



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



January 17, 2019

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 Pat Stiles.

1. Chairman Hunsinger welcomed all in attendance and provided a few administrative comments. He also discussed his recent meetings and other contact with state legislator Tommy Gregory and U.S. Congressman Vern Buchanan's office. Subject matter was to standardize and fund Veterans' courts throughout Florida starting with Manatee County. He also met with Feld Entertainment leadership to establish a working relationship on behalf of Manatee County Veterans. He toured The Monster Jam production and found they have many jobs available for our local Veterans.
2. Presentations from Homes for our Troops, Manatee Technical College, Van Wezel Performing Arts military access and Knights of Columbus Military Ball. There was plenty of good information passed on to those in attendance.
3. New Members/Guests: New members introduced.
4. 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.
5. November 2018 Minutes: There was discussion from Theresa Cobb that she did not volunteer to be the Chair for the Bylaws committee as stated in the November minutes. There was a motion on the floor to accept the minutes as corrected. We had a second and 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 under the secured page. There was a motion to file for review. The motion received a second and was passed unanimously. Margaret also presented the Council's first budget and with a few corrections the budget was voted on and passed unanimously. Part of the discussion was moving our stored items to a more practical a cheaper location off SR64. The Chairman agreed to move all the items to the new storage location. She also notified all that she changed banks to one closer to her home because she experienced difficulty with the old bank.
7. Manatee County Veteran Services update: Looking for a hospital bed for a local Veteran.
8. Received briefings from the Sarasota National Cemetery and the Sarasota Veterans' Center.
9. Manatee County Sheriff's Office: No report.
10. Veterans Court Manatee County, 12 Judicial Circuit: Bill Carey indicated that he is always looking for mentors.
11. Sarasota County Veterans Commission: Marty provided an update on the MOAA, Navy League and The Manasota Military Ball.

12. Turning Points: Edwin Robinson. He thanked all for their donations to support at the recent Stand Down event. The next stand down will be November 2, 2019 at the same location and times.
13. USF Sarasota-Manatee Veteran Students: Carlos Moreira brief all on upcoming events. He also announced their tuition assistance support for homeless Veterans to continue their education. They also supported local Coast Guard members during the federal shutdown. Dr. Eric Hodges briefed all on the status of the Manatee County Veterans' Study.
14. SCF Veterans of America: Update on Student Veteran events on campus. Two military Appreciation Days in March. Flyers were available for the meeting and we posted this on our MCVC website at www.my-mcvc.org.
15. Old Business: Correction from past meeting minutes. We still need a Bylaws Committee. We have two volunteers, but we need someone to take the lead and Theresa Cobb volunteered to take the lead. She will report her draft to the Council at the February meeting.
16. Standing Committees:
 - a. Flag and Patriotism Program (Carlos Moreira): No update.
 - b. Veterans' Monument Park: Jim Klocke briefed all on the maintenance of our park. He also told us that the Manasota Elks has donated \$700 toward a new Veteran and Auxiliary of the Year monument for the park. We are now within \$300 to purchase a second annual awards monument. Theresa Cobb asked if anyone had a book or a layout of the bricks at the park. Chairman Hunsinger said he would locate it and follow up. Theresa volunteered to update the brick directory and layout.
17. Around the room remarks and discussion was good with much information provided to all in attendance.
 - a. Sarasota South Elks briefed all about the Army of Hope to be held at their location on Sunday Feb 17th.
 - b. Sally Dionne of Congressman Buchanan's office informed all what the Congressman is working on for Veterans like the Blue Water Sailors Act.
 - c. Lisa Reece from the Red Cross offers financial assistance.
 - d. Vietnam Brotherhood: DAV 97 will be starting their own flag program. Briefed all on Veteran related legislation.
18. The next MCVC meeting will be held on Thursday February 21, 2019 at the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 and at the same time of 11am.
19. Closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 12:26am.

///ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED///

Lance Biddle
Secretary
Manatee County Veterans Council