



MANATEE COUNTY  
VETERANS COUNCIL

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### November Meeting, Thursday, November 17, 2022

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 and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
3. **Special Presentation: 2022 Auxiliary Member of the Year:** Chairman Edwin Robinson presented Tricia Sadler, Secretary, with the award of 2022 Auxiliary Member of the Year.
4. **Chairman's Comments:** Chairman Edwin Robinson publicly thanked Renee Medina and Lee Washington for the assistance with moving the Veterans Day Ceremony to safe accommodations due to Hurricane Nicole. Chairman Edwin Robinson gave an exit as chairman speech by recognizing and thanking everyone individually.
5. **Guest Speaker:** No Guest Speakers
6. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Chairman Edwin Robinson welcomed Marine Corp 588 Commander Larry Sasec.
7. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 27 people of whom 15 were paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
8. **Minutes:** October's minutes were voted for approval. Don Courtney made the motion; Teresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval. Secretary presented a Thank You card/picture from Women's Veteran Honor Guard.
9. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Janice (Spike) Klocke. Chairman Edwin Robinson moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit. Financial Audit Committee was formed. It consists of Edwin Robinson, Margerat



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Smelser and Tricia Sadler. Treasurer, Janice Klocke presented the 2023 Proposed Budget and stated that it will be voted on at the January meeting.

#### 10. Primary representative reports:

**Manatee County Veteran Services:** Renee Medina reported that the Manatee County Standdown went well. They served 195 people, including 76 Veterans. Turning Points recruited 157 volunteers and 38 community partners volunteered. Renee stated that people wanting to donate to Wreaths Across America it could be done at the Veterans Service office. Renee recruited for the Pledge program (veteran presenting flag and Pledge of Allegiance at county meetings) and shared the Women Veteran Color Guard would be presenting at the next County meeting.

**Volunteers of America:** No report provided.

**Sarasota County Veterans Commission:** No report provided.

**USFSM Office of Veterans Success:** No report provided.

**Turning Points:** No report provided.

**SCF Student Veterans:** No report provided.

**Goodwill Veterans Services:** Chairman Edwin Robinson reported on behalf of Todd Hughes. He announced Todd along with JFCS is offering a 12 week Fatherhood class. This class will be held at the Goodwill for Veteran office and starts December 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday. For more information contact Todd.

**JFCS:** No report provided.

**St. Vincent DePaul CARES:** No report provided.

#### 11. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported that flags were not up for Veterans Day due to Hurricane Nicole. He stated that the flags would go up for Christmas through the New Year. Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported that there had been a water leak in the park but the Manatee Memorial Hospital repaired it after being informed of it. He states there are some trees that requiring trimming.

#### 12. Old Business:

- **Veterans Day Ceremony:** Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported that the ceremony at the park had to be moved due to Hurricane Nicole. A request for thank you notes to be sent to Manatee County and the singer; Rebecca Stracener was made. Jim stated that he would like to start in January 2023 to organize a parade for



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2023 Veterans Day Ceremony. Jim requested Edwin Robinson be the MC for 2023 ceremony – Edwin Robinson accepted. Teresea Cobb reported that a cooler has been donated to the council for future ceremonies to be used for complementary water. The donation was provided by Teresa Cobb.

- **Constitution Updates:** Representing the By-laws updates Margaret Smelser reviewed proposed changes to the constitution. The proposed changes include that boards members are eligible to vote despite their voting position within their paid organization. The second proposed change is the nominations for board position will be made by a committee that will be formed in September; the committee will announce the nominees at October meeting and voted on in the November meeting. The third proposed change is that boards members will be one of the two representatives of a council organization. The fourth proposed change is that the term of office is two years and the max term is two consecutive terms. After a discussion there was a motion to table Article 4 Section 5 on Chairmen voting. Jim Klock made the motion. Don Courtney seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote all “Aya’s” with exception of one “Nay”. Another motion was made to vote on the remaining proposed changes as is. Don Courtney made the motion; Teresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.
- **Manatee County Veterans Directory** – Chairman, Edwin Robinson stated this was in the works, with no update at this time.
- **Box found in Storage Unit:** Teresa Cobb reported that the box of personal belongings found in the storage unit has ben identified as Anne Fagan’s and has been shipped to her nephew. Teresa stated that funds to ship the box was donated by herself.
- **Nominations for Board Members Committee:** Teresa Cobb reported for the committee by announcing that the nominations for 2023 Boards members are as follows: Chairman – Jim Klocke; Vice Chairmen – Thomas Sweeney; Tressure – Janice Klocke; Secretary – Tricia Sadler. With no additional nominations the voting members of the council voted with a result of all in favor.

### 13. New Business:

- **Change of Command Ceremony:** Chairman Edwin Robinson lead a ceremony introducing the new elected officials of the Manatee County Veterans Council for 2023.

### 14. Around the Room:



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- Bob Greene announced Bivouac's are present for everyone to take. He announced that Wreaths Across America donations were being accepted by his post. Don Courtney made a motion that the council donate the funds for 15 wreaths for the Ellenton Cemetery. Tereasa Cobb seconded that motion. All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
  - Tom Sweeney with Lakewood Ranch Elks announced the Veterans appreciation lunch on 11/10 served 47 Veterans.

**15. Closing Prayer:** Chairman Jim Klocke led the closing prayer.

**16. Meeting Adjournment:** As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Klocke at 12:13pm.

**Next Meeting:** January 19, 2022 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

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