



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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August Meeting, Thursday, August 17, 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:** 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:** Chairman Jim Klocke reminded everyone in attendance that the Year Awards submissions are due today. Chairman Jim Klocke reminded everyone that if their organization is not called during roll call their dues are not paid and to see Treasurer for more information.
4. **Guest Speaker:** No Guest Speaker this month
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** No First time or Special guests this month
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 21 people of whom 12 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** July's minutes were voted for approval. Donald Courtney made the motion; Janice Klocke seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was unanimous 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. Janice stated that Edwin Roberts was still a signer on the checking account and that he needed to be removed and another signer needed to be added. Janice stated that since Chairman and Treasurer were related the second signer should be someone else. Margaret Smelser made a motion that Vice Chairman, Tom Sweeney, be the second signer on the MCVC checking account. Donald Courtney seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was unanimous for approval.



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9. Primary representative reports:

- **Manatee County Veterans Services:** Renee reported that the Pact Act claims can still be filed but the claim will not be eligible for retro benefits. Renee announced there is a Call To Action meeting on Saturday August 19th at 9:00am at the Manatee Utilities Bldg 4410 66th St. West Bradenton, FL 34210. This meeting is to allow the county to hear the voices of the community sharing the importance of the Veterans housing project needing to move forward. Please attend and share your thoughts. Renee has applications for the Pledge Program. This program is for a Veteran to led the Pledge of Allegiance at the county meetings. The county budget has the funding for two more Veteran Services employees.
- **Manatee Veterans Village (VOA):** Paula reported that Latoya is returning to her full time position and that Silva will remain part time. She stated that one unit is down for bed bugs. Paula stated that they are looking for furniture for the units and the Veterans that are moving out.
- **USFSM Office of Veterans Success:** Carlos emailed that board with a reminder of the Remembrance Ceremony on September 11th at Patriots Plaza at 8:00am
- **St. Vincent de Paul:** Erica shared that they two programs – housing homeless Veterans and the suicide prevention program. Brochures available.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:**
 - Chairman Jim Klocke reported that flags have been replaced. Three haylards were replaced as well.

11. Old Business:

- **2023 Veterans Day Parade:** Next meeting is at Palmetto City Hall on August 31 at 11am. All are welcome. 300 Postcards are available to distribute. Chairman Jim Klocke announced that on the same day as the parade Palmetto has a Farmers Market from 9a – 2pm. The Farmers Market did ask if they could still have their event due to the conflicting times. MCVC Members did object. Treasurer, Janice Klocke, will contact Farmers Market contact and let them know.

12. New Business:

- Manasota Elks is hosting a Cookout at Veteran Village on September 16, 2023 at 12pm. Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be served. Everyone is invited.



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- Concert and Food at the Park – proposed to hold a concert at Donald Courtney Veteran Park on a Sunday afternoon in either November or December. Mr. Courtney suggested using Bobcat Disposable for port-a-potties. This was tabled until September to discuss and vote on.

13. Around the Room:

- Announcement – Bob Green is getting married this Saturday.
- Nathan Benderson Park – Rickard reported that he was in Washington for the national Dragon Boat races. He stated the USA team was 2nd place in the world. He invites everyone to come and observe or participate in the local teams – 8:30am on Saturdays, Mondays at 6:00pm and Wednesdays at 4:30pm – every week.
- Ed from AL Post 24 announced that new VA Benefit guides are out. He stated that the Call To Action meeting was important for the community and urged people to attend. He stated that he is available to assist Veterans and Spouses with benefits.
- AL Post 325 announced that November 4th they are holding a Victory for Veterans event. They will be music, food, vendors and an auction. IT starts at 12p. Their goal is to raise \$20,000.

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 11:45am.

Next Meeting: September 21, 2023 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler