



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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September Meeting, Thursday, September 18, 2022

1. **Meeting was called to order at 11:04 am** by Vice Chairman Jim Klocke. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 24.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Vice Chairman Klocke opened the meeting with having all recite the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation.
3. **Vice Chairman's Comments:** Agendas are on the way. Elections are on the way for Veteran's Day awards. The nominations will be distributed to paid members when roll call is taken.
4. **Guest Speaker:** Dr. Laila Abdullah from the Roskamp Institute spoke of the clinical research study on those involved in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. They are looking for those men and women deployed to the 1990-1991 Gulf War. The study involves 5 in-person visits and 3 phone call visits.
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** No special guests.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll Call was conducted by acting Secretary, Margaret Smelser. Present were 18 people of whom 12 were paid members and 3 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** Chairman Edwin Robinson takes over leading the meeting. August minutes were voted for approval. Moved by Don Courtney. Woody Schiffman seconded the motion; Motion passed.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Janice (Spike) Klocke. Noted Wellenberger Estate gift of \$9,549.83 was placed in Restricted funds and would be moved to general funds as a correction.
9. **Primary representative reports:**
 - Manatee County Veteran Services:** Now fully staffed
 - Volunteers of America:** Molly Boardman from VOA requested information on housing for residents. Edwin explained criteria and how information is changing and VA standards. 14 in residence at this time with more expected.
 - Sarasota County Veterans Commission:** No report provided.



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USFSM Office of Veterans Success: Chairman Edwin Robinson reported that Carlos and his group had an amazing 9/11 Remembrance with the new president of USF as the speaker.

Good Will Services: No Report provided

Turning Points: Standdown is November 5, 2022. Zoom meeting for agencies and organizations is scheduled for Sept. 23 at 2 pm.

JFCS: No report provided.

St. Vincent DePaul CARES: No report provided.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

Veteran Monument Park: Vice Chairman Jim Klocke reported that the flags were removed until Veterans Day. One flag was damaged the rest of them worn but not too bad. Weeding done around stones and there was a water line break.

11. Old Business:

Parade Meeting at 2 pm at Palmetto City Hall. Costs involved do not need to be voted on as they are cost of doing business of parade.

Yearly Awards: The nominations for the veterans day awards were presented and vote will be taken at October meeting. Those nominated are: Veteran of the Year; David Klein, Charles Stolteben and Richard Macri. Auxiliary of the Year; Tricia Sadler and Kathy Doddridge. Civilian of the Year; Thomas Sweeney and Rhonda Daily.

Video Recording of Meeting: Discussion of media releases and use of recordings.

Thank you letter from the Ladies Color Guard for donation was read by Chairman Edwin Robinson.

12. New Business:

Nominating Committee: for new officers are Gill Ruderman, Don Courtney, Theresa Cobb

Constitution and By Laws Committee: Margaret Smelser, Jim Klocke and check with Tricia Sadler.

Scholarship Fund: Theresa Cobb made a motion to move \$2000 from the Wellenberger Estate monies to the Scholarship Fund towards the spring 2023 distribution of funds Don Courtney 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

13. Around the Room; Woody Schiffman reminded the group of the Women's Forum Saturday, 24th.

At the Bradenton Women's Club.

Ann Miller or Eco Vets asked if 2nd Wed of the month was a convenient time on the calendar to set up for an ongoing time for vets to come to the farm and sit around the fire pit.



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Rickard Jensen for Nathan Benderson park reported on the August 27th event that 80 people were there to paddle including 6 veterans. Nov. event will be for veterans only male and female

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

15: Meeting Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Edwin Robinson at 11:55 a.m.

Next Meeting: October 20, 2022 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Acting Recording Secretary – Margaret Smelser