**Del Webb Naples Veteran’s Club Meeting**

**September 12, 2020**

**delwebbnaplesveterans.com**

**PRESIDENT: Joseph Tillman**

**VICE PRESIDENT: Ed DeMaio**

**TREASURER: Rick Bachofner**

**SECRETARY: Helen M. Scorsone**

**ADVISORS: MARK CLAYTON FRANCISKA BLANKENFELD JOE RIVERA**

 **BILL KAUFMANN BARRY WEAVING**

Joe Tillman called the Meeting to order at 10:00 AM

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all

Joe Tillman began the Meeting by thanking those present for coming out today for the Meeting and expressed his hope for more Members being able to attend the future upcoming Meetings.

Because of the Coronavirus and the guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control and the need to limit the numbers of Members who could attend the Meeting, the Board of Directors could not invite guests to attend this Meeting. Joe Tillman is hoping he can resume this invitation at our next Meeting in October. There were no new members attending this Meeting.

Joe Tillman requested a motion to approve the March 7, 2020 Minutes. Motion made and approved. The Minutes will be sent to Tad Duffy to post on our website and to Mark Irish to print out and display for all residents to read.

Rick Bachofner provided a current Treasurer’s Report. Balance at the end of July 31, 2020 was $11,586.83. Total amount of deposits in August were $5,540.33 and included in this total, a profit of $3,940.33 from Celebrity Cruise Line for the Veteran’s Cruise in February, 2020. Monies, in memory of Dick Manton, donated to the Club totaled $1,120. Total expenses were $1,057.73. Included in these expenses was a check in the amount of $1,000 for Homeless Veterans. (gift cards) August check book balance amounted to $16,069.43. Other monies allocated were $115.00 for the Memorial Fund, for the 2020 Veteran’s Cup Challenge, $1,000.00 and $1,200.00 for the Honor Flight. The available balance at the end of August is $13, 754.43.

Claudette Sang was not able to attend this Meeting to give an update on the 2021 Veteran’s Club Cruise. Joe Tillman informed the Membership that there are still approximately 20 couples signed up to take the cruise in February, 2021. There were several couples who have chosen to cancel due to the current Coronavirus and the uncertainty this virus presents. Joe was hoping there will be an Annual Veteran’s Club Cruise.

Ed DeMaio gave an update on the “Diaper Drive”. The Veteran’s Club was approached, back in March, 2020, by the Ave Maria Homeowners Association to partner with them to assist the Guadalupe Center in Immokalee. The appeal was for food and baby items. The Board agreed to take responsibility for collecting diapers headed up by, Ed DeMaio, for the Center. The Homeowners Association in the town of Ave Maria was responsible for the collection of food for the Guadalupe Center. The people of the town of Ave Maria, who continue to work at the Center, describe most of the people of Immokalee as “The Poorest of the POOR”. When it came to diapers for their children, many times the people of Immokalee must decide, for their families, to choose food or diapers for their children for the day / week. An email was sent out to all Del Webb residents by, Joe Tillman, to appeal for diapers for the people of Immokalee. The response was overwhelming. Over ten thousand diapers were collected and over four thousand baby wipes were collected. Another collection is being considered for December.

John Shaffer gave an update on the Golf Tournament scheduled for October 10, 2020 (rain or shine). This will be our 4th Annual Golf Tournament. Because of Coronavirus and the guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control, there will be no luncheon following the Tournament. The winners of the Tournament will be notified and a ceremony for the winners will take place later with The Board and some of the Golf Members in attendance. The Tournament will be strictly golf. There will be tee times, not shotgun starts as in the past. There will be split tee times. The Tournament is limiting the number of players this year due to weather conditions here in Florida in the month of October. The aim is to make sure all players will be able to play. There are 17 Teams as of this morning. The Tournament can accommodate 36 Teams. There are forms in the Pro Shop to fill out if anyone is still interested in playing. The cost is $200 per team ($100 per person). Beer and soda will be provided by the Veteran’s Club during the Tournament. Each player will be given 2 tickets for beer. Additional beer can be purchased. The players will be informed that the Rusty Putter will be open to purchase lunch if anyone would be interested. There is two “Gold Sponsors” this year for the Tournament. Unfortunately, the Club cannot accept donations any longer, this year, for hole sponsors. There is not enough time for the printer to get signs back in time for the Tournament. The last order came in last week.

Joe Tillman thanked, John Shaffer for all his work on the Golf Tournament.

Joe Tillman informed the Membership that “The Donation to Win a Cruise” to benefit the Veteran’s Club for next year has been discontinued. The donations made to the Club were returned, however, most of the people wished to donated back to the Club their donation and that amounted to $1,300. The Board will consider a “Donation to Win a Cruise” for next year.

