



- Meeting was called to order at 1 PM.
- Treasurer's report was not given due to Rick Rogala not being present.
- Minutes for the August meeting were delayed due to a motion that was missed during the August meeting. Minutes will be posted to the website as a draft and motion to approve will be presented at following meeting.
- Danny Bilyeu presented a report from Rep. Vern Buchanan's office and thanked everyone that helped with the Spirit of 45 celebration. He also reminded everyone that there would be a Kiwanis breakfast on November 11th at Robarts Arena at 7 AM.
- Sarasota Commissioner Paul Caragiulo presented proclamation for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and that the Sarasota Veterans Commission is a commemorative partner.
- Wendi Leach was introduced as the new representative from Rep. Greg Steube's office.
- Terry Acton, representing VSO, reported on the conference on the East Coast.
- Todd Hughes introduced Jeremiah who is a work study intern at the Veteran Affairs office at USF.
- Gene Sweeney updated on the monument and memorials committee. The Liberator Foundation will be purchased by a National organization. He also reported on the 9-11 Memorial event that took place at Patriots Plaza in Venice. A 2nd memorial for the Sky Soldiers tribute will take place on October 9th at the Sarasota National Cemetery at noon.



- Georgie Alfano reported on the Women's retreat and that there is a committee formed to take the torch for 2016.
- Jerry Koontz, representing Manatee Veterans Council, reported on the October 24th stand down that will take place at Manatee Fairgrounds. He also reported that Col. Ben Knisley will be the guest speaker at their November 10th Veterans event.
- Art McGinnis from Charlotte County Veterans Council reported on the Vietnam Wall to be erected in Englewood.
- Andy Hooker, representing Col. Ben Knisely, chair of the nominating committee who was not able to attend the meeting, presented the slate of officers for 2015-2016. Motion approved to elect the current slate of officers of the Sarasota County Veterans Commission.
- Harriet Roberts, Director of Garden of the Heart spoke about the free yoga class for veterans that take place weekly. A class will be held on October 15th at the DAV on Bee Ridge Road specifically for veterans. The organization received a grant from the Community Foundation.
- Jim Hesson reported on the Vietnam Veteran pins: Any veteran in the military from 1955 to 1975 is eligible.
- Deb Kehoe & Kathi Skelton, representing Homes for Our Troops, reported on their golf tournament which will take place at Rosedale Golf Club on January 30th. A motion was made by Secretary Marlene Hauck to sponsor a 1/2 page ad in the program. Motion was approved.
- Irene Henderson, representing Tidewell, spoke about their honor veterans program at Tidewell Hospice. It is a special program to honor veterans and a plan of care unique to their needs. She encouraged the members to become a volunteer. She introduced Kendall Wiegand who is the volunteer coordinator.
- C.J. Bannister, Director of Veterans Services at Goodwill Manasota, reported on the grant for homeless veteran's rehabilitation program with JFCS and Goodwill. They have instituted a task force which will meet on October 12.



- Dan Kennedy introduce the owner of Cirrus Aviation which has a veterans program, they have formed a partnership with Liberty University for those desiring a pilot career with student funding specific for veterans using the GI bill. Ron Shankman of Cirrus spoke about the shortage of pilots.
- The balance of the meeting minutes were taken by Chaplin Barbara Vaughan at 2:15 PM and will be presented at the October meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlene M Hauck, Secretary

### **Addendum to September 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes of SCVC:**

#### New Business:

- Dr. George Lindenfeld introduced his new book on Kindle, "Twenty Minute Trauma Fix," a bio feedback testing method to deal with TBI and PTSD. RESET Therapy is a development of his personal commitment to resolve PTSD and evaluate for TBI and PTSD. He is looking for a non-profit affiliate to provide funds for NMI studies.
- Woody Schiffman brought to our attention a new web site that lists more ships/seamen now eligible for Agent Orange contamination coverage. He also advised us of the Ringling Art Exhibit, Nov 6th to Dec 7th featuring the portraits of veterans done by students.
- Manatee-Sarasota Stand-Down on Oct 24th is in need of funds to purchase bicycles to raffle to the attending veterans.
- The 50/50 winner was Deb Kehoe of Homes for our Troops who graciously donated her winnings to the purchase of bikes for the Stand-Down.



- Kevin Sifferman announced a Concerned Veterans for American (CVA) event, “Fix the VA” on Oct 28th , from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Lakewood Ranch. All are cordially invited. There will also be a Christmas party on Dec 16th.
  
- Todd Hughes announced USFSM Veterans Appreciation Day on Nov 5th from noon to 7 p.m. It will be held in the Selby Auditorium on campus and feature free food, activities and give-aways.
  
- Andy Hooker suggested recognizing Homes for Our Troops for their outstanding support of the veteran community.
  
- Chaplain Vaughn gave the closing prayer.
  
- Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.
  
- Next meeting will be held on Oct 22nd at the American Legion in Venice.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Vaughn,  
standing in for secretary, Marlene M. Hauck