



MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL

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June Meeting, Thursday, June 17, 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. Edwin Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
3. **Chairman's Comments:** Chairman, Edwin Robinson, spoke about the Bradenton Marauders Military Appreciation night at the ball field. He stated two Veterans from Manatee Veterans Village attended and had a great time.
4. **Guest Speaker:** Norman Morrison from AGG Restoration Specialists joined us and spoke about the services he offers. Lanard Smith from Operation Eco Vets presented information regarding a Wellness Bootcamp for Veterans June 27 from 10am – 2pm. Flyer will be posted on website. Mr. Smith shared information regarding a Farm to Table July 4th party being held on July 3rd from 5-10pm - flag ceremony for used flags, food and games.
5. **Recognition of New Members and First Time Guests:** There were no new members or first-time guests.
6. **Roll Call:** Roll call was conducted by Secretary, Tricia Sadler. Present were eleven paid members and 4 officers. Quorum was met.
7. **Minutes:** June's minutes were voted for approval. Gill Ruderman made the motion; Ellwood Schiffman seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating "Aye". The vote was unanimous for approval.
8. **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.



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9. Primary representative reports:

Manatee County Veteran Services Lee Washington confirmed the flag pole repairs are confirmed at a cost of \$1,900. He stated Manatee County will pay for half. Motion to pay for half of the cost (\$950.00) to repair the flag pole from general funds was made by Ellwood Schiffman. Gill Ruderman seconded the motion; All voting members voted for approval by stating “Aye”. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Manatee Veterans Village reports there are 19 veterans being housed currently. Big thank you for all the donations.

Sarasota County Veterans Commission was reported by Ellwood Schiffman. He shared information about the Sarasota Stand down and Amnesty Court on June 26, 2021 at the Sarasota Fairgrounds. He shared information regarding July 4th parade honoring Veterans and fireworks. The parade will start at Orange and Mound streets at 8pm. Fireworks are to follow. He shared information of PTSD Nightware project, flyer was provided. He shared information regarding a completed project honoring the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam Brotherhood.

SCF Student Veterans Chairman reported that Aundrey completed his Master’s Degree. Chairman will compose a letter of congratulations.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- **Veteran Monument Park:** Jim Klocke reports flags will be in place for the July 4th holiday. Jim stated all engraving is logged and in place.
- **Legislative:** Kevin Wright, DAV Post 18, was not present to report.

11. Old Business:

- **Memorial Day Ceremony:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, reported the service at the Veterans Memorial Park was a success. Vice Chairman thanked everyone involved. Chairman, Edwin Robinson, states a letter of thanks to ROTC and Betty for the electricity.
- **BOCC Pledge Program:** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, has a signup sheet for all Veteran volunteers to present the Pledge of Allegiance at the open ceremony at the Manatee County meetings which are held on Tuesdays at 9am. Mr. Courtney mentioned that only 5 dates are currently open for volunteering.
- **Veteran scholarship** Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, request copies of Standard Operating Procedures from other organizations that have scholarships. The committee will review them.



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12. New Business:

- Vice Chairman, Donald Courtney, requested submission for Veteran of the Year; Auxiliary of the Year; and Volunteer of the Year be turned in by August meeting.

13. Around the Room: Community Events were presented:

- Ellwood Schiffman provided information regarding a ceremony at the statue in Sarasota at 11am on August 14th with Color Guards and Rifle Squads.

14. Closing Prayer: Chairman Edwin Robinson closed the meeting with prayer.

15. Meeting Adjournment: As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned. A motion was made and seconded at 11:50am.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2021 (Thursday) 11:00 am located at American Legion Post 24

Respectfully Submitted, Council Recording Secretary - Tricia Sadler