



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



**August 16, 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 Chaplain, Pat Stiles.

1. Chairman Hunsinger welcomed all in attendance and provided a few administrative comments.
2. Presentations:
  - a. Chris Nothdurft – Provide all in attendance with an update on the USF Veteran Demographic Study. The first-round survey has been developed.
  - b. Dennis Turner – Brief all about the pending Maritime Eagles Division trip to Washington DC.
3. New Members/Guests: No new member with a couple guests introducing themselves.
4. Chairman Hunsinger called for a quorum by having all voting members identify themselves by raising their hands. He confirmed the quorum with an updated membership roster. A quorum was established.
5. July 2018 Minutes: There was discussion to amend the July meeting minutes to identify that the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month will be the cutoff for updated information to the Treasurer's Report. There was a motion to accept with changes and a second was made. The motion was carried unanimously.
6. 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 passed unanimously.
7. Manatee County Veteran Services update: Lee Washington – Updated all on what their office continues to do. He also provided an update on Manatee County as a Purple Heart County. American Legion Post 24 is the first Veteran Organization in Manatee County to provide Purple Heart parking. The Post Commander, John Raugh offered the loan of stenciling that their post has already paid for.
8. Manatee County Sheriff's Office update: Lt. Cunningham provided all with an update on various aspects of vigilance and other security measures. He is also fielding questions from our group one on one if required.
9. Goodwill Veteran Services no longer has the Homeless Veteran Grant. CEO Bob Rosinski has decided to carry forward the Veterans Services team with Todd Hughes and Chris Landis. Their focus will be geared more towards helping Veterans and their families prepare for and obtain jobs. Chris has identified an unfunded need to purchase bicycle safety kits and locks for Veterans without other modes of transportation. A motion was made to donate \$200 for this cause. We had a second and all voted unanimously to provide the \$200 support.
10. VA Representative – Vacancy pending hire. No update.

11. Veterans Court 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit update: Melissa Bomar unavailable. She still needs more volunteer mentors for our troubled Veterans in need of support. You can contact her direct at [MBomar@jud12.flcourts.org](mailto:MBomar@jud12.flcourts.org).
12. JFCS – Still has funding for housing support. They are also teaming up with Turning Points with some of the same efforts.
13. Turning Points – Edwin Robinson briefed all on the upcoming annual stand down event at the County Fairgrounds. Event scheduled for 8am – 12 noon on November 3, 2018.
14. Old Business: None.
15. Standing Committees:
  - a. Annual Awards Program: Carl Hunsinger reminded membership of the deadline. The Awards Committee under Don Courtney will review all applications to determine validity and compliance with our Awards guidance. Award nomination packages will be posted to the MCVV website for review by voting members. A ballot will be produced for the October meeting and members will vote for the winners.
  - b. Flag and Patriotism Program: No update.
  - c. Veterans Day: Don Courtney will be the Chair for this Veterans Day and the 2nd meeting will be September 20th at 2:00PM and will be held at the Palmetto City Hall in the Mayor's office. Still looking for someone to sing the National Anthem.
  - d. Veterans Park: We still need an additional \$1400 to pay for the Annual Awards slates. We already have \$1000 donated by the American Legion Post 24 Ladies Auxiliary for this effort.
16. New Business: Our current Vice Chairman will be unavailable for the unforeseeable future and it is necessary to have an out of cycle election. Today we did our first round of nominations and the only nominee is Edwin Robinson of Turning Points and Edwin accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations there was a motion to close nominations for this meeting. Next meeting, we will have another and final round of nominations for the seat of Vice Chairman followed with an election.
17. Around the room remarks and discussion was good with much information provided to all in attendance.
18. The next MCVV meeting will be held on Thursday September 20, 2018 at the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 and at the same time of 1100am.
19. Closing prayer by Pat Stiles, Meeting Adjourned at 12:02pm.

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Lance Biddle  
Secretary  
Manatee County Veterans Council