Ed DeMaio spoke about the Veteran’s Steak Dinner that was started back in 2014/ 2015. The dinner was held in the Oasis Club. The Oasis held approximately 120 and the Club always had a sellout. This year the dinner was to be held in the new Grand Hall. The dinner was scheduled several different times, but, due to the Coronavirus, each date had to be cancelled. A December date was considered and again due to all the restrictions issued by the Center for Disease Control, the Board made a final decision not to have the dinner this year. Traditionally, the dinner made a profit of approximately $3,000 for the Club. The Board will decide early next year when to have the dinner. Ed thanked his Committee and will talk again with his Committee next year when the new date is set.

Joe Tillman talked about the Awards, a football and certificate, given to The Veteran’s Club by the Bay Pines Veteran’s Administration and Frank Jones. These awards were given to us for being one of their sponsors. These items will be given to Ken Rice to be displayed at the Oasis Club. Joe thanked the Membership for all they have done for the Veteran’s Administration.

Ann Hashagen showed the Membership the new tee shirts, the logo and colors for Members to purchase. The cost will vary depending on the number of shirts purchased. ($10 to $12) Larger size shirts will cost slightly higher. Shirts will be sold at cost. The logos will be put on the back of the shirts. It was voted on by the Members present that the order will be split by colors. 20 shirts for each color, total of 40 shirts (two colors) for the men and 20 purple shirts for women. Ann got a consensus on the size of the shirts to be ordered from the Members present. Joe Tillman thanked Ann for all her work with the shirts.

Joe Tillman spoke to the Membership concerning the possibility of changing the day of the Meetings from a Saturday morning at 10:00 AM preceded by coffee and donuts at 9:30 AM to a Friday afternoon Meeting starting at 3:30 PM followed by a “Happy Hour” that wine, beer and soda will be served. The October Meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning, October 3, 2020 but the November Meeting will be scheduled for Friday, November 6, 2020 at 3:30 PM followed by a “Happy Hour”. Joe is hoping we will be able to socialize more after the meeting in November. Following the Friday Meeting in November, the Membership, that were present, will be asked for their comments on the Friday afternoon time, day and setups. Do they prefer a Saturday Meeting or a Friday afternoon Meeting? Once we get their comments back, a survey will then be sent out with the opinions of the Members (anonymous) present to the entire Membership for their opinion which day they prefer for the Meetings. The Board will ask for just a yes or no vote from the Membership for either a Saturday Meeting or a Friday Meeting. The Board will honor the majority vote.

One of the most rewarding activities the Veteran’s Club does is visiting the Douglas Jacobson Nursing Home in Port Charlotte. This Nursing Home is strictly for Veterans. We started these visits in 2015 during the Christmas Season and always had a bag of goodies for these Veterans that would include, hats, socks, slippers and beautiful blankets made by Diane Brodie and her team. The team have has made over several hundred blankets to date with more on hand waiting for delivery. This year, due to the virus and the restrictions in place, we are not permitted to visit the Nursing Home. There are usually 120 residents and typically there are more male residents than female residents. The Nursing Home has started a “Happy Hour” recently for the residents that included non-alcoholic beverages and snacks, and this was a big success. This year the Social Director of the Nursing Home has asked us to donate gift cards so they are able to purchase items for this “Happy Hour”. In the past we had purchased gift cards for Walmart and Crackle Barrel when the residents were able to leave the Nursing Home. Ed asked for a motion and the motion was approved to purchase $1,000 in gift cards and Ed will now ask the Membership in October to approve this purchase to help with the purchase of items needed for their “Happy Hour”. If this is approved, Helen Scorsone will contact the Nursing Home to find out what gift cards they would prefer.

Bob Wheeler spoke about the new Collier County Veteran and Military Resource Guidebook. This Guidebook was prepared by the Wounded Warriors of Collier County and is an excellent resource guide for all veterans and the military. The resource guide can also be found on [www.woundedwarriorsofcolliercounty.com/resource-guide](http://www.woundedwarriorsofcolliercounty.com/resource-guide). A thank you note will be sent for the donations of these books to our Club by Helen Scorsone.

Joe Tillman told the Membership that the Board will be accepting names for nominations to the Board of Directors, 2021 Year at the October Meeting. Voting on these nominations will take place at the November Meeting. Joe encouraged Members to consider a position on the Board. The present Board Members can serve another year. There is an opening for a Vice-President position. The Advisors will be selected by the Board in December. Joe Tillman encouraged Members to talk to either himself or Ed DeMaio with any questions regarding responsibilities of any position on the Board.

The next Meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning, October 3, 2020.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:59 AM.