



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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August Meeting, Thursday, August 19, 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. Don Courtney led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
3. **Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Edwin Robinson thanked everyone for leading July meeting.
4. **Guest Speaker:** There was no guest speaker.
5. **Recognition of New Members and First Time Guests:** Kelly Foster was introduced as first time guest. Ms Foster represents Manatee County Neighborhood Services and Social Media. Ms. Foster explained her role in reporting the positive stories that happen in the county and is currently focused on the homeless and Veteran homelessness.

New Member/returning member: Mike McClain with Manatee City Exchange

6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 11 paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** July's minutes were voted for approval. Woody Schiffman made the motion; Donald Courtney seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
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.
9. **Primary representative reports:**
Manatee Veterans Village Anita no longer employed with VOA; cookout this Friday 8/27 by Elks 2734 honoring the veterans and passing a recent inspection; announced closing of other GPD programs



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Sarasota County Veterans Commission Woody Schiffman reported that 75th anniversary celebration was a success; event to honor 9/11 will be held at Strangles Bar on Swift Rd. at 6pm – all are welcome; Sarasota Vets meet at 8am on the first Monday of the month – all are welcome to attend

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Jim Klocke reported that he is getting quotes for repairing or replacing the benches. Benches that are unsafe will be roped off for Labor Day and 9/11 ceremonies. No update on large flagpole repairs. Flags will be going up for 9/11 and Labor Day.
- **Legislative:** Kevin Wright, DAV Post 18, reported that the state goes to work next week. Last session though there were funds many veteran programs did not make the cut. Beyond the state legislative new featured speaker next week – Jimmy T Smith with the Coalition for Concerned Veterans of America advocating for the Veteran True Choice Act.

11. Old Business:

- **BOCC Pledge Program:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, reports that Kevin Wright is on the schedule for the next meeting and there is an open slot for a volunteer in October.
- **Veteran scholarship** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, reports the committee will be review various scholarship applications.
- **Veteran's Day Ceremony:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, reported there will not be a parade this year. There will be a ceremony in the park. Still looking for guest speaker and a Chaplin for the ceremony.
- **Award Submission:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, reported that there two for Auxiliary of the Year and two for volunteer of the year – need a submission for Veteran of the year. In September submission will be posted on the website for review and voting to be done in October
- **Discussion of Change in Membership Requirements:** Discussion regarding opening membership to individuals was brought up by Treasurer Margaret Smelser. Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, made the motion to discuss this topic. Woody Schiffman seconded the motion. After discussion about a change in the by laws and individual membership fee all voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was not anonymous for approval with one “Nay”.



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Committee to change By Law wording was formed – Margaret Smelser, Woody Schiffman and Gill Ruderman.

- **Service Flags** were located at the Scottish Storage. If they are needed please contact Bonnie.

12. New Business:

- **Recruitment of Members:** Treasurer, Margaret Smelser, presented the idea of a recruitment drive for new members. It was suggested that Chairman, Edwin Robinson, write a letter and the board send it out to local Veteran organizations. Chairman agreed to write a letter and have Bob Greene deliver it when he delivers BIBWAC publication
- **Manatee Standdown** November 6 from 8a-12p. Jim Klocke presented the idea of MCVC having a table and volunteers to man the table. Completion of Vendor form is required; Treasurer Margaret Smelser will assist with completion. A motion was made to donate \$200 towards the standdown and expenses to have a table. Secretary Tricia Sadler made the motion; Teresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.
- American Legion Post 24 announced their Golf Tournament on 4/9/22 at Post 1 in Titusville. The proceeds are the children and youth. A motion was made to donate \$500. Teresa Cobb made the motion; Donald Courtney seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.
- Invitation to the cookout at Manatee Veterans Village was made by Jim Klocke. The cookout will be at noon on Friday 8/27. A motion was made to donate \$100 toward the food for the cookout. Woody Schiffman made the motion; Teresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.

13. Around the Room: Community Events were presented: Woody Schiffman suggested inviting ROTC to the meetings. Conclusion was made that our meeting is during school hours and would not get attendance.

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



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15. Meeting Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Edwin Robinson at 12:10pm.

Next Meeting: September 16 2021 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler