilla provided an update on the events of the Post 24 Riders, including announcing a Health and Wellness Fair on June 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Gil Ruderman shared information regarding a Concert on May 22 at Greenburg Memorial Park in Lakewood Ranch from 5pm – 7pm. Free parking for Veterans. Gil also shared that Sarasota Herald Tribune published a list of approximately 200 organizations that offer Veteran discounts in the month of May for Military appreciation.

**14. Closing Prayer:** Chairman Edwin Robinson closed the meeting with prayer.

**15. Meeting Adjournment:** As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned. A motion was made and seconded at 12:15 pm.

**Next Meeting:** June 17, 2021 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

**Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler**