



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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May Meeting, Thursday, May 19, 2022

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 11:00am by Vice Chairman Jim Klocke. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 24.
2. **Invocation:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke 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:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke requested volunteers to present the Pledge of Allegiance at the Manatee County Meetings
4. **Guest Speaker:** No guest speakers present.
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke welcomed newest MCVC member Molly Broadman from DAR Osceola Chapter
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 21 people of whom 16 were paid members and 3 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** April's minutes were voted for approval. Kevin Wright made the motion; Don Courtney seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval. Tricia Sadler presented a thank you letter from Wreaths Across America in regards to the donations she received in April from MCVC.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Spike Klocke. Vice Chairman Jim Klocke moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.
9. **Primary representative reports:**
 - Manatee County Veteran Services:** Jack Ruark introduced two new employees in the Veterans services Ed Behn and Maria Spengler. Jack donated Bradenton Marauders game tickets for this Saturday Military appreciation night.
 - Volunteers of America:** Latoya Pendergrass reported that they have 19 veterans at this time. Thank you, American Legion, for the donation of the basketball hoop. She requested food donations for the current residents at Veterans Village.
 - Sarasota County Veterans Commission:** Carlos Moreira requested volunteers for the Pledge of Allegiance for Sarasota County meetings; Request for volunteers for the



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Sarasota National Cemetery for place flags on May 28th and to be tour guides during normal business hours - contact Ms Richardson 941-448-6299; Carlos announced SCVC Memorial Day Hike that will take place downtown Sarasota on May 28th; There is Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Memorial Day May 30th in Downtown Sarasota at 10am; Operation Warrior Resolution Program is requesting likes on Facebook to win \$\$ for their program; JFCS internship program for housing and employment
USFSM Office of Veterans Success: Carlos reported that on June 1 there will be a ceremony with the Patterson Foundation at the campus to honor local organizations that have received the donation of statues; USF offers a Critical Thinking Program; USF has a new program and is offering discounts to Veterans for a Diversity in the Workplace Certification; Congress is to assist with a grant for a Cyber Security Certification Program which will be free to Veterans in Manatee County; USF has a five year plan to expand the Manatee Campus; Flag program, which provides flag education, is in the works to be returned to the Manatee Schools; McDill Base has an internship program to finding Veterans employment and establish a future in civil world.

Turning Points: Michelle reports that they are working on the housing crisis challenges. New Grants have new stipulations but will be in place in July which will allow funding for housing and hotel for homeless veterans. This funding allows for landlord incentives and extended hotel stays if waiting on housing. Michelle announced Manatee Standdown is November 5, 2022.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported mulch is being put down; hospital has been doing the lawn care found a head stone that had been covered; DAR Manatee Chapter would like to donate a monument for Revolutionary War – DAR will get quotes and discuss with MCVVC on what they would like
- **Legislative:** No report provided.

11. Old Business:

- **Memorial Day Ceremony** Vice Chairman, Jim Klocke, reported that all arrangements for the ceremony have been arranged. The ceremony will start at 9am. The program will be approximately 45 minutes long; No tents or restrooms; water will be provided; Jim Jones will be writing article for the paper.

12. New Business: No new business



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13. Around the Room:

- Recognition to Don Courtney for being awarded a Life Time achievement for Volunteering (the 5th Florida Veteran to earn this award) and to Gill Ruderman for being entered into Florida Veteran Hall of Frame
- Sarasota County Veteran Services monthly meeting on May 26, Thursday, at 4pm located at Post 3233 VFW on Fruitville
- Bivouac's have been released, please take one
- Easter Seals has an Equine Training program available every Friday for Veterans – limited openings please contact Tom
- West Coast Honor Flights have started running again as of last week – next one June 14 out of St. Pete/Clearwater airport
- Lakewood Ranch is having a Tribute to Heros parade on May 22 – Line up starts at 5pm – parade at 7pm

14. Closing Prayer: Vice Chairman Jim Klocke led the closing prayer.

15. Meeting Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Vice Chairman Jim Klocke at 11:37pm.

Next Meeting: June 16, 2022 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler