



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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March Meeting, Thursday, March 16, 2023

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 11:11am by Chairman Jim Klocke. The meeting was held at the American Legion Post 24.
2. **Invocation:** Vice Chairman Tom Sweeney 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 noted recognition is key for our Council. He was delighted that we will be participating in 3 parades. He stated he had arranged for 3 cars to participate in Desoto parade. We need to concentrate on getting 5 Star Sponsors for our Veterans Parade in Palmetto
4. **Guest Speaker:** Loy McColm (ALA #24) gave an update on "My Warriors Place" based in Ruskin, Fl but moving to Punta Gorda, Fl in August. They provide homes and employment for Veterans. They also have a Service Dog Program. They do have their own website.
5. **Recognition of Special Guests:** Lorine Baker with Palmetto Elks – interest in joining Manatee County Veterans Council
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Vice Chairman Tom Sweeney - 3 Officers present, 1 guest and 11 paid members. Total in attendance 23. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** February's minutes were voted for approval with correction on date. No notation of members that made motion and seconded for vote of approval. The vote was anonymous for approval.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Janice (Spike) Klocke. Chairman Jim Klocke moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.
9. **Primary representative reports:**
 - Volunteers of America:** Sylvia advised that they had 19 Veterans with a 20th to check in on 3/17.
 - Manatee County Veteran Service:** Victor McKenzie advised that on 3/29 there would be a National Vietnam War Veterans Day commemoration at Memorial Park in



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Bradenton from 9am to 11am. Also a Vietnam Commemoration will be held May11-13 in Washington D.C.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Chairman Jim Klocke noted new ropes need to be put up on flagpoles. Flags will be up for DAR Ceremony on 3/24 and also up for Vietnam Commemoration on 3/29.
- **Scholarship:** Gill Ruderman advised he had received 4 applications thus far and he will be arranging interviews with these individuals on 3/29 with Chairman Jim Klocke also attending at Manatee High School

11. Old Business:

- **2023 Veterans Day Parade:** Bill Orr who handles the Desoto Parade has offered his services to assist our group in preparing for this parade. Bob Greene advised he will contact the Bloodmobile and invite them to the parade. Gettel will provide pick-up trucks for the parades we participate in. We need to discuss flyers, small flags at April mtg. Chairman Jim Klocke is purchasing new signs for vehicles (2 for \$85). Next meeting is on 4/13 at 2pm at City Hall in Palmetto: all welcome to join this update meeting.
- **Lakewood Ranch Parade:** May 28, 2023 at 7:00pm – one mile walk and have truck with banners for board members to ride in. Gill Ruderman to sign us up for both a booth and to walk in the parade.
- **Desoto Parade:** April 29, 2023. Vehicle to participate located.
- **Pledge Allegiance Program:** Chairman Jim Klocke request Veteran volunteers to say the pledge at the Manatee County Meetings. See Jim to volunteer.
- **Manatee DAR** members scheduled a tour of Veterans Park on March 24, 2023 at 10am.

12. New Business: N/A

13. Around the Room:

- National Vietnam War Veterans Day commemoration at Veterans Park in Bradenton from 9am to 11am.
- Vietnam Commemoration will be held May11-13 in Washington D.C.



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14. Closing Prayer and Meeting Adjournment: Vice-Chairman Tom Sweeney led the closing prayer. As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Klocke at 12:05pm.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2023 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler from notes gathered from Tom Sweeney, Vice-chairman and Theresa Cobb.