

MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 1881
BRADENTON, FL 34206
www.my-mcvc.org

June 20, 2019
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Location: Kirby Stewart American Legion Post #24, Bradenton, Florida

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and Welcome:** Chairman Edwin Robinson began the meeting at 11:00 am, this date, with all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Chair leading us in an Opening Prayer. He then welcomed all members and guests. Guests were then introduced.
2. **Chair's Comments:** The Chair shared his inaugural comments with all, specifically citing that:
 - A. This year's priority is to: **"ENGAGE Manatee Co. Veterans and have them feel the results of our efforts on their behalf"**.
 - B. This Council needs to speak to our next generation, by getting **"Back into the Schools"** and explaining to them the concept that "Freedom isn't Free" and that Freedom should never be taken for granted.
 - C. It is to be this Council's priority to *Inspire and Excite* our Youth in providing "Service to our Country".
3. **Guest Presentations and Recognition:**
 - A. **Megan Schroeder** was introduced by Gill Ruderman and Megan gave a presentation about her locally-owned *Life Pharmacy* located in Lakewood Ranch (LWR) and how they contribute a portion of their proceeds to non-profit organizations, including military non-profits. Specifically, they'll dedicate a portion of their July 2019 proceeds to our MC Veterans Council. *Life Pharmacy* is located at **4144 LWR Blvd** near *Skyline Chili*.
 - B. **Jennifer Taylor** of *Home Depot* was introduced by the Chair and she presented information about the *Home Depot Grant Program* for non-profits and government support agencies. She represents 11 stores in this region and has a goal of donating **\$500 million** by 2025 through this program. Some of our members have taken advantage of this program, already, and we will partner with her program going forward.
 - C. The new Commander of **VFW Post 12055** in LWR, Commander Graham Ellis was introduced by Gill Ruderman.
4. **Roll Call, Minutes and Treasurer's Report**
 - A. **Roll Call** was conducted by the Secretary, Bill Carey, who confirmed a Quorum.
 - B. **May 2019 Minutes** were placed on the website, prior to this meeting, and were available, in hard copy, to all attendees at the meeting. The Chair asked for any questions or corrections to the draft minutes There were none. A motion was made, seconded and a unanimous vote approved the minutes as written.
 - C. **Treasurer's Report** was provided, in hard copy for members, by Margaret Smelser and explained. A motion to accept the report, subject to audit, was made and seconded and a unanimous vote approved the report, subject to audit.
5. **Representatives Reports:**
 - A. **MC Veterans Court** – Bill Carey updated members on the current status of Veterans Court and responded to questions. He stated that Mentors were always needed and that he could be contacted at wfcarey7152@att.net or tel. 941-254-4527.
 - B. **USF-** Carlos Moreira updated the Council on the USF Honor Society and upcoming Veteran of the Year competition.

5. Representatives Reports: (cont.)

- C. **SCF** - The Council was updated on 2 pilot programs it has. More information will be provided at next month's MCVV meeting.
- D. **Goodwill** – Representative Todd Hughes announced its *Lutz Buddy UP* program in support of Veterans coping with PTSD. It will take place on **Wednesday July 17 at 6:00 PM (1800 hrs. mil. time)** at their **Lockwood Ridge Rd. & University Parkway** location.
- E. **Turning Points** – Chairman Edwin Robinson announced Turning Point's *21st Annual Stand-Down* scheduled for **Nov. 2, 2019 at the MC Fairgrounds from 0800-1200 hours (8:00 AM- Noon - civilian time)**. A **planning meeting** for this event will be held on **Mon. July 15, 2019** at the *Our Daily Bread Facility*, co-located with *Turning Point*.
- F. **JFCS** – **OMAP Director** Richard McDaniel announced its plans for a *Rapid Resolution Homeless Program*.

6. Old Business – Memorial Day Observation Ceremony

A. The Chairman specifically provided a great Thank You to

1. *Treasurer Margaret Smelser and her daughter*
2. *The Marine Corps League,*
3. *Shaun Morris of MC Veterans Services Office,*
4. *VA Post 10141,*
5. *Jim Klocke, Manager, Veterans Monument Park*

for their outstanding contributions to making the Memorial Day Ceremony such a success.

- B. The Program and Guest Speaker were a big success and the Chairman thanked all who attended the ceremony and all those who helped make it so successful.

7. Standing Committees:

A. Legislative – Brian Russ updated us on recent activity on:

1. *The Blue Water Navy Act;*
2. *A new Tx Study for those suffering from PTSD & TBI;*
3. The US Supreme Court approving that the VA may be sued thru Class Action lawsuits.
4. A Federal Bill that is being drafted to exempt Veterans from the VA's ban on Veterans using Medical Marijuana or CBD Oils in states where it is legal.
5. A plan for Veterans Monument Park is to be followed-up with the help of Bob Green.

- B. **Veterans Monument Park** – The Chair, on behalf of Jim Klocke, explained a problem with 24 of our flags that required emergency repairs. It was dealt with great dispatch by Jim with the aid of Shaun Morris.

8. New Business:

- A. **Council Website** - The Chair mentioned his intent on obtaining a new webmaster & website, as the former one was maintained and operated by Past Chairman, Carl Hunsinger, who can no longer perform said duties.
- B. **Standing Rules** – Copies of additional Standing Rules were provided to and reviewed by members. A motion for approval of the Standing Rules was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the members.

9. Around the Room (Discussion), Closing Prayer and Adjournment

After Discussion by attendees, a closing Prayer was given by the Chair. A motion for adjournment was made, seconded and unanimously approved by members. The meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm. **The next meeting will be Thursday July 18, 2019 at 11:00 AM at Kirby Stewart American Legion Post #24**

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Carey

William F. Carey, Secretary