

Sarasota County Veterans Commission

Minutes: February 25, 2016

American Legion NO-VEL Post 159 1770 E. Venice Ave, Venice, FL

- President Ted Smith opened the meeting at 1 pm. Opening prayer was led by Chaplin Barbara Vaughan.
- Treasurers report was given by Rick Rogala. Motion was made by Captain Bill O'Neil and Woody Schiffman to accept the treasurers and secretary report.
- Jim Hesson reported that an event commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War will take place on March 29th at Patriot Plaza at the Sarasota National Cemetery at 5 pm. All members that served from 1955 to 1975 will be presented with a pin.
- Terry Acton, Veterans Service Office, reported that a stand down will take place at the Sarasota County Health Department on April 16, 2016. Volunteers are needed for the Venice Veterans Affairs office from 8 am to noon.
- Gene Sweeney, Monuments and Memorials, reported on a petition regarding female pilots who were not granted burial at Arlington. Anyone can contact the Salt of the Earth website. 36 additional names will be added to the 9/11 memorial on Tuesday March 1 at Patriots Park in Venice.
- Georgie Alfano reported on the third annual Women Veterans Retreat, which will take place on September 22 to the 24, 2016 at Day Springs . The fee is \$400 per person. Veterans do not pay anything. They are also looking at a possible reunion.
- Jerry Koontz, Manatee Veteran Council, reported that Don Courtney's daughter has passed away and that they are beginning an education fund for her children. He also spoke about Southeastern Guide dogs "Paws for Patriots" free guide dogs for veterans. Anyone can sponsor a dog on their website.
- Charlotte County Veterans Council Art McGinnis report on the Vietnam Wall in Englewood, they will be using the same quarry as was constructed with the wall in DC.

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- Matt Erny, spoke about the grass roots movement to keep the Unconditional Surrender in the same location. He requested a letter of support from the Veterans Commission.
- DAV Chapter 82, Bernie Schiefer reported that they will have a fund raiser on April 9th at Charlotte sports park for \$10 pp , \$5 of which goes to the DAV.
- President Smith spoke about the March 10th prayer breakfast at 6:15 am at Robarts arena.
- Norm McClellan reported on the Veterans Salute produced by Catholic Charities on April 7th at 7 pm at Venice Performing Arts Center and the 30th Memorial Day at Patriots Park sponsored by the Navy League.
- Dentist, Dr. Harvey spoke about the program in Ecuador and that the cost is 1/5 of the Us.
- Homes for our troops reported on their golf event which raised over \$43,000.
- Bob Barry of AmeriGroup spoke about teaming up with Dignity Memorial, pre planning guide for veterans and their outreach program for veterans.
- Bill Bowen spoke about the Golf Tournament in venice on May 21st.
- DAR representative Jean spoke regarding her saluting Vietnam veterans award.
- Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene M Hauck, Secretary