

**KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20, 2017 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)**  
**Location – National Archives and Records Administration**  
**400 West Pershing Road**  
**Kansas City, Missouri 64108**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION/ASSIGNMENT/POC</u></b> If/As Applicable		
Opening / Introductions		Greg Giese		
Attendees	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><u>In person</u> Greg Giese Vanessa Thomson Karen Gettinger Lorelei Schieferdecker Karen Hutchinson Alan Edmonds Dwayne Rider Melissa Brown</td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><u>Via teleconference</u> Gary Mickey Dean Dave James Edwards Carmen Fernando Jimenez</td> </tr> </table>	<u>In person</u> Greg Giese Vanessa Thomson Karen Gettinger Lorelei Schieferdecker Karen Hutchinson Alan Edmonds Dwayne Rider Melissa Brown	<u>Via teleconference</u> Gary Mickey Dean Dave James Edwards Carmen Fernando Jimenez	N/A
<u>In person</u> Greg Giese Vanessa Thomson Karen Gettinger Lorelei Schieferdecker Karen Hutchinson Alan Edmonds Dwayne Rider Melissa Brown	<u>Via teleconference</u> Gary Mickey Dean Dave James Edwards Carmen Fernando Jimenez			
<b>GUEST SPEAKERS</b>				
None				
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>				
1. Minutes	Committee members were asked to verify attendance from June meeting minutes that were emailed today and submit any changes to Greg. Before the next meeting, the June meeting minutes will be approved online.	Greg Giese		
1. FEBVAC Stand Down Coordinator (Fed. Employee) - <a href="http://kcstanddown.org/">http://kcstanddown.org/</a>	The Heart of America Stand Down Foundation hosts two Stand Downs, annually, serving veterans in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is run entirely by dedicated volunteers with 100% of proceeds going toward providing support to veterans. During Stand Down veterans are provided with clothing, food, mobility escorts, barbers/beauticians, and security from more than 100 organizations.	Contact Greg Giese or John Rogers.  Greg will draft an email to John Cleveland to solicit someone to help from outside our Committee.		

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	Dennis Johnson is our POC for Stand Down, but we need a volunteer to serve as the VA Committee Stand Down Coordinator. The Coordinator would preferably be a federal employee and can even be an existing member of our Committee. The Coordinator would just be a POC and not have to actively participate in the Stand Down. It would be more of a facilitator of contacts to get people in touch with Dennis Johnson. The Coordinator can send info to the committee and committee members can then send it on out to their agencies.	The most recent Stand Down was held on 6/2/17 in Kansas and the next will be in Missouri in the fall with date TBD.
2. Community Outreach – Veterans Community Project  <a href="http://veteranscommunityproject.org/">http://veteranscommunityproject.org/</a>	The KC FEBVAC may gather volunteers to build a house in the future with request from Chris and Kevin.  A benefit gala for Veteran’s Village – a tiny house community for homeless veterans – will be held on Nov 11, 2017.	Greg will get in touch with Donna Mayfield.
3. Reduction of the number of Program Coordinators.	Greg discussed with John Cleveland regarding the issue of Coordinators that may not be very involved. Some people on the Committee don’t attend the meetings regularly, so it may be beneficial to replace them and either accept other volunteers or eliminate the position. The need to be physically present for the meetings is not a requirement.  A legislation Coordinator was suggested to be added to be aware of legislation pertaining to veterans. For example, changing the retirement benefits package available from the legacy package to the new Blended Retirement System. An idea might be to have a state and/or federal POC.	Greg Giese  In the future, the Committee will identify Coordinators to remove or replace.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>		
1. FEB VA Committee Mission  <a href="https://kansascity.feb.gov/committees/vet/">https://kansascity.feb.gov/committees/vet/</a>	The Committee was asked to review the mission: The mission of the KCFEB Veterans Affairs Committee is to support the Veterans in the federal community and to promote Veterans activities in the metropolitan area by providing a variety of services and activities for our nation’s Veterans.  Vanessa suggested the roles and responsibilities of each Coordinator on the Committee be clearly defined so each member can directly impact the mission.	Greg Giese

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<a href="http://projecthomelessconnectkc.com">http://projecthomelessconnectkc.com</a> <a href="https://www.publichealth.va.gov/va2k/">https://www.publichealth.va.gov/va2k/</a> <a href="http://www.hscgkc.org/index.html">http://www.hscgkc.org/index.html</a>	<p>The Committee would like to focus efforts and be involved in a project. Sondra Robinson from the United Way volunteered to track any interest from the VA Committee members to be involved in the various projects her organization supports. For example, Project Homeless Connect will occur on Sep 12, 2017. Then Stand Down will take place in the Fall. Point in Time event will happen in January. Next would be a VA2K to be held in May. Sondra can create a separate sign-in sheet for FEB members, so our involvement can be tracked.</p> <p>Vanessa suggested the possibility of FEB VA Committee members participate in an event in lieu of a monthly meeting. For example, volunteering 1.5 hours on Sep 12, 2017 to Project Homeless Connect.</p>	Contact Greg or Sondra if interested in volunteering at Project Homeless Connect on Sep 12, 9am-3pm at the Gregg/Klice Community Center.
<b>PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS</b>		
a. Crisis & Homeless	<p>Sondra told Greg previously she might consider going to a different committee if all she would be doing is presenting and not really taking action. See other updates from Sondra in New Business item above.</p> <p>Sondra warned the Committee about screening solicitation of help needed. Some individuals may have already received services, so we need to be careful to refer accordingly.</p>	Sondra Robinson/ Fanny Woods
b. Committee Liaison	Not Present.	Jennifer King
c. Community Outreach	Not Present.	Donna Mayfield
d. Discounts & Events	Not Present. An email he distributed announced the online shopping benefit for honorably discharged veterans to shop the Exchange starting Nov 11, 2017.	Michael Ciliege
e. Education Benefits	No update.	Vanessa Thomson
f. Guest Speakers	Not Present.	James White

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g. Health Insurance ACA	No update.	Lorelei Schieferdecker
h. Stand Down - <a href="http://kcstanddown.org/">http://kcstanddown.org/</a>	See Old Business item regarding Stand Down.	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 <a href="mailto:dennis@kcstanddown.org">dennis@kcstanddown.org</a>
i. Veterans History Project	No Update.	Dennis Branson
j. Women Veterans	Not Present.	Mackenzie Smith
<b>Open Discussion</b>		
		<u>Open Discussion Links/POCs:</u>
<b>Other Action Items</b>		
None.		
<b>NEXT MEETINGS:</b>	<b>August 31<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:30 pm. National Archives and Records Administration Facility: Open to the public.</b> <b>September 21<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:30 pm. National Archives and Records Administration Facility: Open to the public.</b>	