



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

WWW.MYMCVC.ORG



October Meeting, Thursday, October 21, 2021

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. Gill Ruderman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
3. **Chairman's Comments:** There was no chairman's comments this month.
4. **Guest Speaker:** There was no guest speaker this month.
5. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were 14 people of whom 10 were paid members and 3 officers. Quorum was met.
6. **Minutes:** September's minutes were voted for approval as amended. Les Martin made the motion; Teresa Cobb seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was anonymous for approval.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Margaret Smelser. Chairman Edwin Robinson moved for the Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.
8. **Primary representative reports:**
Manatee County Veteran Services: Lee Washington reported that the flag pole repairs are waiting on parts. **Manatee Veterans Village:** Tricia Sadler announced several Veterans successfully found permanent housing and new Veterans will be moving in. The Elks is putting on a Thanksgiving Dinner. **Turning Points** is working on the Standdown **Goodwill Veteran Services** is working to employ many Veterans though the number of Veterans seeking employment is low. **Sarasota County Veterans:** Woody Schiffman announced that McIntosh Middle School is honoring Veterans on November 10th at 9:30 am. In addition, Veteran's Day Parade at 10am on 11/11/2021 in Sarasota. Brain Ross is Sarasota Veteran of the Year. **JFCS:** Edwin Robinson announced that JFCS will be returning to working in the office in November 2021.



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

WWW.MYMCVC.ORG



9. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Jim Klocke reported that the benches have been repaired. The new headstone is not in yet and the landscaping will be maintained prior to Veteran's day. Flags will be going up next week for Veteran's Day.
- **Legislative:** Kevin Wright, DAV Post 18, reported that they are in the third week of committee meetings. Mr. Wright will be spending two days with legislation to present issues in January 2022.

10. Old Business:

- **2022 Officers:** Committee member Margaret Smelser announced the recruitment of new board members: Chairman – Edwin Robinson; Vice Chairman – Jim Klocke; Treasurer – Janice (Spike) Klocke; Secretary – Tricia Sadler. Additional nominees will be accepted at the time of voting at the November meeting.
- **Veteran's Day Ceremony:** Chairman, Edwin Robinson, reported for Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney. He reported that guest speaker will be Kevin Wright. All those coming to volunteer please be there at 10:30am. Teresa volunteered to bring water to be handed out. There will be tents for shade.
- **Award Submission:** After a discussion regarding a submission for Veteran of the Year which was not added to the website for viewing it was determined to vote as the ballot indicates. All present voting members were provided a ballot. The ballots were counted by Lee Washington. The results are as follows: Veteran of the Year – Timothy Rogers; Civilian of the Year – John Breiner; Auxiliary of the Year – Miralee (Cookie) Agan.
- **Veteran scholarship** Rich Blunt from the committee reported the recommendation for a scholarship program. In summary, a long-term scholarship will be established with one \$500.00 scholarship awarded per year. The deserving recipient will be a JRROTC within the Manatee County High School. The scholarship will be provided directly to the student's account at a post-secondary learning institution. The funding will initially come from MCVC budget with the intent to fund raise for the following years. Application and Award determination will be developed by the Sergeants (SAI's) within the Manatee County high schools then presented to MCVC. There was an open discussion regarding the recommendation with the main concern being a change in who would make the final determination of the awarded student. A motion was made to table the vote until November's meeting. Les Martin made the motion; Teresa Cobb seconded



**MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL**

WWW.MYMCVC.ORG



the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was anonymous for approval.

- **Discussion of Change in Membership Requirements:** Gill Ruderman reported that with Lee Washington’s assistance information regarding Individual memberships from across the state was gathered. At this time the recommendation is to not have individual membership. In the future if desired a recommendation that individuals would not have voting rights and be an active member.
- **Recruitment of Members:** No update provided.
- **Manatee 2021 Standdown** November 6 from 8a-12p. Sign up sheet is going around. Suicide awareness and other materials will be supplied by Manatee County and Sarasota County Veteran Services.

11. New Business: No new business this month.

12. Around the Room: Community Events were presented:

- Knights of Columbus announced 30th Annual Military Ball from 5-9pm on November 6, 2021. All proceeds go to SE Guide Dogs Paws for Patriots Program.
- DAR is working at the Manatee County Standdown
- Woody Schiffman reported a Veteran event on 11/12 from 6pm-8pm at 5201 Richardson Rd., Sarasota. Mission BBQ and tons of door prizes. \$8 ticket in advance/\$10 at the door
- Kevin Wright announced American Legion Post 325 for an event with live music to raise money on 11/6.
- Kevin Wright announced that Cookie raises money for wreaths to Reach Across America – bucket is being passed for this
- Sarasota Veteran Center is open provides services for Veteran trauma survivors. Please see Dwight English for more information.

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

14. Meeting Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Edwin Robinson at 12:13pm.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2021 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler