

Manatee County Veterans Council

- Our Officers and Committee Chairs
- Primary Purpose
- Our High Value Team (Spoke & Hub Operation)
- Major Project, Events and Goals





MCVVC OFFICERS

Chairman: Carl Hunsinger, (Elected)

Vice Chairman: Edwin Robinson (Elected)

Treasurer: Margaret Smelser (Elected)

Secretary: Lance Biddle (Elected)

Chaplain: Pat Stiles (Appointed)

County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO): Lee Washington (Advisor)

Manatee County Flag & Patriotism Program Chairman: Carlos Moreira
(Appointed)

Community Safety & Security: MCSO, Lt. Cunningham (Advisor)

Veterans Court: William Carey (Advisor)

Veterans Administration: (Advisor)

Manatee County Veterans Council

The Manatee County Veterans Council stood up in 1985 and a couple of the charter members are still actively available as continuity advisors. We are a not-for-profit 501 c (19) Veteran Organization made up of all volunteers advocating for and serving our estimated 40,000 Veteran community. While not all inclusive, our membership includes the local American Legion posts, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Veterans (AMVETS), Military Officers of World Wars (MOWW), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Desoto Marine Corps League Det 588, Goodwill Manasota, Turning Points, Merchant Marines, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons, USF Sarasota-Manatee, State College of Florida Student Veterans, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Manasota Elks, Lakewood Ranch Elks, Jewish Families & Children's Service (JFCS), Sarasota County Veterans Commission (SCVC) and the list goes on...

We help articulate and champion our Veterans and Veteran Organizational requirements with our government officials at ALL levels, Veteran friendly businesses, support to include a more direct benefit referral process. We've discovered that many public-school students, business and non-veteran 501c3 organizations are not aware of the leadership, management and organizational skillsets Veterans carry forward after they no longer wear our nation's uniform. We are not just advocating for Veterans; we advocate for their families and all youth--Veteran related or not. We have identified over 1,000 Veterans attending our local colleges and universities and each have already developed a student Veteran organization or are in the process of doing so. Some of the local colleges we are bringing into the fold are; USF Sarasota-Manatee, SCF, MTC and Everglades University.

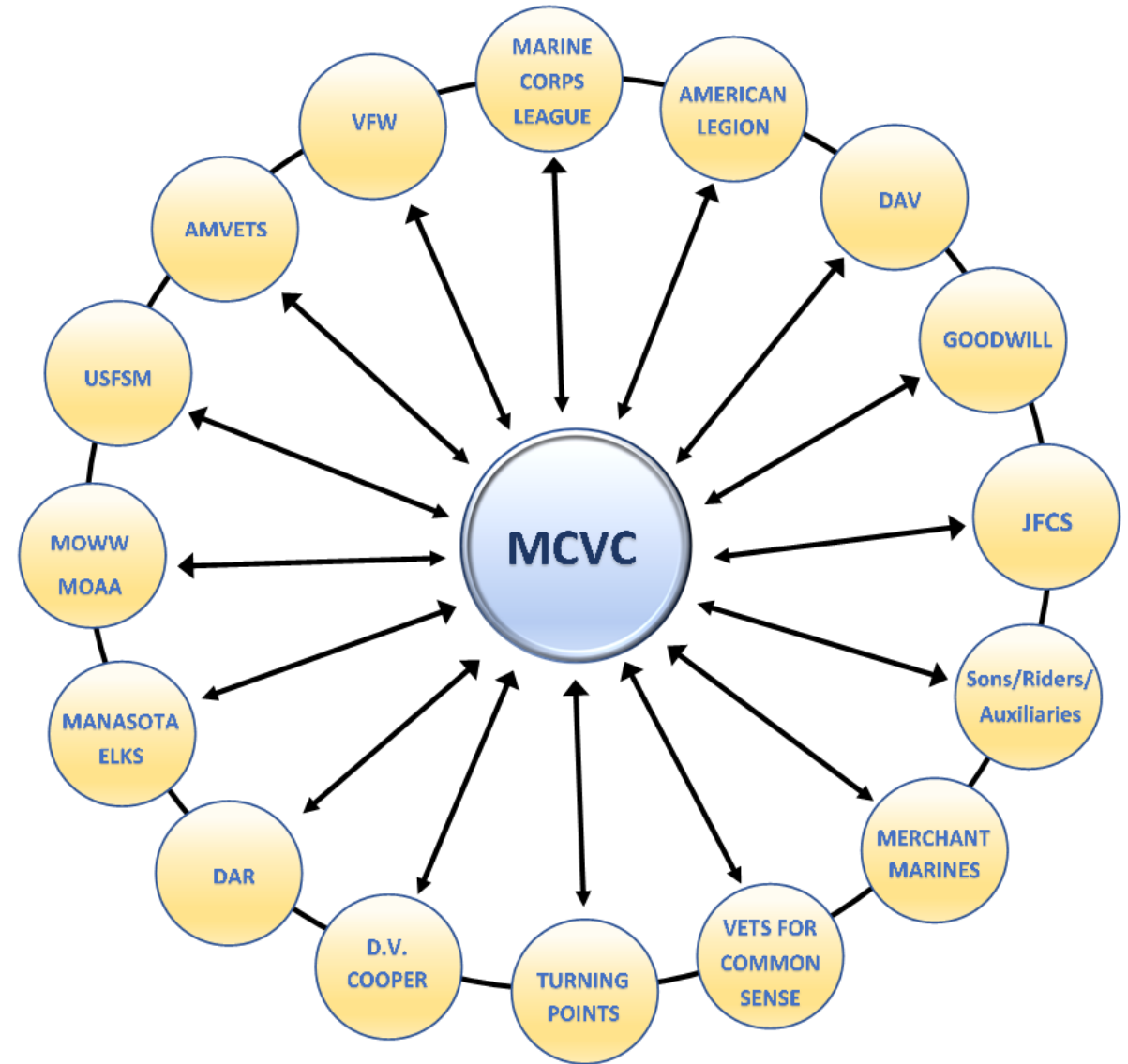
Bottom line: We connect local Veteran support organizations and the Manatee County community with each other through a spoke and hub operation. Much more can be done as a team than can be done singularly--working together is the key to success. We DO NOT conduct fundraisers and we rely only on community donations to help cover our operating cost and projected services with zero salaries taken. Imagine that; donating time, experience and the passion to help others for a simple thank you. For many of us, the oath taken to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and all it stands for is an oath for LIFE.

Come join our team--YOUR TEAM. ~~ *Carl Hunsinger, CMSgt, USAF (Ret.)*

Manatee County Veterans Council Community Spoke and Hub

Official Advisors & Representatives

- Manatee County Veterans Services
- Veterans Administration
- Veterans Court
- Manatee County Sheriff's Office
- Federal & Florida State Legislators
- Manatee County Government



Some of What We Do...

- **Advocate for our Veterans, their families and community youth without border restrictions**
- **Connect the total community with our Veterans and their immediate families**
- **Host annual formal Manasota Military Ball for Veterans, their families and community Friends**
- **Host annual awards program for Veterans, Veteran Service Auxiliary (Sons, Ladies, Riders) and a civilian employee/business**
- **Host and organize the Manatee County Memorial Day events**
- **Host, organize and produce the Veterans Day Parade in Palmetto for all of Manatee County**
- **Host the Manatee County Flag and American Patriotism Program**
- **Provide Veteran related Legislative Updates with Federal, State and County government**
- **Maintain an open-door coordinating pathway with our Veteran Service Officers, supporting organizations and businesses**
- **Outreach Program with Veteran Organizations, Law Enforcement, Educators, community leaders and businesses**
- **Manage and coordinate events for the Military Veterans Monument Park (located behind Manatee Memorial Hospital)**
- **Conduct monthly Veteran Council Meetings with Spoke and Hub updates**
- **Attend all Veteran related meetings in Manatee County to include the monthly Sarasota County Veterans Commission meeting and the Goodwill Manasota Veterans Task Force**

Manatee County Veterans Council Summary

- We are a 100% All Volunteer Organization mostly made up of experienced Veterans of all former military background, rank & skills; We also have a huge support base from our community leadership
- We have a well-developed website, MY-MCVC.ORG that grows with the needs and recommendations from our Veterans & their families
- Jobs: Coordinate and educate our Veterans and potential employers
- Outreach: Connecting the community of Veteran organizations, VA, local government, academic institutions and local businesses
- Proactive thinking and action to eliminate Veteran homelessness