

Sarasota County Veterans Commission

DRAFT Minutes: May 26, 2016

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County 2635 Fruitville Road

Representative Vern Buchanan Congressional Update: (Danny Bilyeu)
Danny reported on the Representative Vern Buchanan's Veterans Fair at SMA on June 18, 2016

1st Annual SCVC Scholarship Awards

Two \$1,000 scholarships were presented to 2 students from Sarasota Military Academy.

SCVC Strategic Planning Update (Renee Gilmore, President, The Saja Group) Renee Gilmore presented the updated slide show of the Strategic Planning Committee and passed out survey's to the membership. The membership agreed to all points presented in the slide presentation.

Sarasota County Veterans Services (Steven Garcia, VSO, Terry Acton, VSO) Terry spoke about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade that begins at 10 am on Monday the 30th. He also mentioned that there was a hover round available to a veteran.

Sarasota National Cemetery Update (John Rosentrater, Cemetery Director) John Rosentrater spoke about the 11 am Memorial Day program on Saturday the 28th. Flags for fallen vets will begin at 8 am . Misha Richardson will be heading the flags. Flag Day will be celebrated on June 12, 2016 at 6 pm.

Monuments and Memorial Committee Update (Gene Sweeney, Chair) Gene Sweeney spoke to the 45 names engraved on the 9/11 memorial at Patriots Park. 6 Firefighters from NY will be in the Memorial Day Parade at Lakewood Ranch.

Women's Veteran Committee (Becky Ludwick, Chair) Georgi Alfano reported on the upcoming women veterans retreat. They are currently doing fund raising events to raise money for the \$400 pp for each vet. On August 25th they will do a Warriors at the Ranch , \$30 per person provides 2 beer tickets, Applebees will provide food 5-7pm

Manatee County Veterans Council Update (Jerry Koontz, Liaison) Jerry reported that the council had their elections and that Carl Huntsinger will

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be the new chairperson. Their parade will take place on Sunday the 29th. There will be party fund raiser for MOTS. Monday at 9 am Memorial Day celebration and service.

Charlotte County Veterans Council Update (Art McGinnis MOPH 759)

There will be several events scheduled on Memorial day Monday beginning at 11 am. The granite has arrived for the Vietnam Wall. dedication to take place on November 5th tentative.

Norm McClellan, American Legion Venice: Norm reported that the Marine Corp League will conduct the Memorial Day program beginning at 10 am at Patriots Park.

50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War (Jim Hesson, BGen. USA, Ret.)

Jim reported on the Sunday concert dedicated to Vietnam Vets at St. James Church.

Sarasota Film Commission (SSgt. Garner, US Army Recruiter)

SSgt Garner is the leader for the film festival project which all who participate will go thru film school to create a documentary. He is looking for post 9/11 veterans to participate.

YOGA Connected Warriors (Harriet Roberts, President / Director)

Harriet reported on the free therapeutic yoga offered to veterans and the family members. A new program will begin on Longboat Key. They are the only yoga organization providing this free service in the area.

Performance Transformation (Terry Murray, Managing Partner)

Terry reported on a program for warriors in transition that is tailored to vets. It is in 6 states and currently location here at the SMART campus. It is a ground based therapy for veterans coming back to civilian life.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene M Hauck, Secretary