



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



April 18, 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 Edwin Robinson.

1. Chairman Hunsinger welcomed all in attendance.
2. New Members/Guests: New members introduced.
3. Chairman Hunsinger called for a quorum by having all voting members identify themselves. The Chair and Vice Chair confirmed the quorum with an updated membership roster. A quorum was established per MCVC Bylaws. Elected officers missing; Vice Chairman Edwin Robinson was excused from attending.
4. March 21, 2019 Minutes: There was a motion on the floor to accept the minutes as presented. We had a second and the motion was carried unanimously.
5. Treasurer Report: 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.
6. Treasurer Margaret Smelser informed all for the second time that we had lost our 501c19 status since taxes had not been submitted by the previous Treasurer. She indicated she does not know how to fill out the required forms and would like to rectify the situation. Theresa Cobb offered to assist Margaret. She also informed all that we will not have our website once Chairman Hunsinger leaves since he had personally donated funds and time to develop and maintain the website. Seeking a volunteer to carry forward the website to avoid losing all the work that went into it. The estimated cost to keep the website will be about \$300 annually which includes the domain, web building software and server space.
7. Manatee County Veterans' Services: Lee Washington was out of town on business and could not attend. He did pass forward that he has a college intern assigned to his office by the county government. His office will start a project to setup a Memorial wall for the Gulf War and Post 9/11 era.
8. Veterans Court Manatee County, 12 Judicial Circuit: Bill Carey informed all that we had four graduates. We still need volunteer mentors.
9. Sarasota County Veterans Commission: The new SCVC President elect, Carlos Moreira will officially take over in June. Carlos also provided information related to ongoing Veteran events and programs at USFSM where he is the Veteran service program director. He spoke about the Lutz Buddy Up Program which brings combat Veterans together to share stories with each other. The first local one will be May 15th.
10. Old Business: None.
11. Standing Committees:

- a. Legislative Update: Brian Russ provided updates on current and proposed legislation that effects all Veterans and community. Informed all that Andy Hooker passed away. Andy was a huge part of most success for our Manasota Veterans.
- b. Bylaws revision committee: Bylaws revisions were reviewed. A motion was made to vote to allow the bylaws revision to be voted on as one item instead of line by line. The motion passed unanimously. There was another motion to vote on to accept and approved the revised bylaws as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Final and original revised document will be made available at the May 16th meeting for signature.
- c. Veterans' Monument Park: Jim Klocke briefed all on the maintenance of our park. He ordered the new annual awards wall and expects to have it in place by May. Theresa Cobb has park brick assignment book and is caught up. We will need to keep her informed as new bricks are installed. Jim identified that the light that illuminates the main flag is not working. Don said local government has that responsibility. Don agreed to work with Mary at the Memorial hospital to get the light repaired.
- d. Edwin Robinson will take the lead on the Memorial Day 2019 ceremony with Don Courtney's assistance. Don indicated they have already begun working towards the event. Event is set for 27 May beginning at 0900.
- e. Nomination Committee: The nomination committee presented the slate as follows and then we asked three times for each position for nominations. There being no other nominations, the original slate of nominees will carry forward for election on May 16, 2019 with further nominations closed. This was voted on and was unanimous.
 - 1) Chairman - Edwin Robinson
 - 2) Vice Chairman – Don Courtney
 - 3) Secretary – Bill Carey
 - 4) Treasurer – Margaret Smelser

12. New Business: None.

13. Carlos Moreira brief an update on the Manatee County Veterans' quality of life study. Carlos also provided an update on what he and his team are doing with the Flag and Patriotism program. The Chairman reminded Carlos that we have restricted funding set aside to assist.

14. Around the room remarks and discussion. Several Veteran related events that can be found on our website www.my-mcvc.org.

15. The next MCVC meeting will be held on Thursday May 16, 2019 at the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 and at the same time of 11am.

16. Closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 11:58am.

///ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED///

Lance Biddle
Secretary
Manatee County Veterans' Council