



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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July Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 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 by August 17, 2023. All submissions should be emailed to Jim Klocke at jeklocke@hotmail.com and/or Donald Courtney at donaldcourtney1@verizon.net. He announced that the VA is holding a Vet Fest in St. Petersburg on Saturday August 5, 2023. This is to assist with Health Care enrollment, Toxic screenings and VBA claims assistance. Please see flyer for additional information. Chairman Jim Klocke shared that we received a thank you card from Benderson Park for our donation to Dragon Boat Veterans Team.
4. **Guest Speaker:** No Guest Speaker this month
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Rick from St. Vincent de Paul was introduced.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 15 people of whom 10 were paid members and 3 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** June's minutes were voted for approval. Theresa Cobb 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. She reported that Bingoland Income was \$200 and it was put into restricted funds for the scholarship fund. Chairman Jim Klocke moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.
9. **Primary representative reports:**



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- **Manatee County Veterans Services:** Renee reported that the Pact Act claims are coming up on the one-year anniversary which means to get retro benefits a claim would be to be submitted by August 9, 2023. Renee announced that the VA has a program called QL Plus. This is a free program for Veterans where custom devices are designed and made for those that have a physical disability so they can engage in life activities to gain or maintain quality of life. Please see Renee for more information.
- **Manatee Veterans Village (VOA):** Katie reported that they have 1 opening.
- **Sarasota County Veterans Commission and USFSM Office of Veterans Success:** Carlos announced SCVC Next meeting is August 24 at 6pm at the VFW 3233 – there will be several guest speakers; Volunteers needed to place flags over 2,000 at Sarasota Veterans Cemetery on September 9th; Remembrance Ceremony on September 11th at Patriots Plaza at 8:30am– Guest Speaker needed preferably someone that was involved in the towers; September 13th Tidewell Hospice event at the Van Wezel. The speaker is the pilot from Airforce One and will be recounting the events of 9/11; Sarasota Standdown is scheduled for September 23, 2023; Vet Expo and Resource Fair is scheduled for January 13th, 2024 – Employment and benefits support for Veterans in Manatee and Sarasota Counties
- **St. Vincent de Paul:** Rick shared that they have a rush to get homeless Veterans out of hotels and into housing with the current guidelines that state Veterans can only be housed into hotels for 60 days over a 2 year period. Recently housed over 118 veterans since May 2023.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:**
 - Chairman Jim Klocke reported that he is still in the process of changing out the flags. Donald Courtney made a motion to transfer \$1000 to the restricted funds for the Veterans Park to complete the flag replacement; Gill Ruderman seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was unanimous for approval.
 - He announced that Manatee County Veteran Services replaced the POW flags.
 - He stated that two new bricks had been ordered and they had been engraved. The engraving cost \$75.00 per brick which is what we charge. Chairman Jim Klocke brought forth the conversation to increase the amount of the charge for brick. Tricia Sadler made a motion to increase



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the cost to \$100 per brick. After discussion Donald Courtney made a revision to the motion to set the price at \$85 per brick. Theresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was unanimous for approval.

11. Old Business:

- **2023 Veterans Day Parade:** Next meeting is at Palmetto City Hall on August 31 at 11am. All are welcome. 300 Postcards will be ordered for \$27.00 and mailed as an announcement regarding the parade date, time and location. VFW Palmetto stated they would like to be involved in the parade and ceremony.
- **Flagpole at Renaissance Manor ALF Veterans:** Chairman Jim Klocke reported that the flagpole has arrived at his residence and will be delivered to the Renaissance Manor.

12. New Business: No reported new business

13. Around the Room:

- Theresa Cobb announced that the Women’s Veterans group has a new name Women’s Veteran of Suncoast. Their next meeting will be Saturday August 12th at 1p @ VFW Post 10141 on 51st Avenue – all women are welcome.
- Manasota Elks has received a grant to assist Veterans that are newly housed and are in need of household items. Please contact Janice Klocke for more information.
- Dottie from American Legion 312 announced that they have a train engine car that is being donated to anyone that can move it.
- Paige from Us Congress Buchanan office announced that he is holding a Special Veterans Accommodations Ceremony on September 8th. Please nominate all Veterans that are eligible for honorable service. Eligibility and application for submission can be found on the website - <https://buchanan.house.gov/congressional-veteran-commendation>

14. Closing Prayer and Meeting Adjournment:

Chairman Jim Klocke led the closing prayer. As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Klocke at 11:42am.

Next Meeting: August 17, 2023 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler