



MANATEE COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 1881  
BRADENTON, FL 34206  
WWW.MY-MCVC.ORG



**October 18, 2018**

**Manatee County Veterans Council Monthly Meeting**

**Location: American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 in Bradenton, Florida**

Chairman Carl Hunsinger began the meeting at 11am with all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by prayer from our, Pat Stiles.

1. Chairman Hunsinger welcomed all in attendance and provided a few administrative comments. Expressed a need to establish a GWOT Monument Committee (need volunteer Chair).
  - a. Presentations: Carl Hunsinger Steering Committee member presented Dr. Eric Hodges' update on the USF Manatee County Veteran and Family Quality of Life Study. More to come at the next update.
2. New Members/Guests: New members introduced.
3. Chairman Hunsinger called for a quorum by having all voting members identify themselves. He confirmed the quorum with an updated membership roster. A quorum was established per MCVC Bylaws.
4. September 2018 Minutes: There was no discussion with a motion to accept the minutes as presented. We had a second and the motion was carried unanimously.
5. Treasurer: Margaret Smelser provided the financial report. The specifics can be reviewed on the website at [www.my-mcvc.org](http://www.my-mcvc.org) under the secured page. There was a motion to file for review. The motion received a second and was passed unanimously. A financial review and budget committee was appointed in September with MCVC Treasurer Margaret Smelser as Chairperson of that committee. Once they complete their review the report will be presented to the Chairman and a special closed meeting will be scheduled for elected officers and voting members only. Several donations were made for the Veterans Day events.
6. Manatee County Veteran Services update: Lee Washington briefed all that the Veteran disability Appeals process is being modernized and should help expedite what typically took years to less than 6-months. More to come on this improved change.
7. Veterans Court Manatee County, 12 Judicial Circuit: The local volunteer now is doing well with required mentors for our troubled Veterans in need.
8. Sarasota County Veterans Commission: No update from Ted. Carl did remind all that the SCVC is working on the next Manasota Military Ball.
9. Goodwill Veteran Services is currently redefining what they will do for and how they will support Veterans and their families. They are also in the process to hire a replacement for Chris Landis. More to come on this at the next meeting.
10. Turning Points: Edwin Robinson briefed all on the upcoming November 3<sup>rd</sup> Stand Down. He thanked all for their donations to support this event.
11. VA Representative Sarasota National Cemetery – John briefed all that they will celebrate Veterans Day at 3pm on Nov 11 at Patriot Plaza. Wreaths Across America will be at the SNC December 15, 2018. Program

starts at 10am with 13,500 wreaths place earlier in the morning by volunteers. To the south of shelter A the cemetery is currently being prepared for more burials.

12. USFSM Student Veterans: Student Veterans President briefed dates/times for Veteran related upcoming events.
13. SCF Veterans of America: Lisa Goss briefed all their upcoming Veteran events. Nov 6<sup>th</sup> is Military Appreciation Night at the Campus for basketball.
14. Vietnam Brotherhood: Woody briefed all about a historical book of illustrations and photos. Also, we all sang happy birthday to Woody who claims to be 27 years old.
15. Old Business: None.
16. Standing Committees:
  - a. Annual Awards Program: We conducted a vote for Award Veteran of the Year nominees; David Daily and James Klocke. Civilian of the Year nominees are; Batina Tramaglino and Betty Chambliss. Voting members should have already reviewed the nomination packages located on our website under the AWARDS PROGRAM page at <http://www.my-mcvc.org/awards-program/> and be prepared to vote at our next monthly meeting. After a ballot vote the following are our finalist award winners: Jim Klocke, Veteran of the Year and Betty Chambliss are the Civilian of the Year winners.
  - b. Flag and Patriotism Program: No update.
  - c. Veterans Day: Don Courtney, Committee Chair Veterans Day 2018 summarized what will be the largest Veterans Day event by this Council that will begin at 9am and end at 5-pm. This year, we have included several local bands, and a complete festival environment for the whole family to include three bouncy houses with slides, a full-scale combat laser tag with multiple barricades and plenty of food/beverage vendors.
  - d. Veterans Park: We still need an additional \$1400 to pay for the Annual Awards slates.
17. New Business: Appoint Bylaws Committee (no volunteers)
18. Bradenton Kiwanis Veterans Appreciation Luncheon reminder. On Tuesday Nov 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon downtown Bradenton at the Manatee Performing Arts Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The Bradenton Kiwanis will donate \$1,000 for Veterans Day events. This will be a ticketed event. Guest speaker for this event is Lee Washington.
19. Around the room remarks and discussion was good with much information provided to all in attendance.
20. The next MCVC meeting will be held on Thursday November 15, 2018 at the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 and at the same time of 11am.
21. Closing prayer. Meeting Adjourned at 11:57am.

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Carl Hunsinger  
For Secretary Lance Biddle  
Manatee County Veterans Council