



V.I.C.T.O.R.

SHERIFF MARCOS R. LOPEZ

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Time Scheduled: 4:00 p.m. **Started:** 4:00 P.M. **Ended:** 4:43 P.M.

Location: Osceola County Sheriff's Office Complex
2601 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway
Kissimmee, FL 34744
Training Rooms: B & C

Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance: Chaplain Manny Ortega

Invocation: Chaplain Manny Ortega

1. INTRODUCTION:

- a) Captain Spain welcomed the veterans and audience members and introduced the attending staff.
- b) Captain Spain introduced Chaplain Manny Ortega and read his biography.
- c) Chaplain Manny Ortega shared statistics regarding suicide rates amongst the veteran population and thanked the Sheriff, staff, and board for their endeavors in helping the veteran community.
- d) Captain Spain gave an overview of the Outreach Services Division which includes Mental Health Outreach, Substance Abuse Outreach, Elderly Services, Veterans Outreach, Project Lifesaver, C.A.R.E.S., E.A.S.E., and V.I.C.T.O.R. Additionally, they have established the We Salute You program to recognize veterans who go above and beyond to serve their community. He shared how V.I.C.T.O.R. will improve relations with veterans and help them in several ways.
- e) Captain Spain read Sheriff Marcos Lopez's biography.
- f) Captain Spain invited Sheriff Marcos Lopez to speak about the V.I.C.T.O.R. Board.
- g) Sheriff Marcos Lopez explained how while on patrol he witnessed issues amongst the veteran community. This inspired his vision to establish V.I.C.T.O.R. when he came into the office to bridge the gap between the veteran community and law enforcement and provide follow-up services to veterans in the community.
- h) Captain Spain introduced the V.I.C.T.O.R. board members and read their bios and Sheriff Marcos Lopez presented board members with honorary badges.
 1. Hector Rodriguez enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1982. He finished his career training soldiers while assigned to the 78th Training Division, Fort Dix, NJ.
 2. Dr. LeWayne Johnson served in the U.S. Army for 35 years. He retired as an Army Senior Chief Warrant Officer in 2016.
 3. William Mangan enlisted in the Nuclear Navy in 1998 as a Machinist Mate. He resigned from his active commission in August 2014.
 4. Rosemarie Morales served for 11 years as a Medical Service Officer and retired as a Captain.

5. Armando Perez enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp in Feb. 1995. He was a 6672 Aviation Supply Clerk.
6. Nicholas Amen served 9 years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve as a machine gunner
7. Gary Spear enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1971 as a 34C Computer Technician. Staff Sergeant Spear retired in 1991.
- i) Captain Spain read Deputy Ethan Fournier's military biography. He developed the V.I.C.T.O.R. Board as the Veteran's Outreach Deputy and currently is the Police Athletic League Coordinator. He is an Iraqi War veteran who served in the U.S. Military from 2009 to 2013 as a motor transport operator.
- j) Captain Spain read Deputy Ben Coleson's military biography. He is the current Veteran's Outreach Deputy. He served in the Air Force from 1999 to 2003 as a civil engineer.
- k) Captain Spain turned the floor over to Chairman Hector Rodriguez to officially call the meeting to order.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

- a) Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:29.

3. ROLL CALL: Completed by: Captain James Spain

<u>Committee Members Present:</u>	Mr. Hector Rodriguez, Ms. Rosemarie Morales, Dr. Lewayne Johnson, Mr. Nicholas Amen, Mr. Bill Mangan, Mr. Gary Spear, Mr. Armando Perez
<u>Committee Members Absent:</u>	
<u>Speakers and Presenters:</u>	Mr. Larry Belisle

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) There were no minutes to approve, as this is the first official meeting.

5. HOUSEKEEPING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) There were no housekeeping and unfinished business items as this was the first meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Captain Spain introduced Mr. Larry Beslisle from the Osceola Council on Aging.
- b) Mr. Larry Beslisle gave a presentation on Helping Homebound Heroes.
 1. Mr. Larry Beslisle served in the Canadian Army from 1970 to 1995.
 2. The program has been around since 2012. Since taking it over in 2015, they have served between 250 and 300 people.
 3. They will do anything to keep a senior or veteran in their home.

4. It is funded by Home Depot and Meals on wheels. Home Depot provides gift cards that they use to buy material to fix homes. Meals on Wheels provides money to pay staff. There are four staff members.
 5. The last big job they had was a floor replacement for a young veteran from Saint Cloud.
 6. The average cost is around \$3,500 but they have spent up to \$10,000.
 7. They try to repair 45 to 50 homes per year but have had 7 homes done this year so far.
 8. They will serve anyone that has a Form DD-214.
 9. They re-plumb, replace appliances, and repair mobile homes.
 10. There is a Weatherization program not strictly for veterans. This program helps the energy savings in your home. The service is free to qualifying low-income households.
- c) Captain Spain asked the board to review the tentative meeting dates for their approval. Mr. Amen made a motion to approve the meetings dates. Mr. Mangan seconded the motion. Chairman Rodriguez asked to take a vote. All the board approved the meetings dates.
- d) Captain Spain asked the board if they would like to nominate a Vice-Chair. Mr. Mangan made a motion to nominate Mr. Amen as Vice-Chair. Mr. Spears seconded the motion. The motion was passed.
- e) Captain Spain covered the V.I.C.T.O.R. policy.
1. The board was established to review agency reports related to Osceola County Veterans and discuss the way the call was handled and provide the agency with new resources available to out veteran community
 2. Captain Spain advised the board that they can bring a guest in to speak about veterans' resources.
 3. Captain Spain informed the board that Outreach Services is compiling a resource guide to provide our deputies. He informed the board they can provide resources to add to the guide.
 4. Another task of the board is to seek donations to assist veterans in need. They have a 501c3 through the Sheriff's Office.
 5. Captain Spain advised the board of the Veteran's Appreciation Day Event and advised they could share if they knew anyone to be a keynote speaker, any vendors, or any veterans they can honor.
 6. Captain Spain advised the board they can invite veterans to the meetings.
 7. Mr. Amen asked the date of the Veteran's Appreciation Day event. Captain Spain answered it is November 11th, 2022 at the Kirchman Foundation.
 8. Mr. Spear asked if there is a charge for vendors to have a booth at the event. Captain Spain answered there is no charge.
 9. Mr. Amen advised he may be able to get director from the V.A. Healthcare system as a keynote speaker.
- f) Captain Spain asked the board if they had any topics they want to discuss next meeting. The board had no suggestions.
- g) Mr. Spear asked if they could be provided a copy of the 501c3.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a) No members of the public wanted to come forward for public comment.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) There was no other business to address.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 4:43.

10. NEXT MEETING:

- a) Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Hector Rodriguez
Chairman

OCSO Staff Member