

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2018 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)
Location – United Way of Greater Kansas City
801 West 47th Street, Suite 500
Kansas City, Missouri 64112

ITEM	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION/ASSIGNMENT/POC</u> If/As Applicable			
Opening / Introductions		John Rogers			
Attendees	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"><u>In person</u> 1. John Rogers 2. Karen Gettinger 3. Milton Caldwell 4. Steven Nolan 5. Vanessa Thomson 6. Dave Thomas</td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"><u>In person</u> 7. Mike Kinney 8. Dennis Johnson 9. Dwayne Rider 10. Karen Hutchinson 11. Dave Step (SSA coor) 12. Jonni Christian</td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"><u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Matt H. 2. Laura 3. Jeff Wenton</td> </tr> </table>	<u>In person</u> 1. John Rogers 2. Karen Gettinger 3. Milton Caldwell 4. Steven Nolan 5. Vanessa Thomson 6. Dave Thomas	<u>In person</u> 7. Mike Kinney 8. Dennis Johnson 9. Dwayne Rider 10. Karen Hutchinson 11. Dave Step (SSA coor) 12. Jonni Christian	<u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Matt H. 2. Laura 3. Jeff Wenton	N/A
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OLD BUSINESS					
1. Minutes	The Minutes of the 11/15/17 meeting were approved.	John Rogers			
2. Veteran's Community Project (VCP)	VCP needed to do extensive plumbing and electrical groundwork before the "tiny homes" for homeless veterans can be built. Now the area is prepped for construction. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Jan 29. A campaign is ongoing to buy furnishings. The progress can be followed on their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/veteranscommunityproject/	John Rogers http://veteranscommunityproject.org/			
3. Remove Committee Liaison Program Coordinator	The Committee has not yet determined what exactly a Veteran's Affairs Committee Liaison is. The position seemed to appear in the minutes between the Feb/Mar 2017 meetings. A vote was held and passed to eliminate the position.	John Rogers			
4. Remove Guest Speaker Program Coordinator	James White, the Guest Speaker Program Coordinator, has had to take a leave of absence and can't be on the committee anymore. Discussions were held to either eliminate the position or give someone else the opportunity to take it on. The Committee discussed the high value of having guest speakers, but perhaps having someone to volunteer to find a speaker on a quarterly basis would be best. The Committee was asked to notify Greg Giese if you would like to be considered for the position.	John Rogers			

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NEW BUSINESS		
1. Heart of America Stand Down	<p>The Heart of America Stand Down Foundation hosts two Stand Downs, annually, serving veterans in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The most recent Stand Down was held on 11/3/17. It is a one-stop-shop for homeless veterans with over 90 vendors. The vendors provide services like a food pantry, lawyer, medical, and military gear like thermals, sleeping bags, and tents. If veterans have barriers, Stand Down assists them from being unemployed to employed. Housing specialists come with transitional living programs from homeless to dorm, and have a contract with Salvation Army.</p> <p>The FEB VA Committee has decided it would like to be a part of the Stand Down in summer of 2018, providing volunteers and donations. Dennis said the foundation hasn't established what they need yet for the next Stand Down, but as soon as he knows, he'll notify the VA Committee and Karen Gettinger.</p>	<p>Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 dennis@kcstanddown.org</p>
2. Website update	Currently, the FEB VAC webpage is not up to date. Current officers and program coordinators were asked to provide contact information to Greg, even if the information has not changed.	<p>Greg Giese https://kansascity.feb.gov/committees/vet/</p>
3. Vacant Program Coordinator positions	Two Program Coordinator positions are vacant: the Women Veterans and Guest Speaker Program. The Education Benefits is also available since Vanessa has the position as scribe. Nominations will be accepted to Greg Giese through Jan 31, 2018, and set to have a vote during the February VAC meeting.	
PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS		
a. Community Outreach	Not Present.	Donna Mayfield
b. Discounts & Events	Not Present.	Michael Ciliege

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c. Education Benefits	No Update.	Vanessa Thomson
d. Guest Speakers		Position vacant
e. Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/	See information above in New Business section.	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 dennis@kcstanddown.org
f. Women Veterans		Position vacant
Open Discussion		
Point in Time	Point in Time homeless count event (http://www.hscgkc.org/index.html). More than 150 volunteers are needed to be out in teams distributing surveys for the count to homeless persons on the streets, in feeding programs, at area agencies, at schools and libraries, etc. To participate in the site survey, please go to: http://bit.ly/pitsitesurvey . To sign up to volunteer, please go to: http://bit.ly/2018PITvol . The 2018 point-in-time homeless count will take place from 3 – 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24 and from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 25.	
Karen Hutchinson	Karen announced one federal and up to three state tax returns can be prepared for free for eligible service members, their families, and survivors. Tax counselors are available 6:00am-10:00pm through April 18 by calling 1-800-342-9647.	http://www.militaryonesource.mil/taxprep
Karen Gettinger	Karen announced another resource for tax filings through the United Way. Households earning less than \$66,000 can file both federal and state returns for free online. IRS Certified Tax Experts at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site can also be found.	https://www.myfreetaxes.com/
Karen Gettinger	Karen encouraged all to see the new exhibition at the WWI Memorial running from Feb 23 – Jun 3, 2018. John Singer Sargent's <i>Gassed</i> measures more than nine feet tall and 21-feet long.	https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/exhibitions/current-

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		exhibitions/john-singer-sargent-gassed
Dave Step	Dave announced the 3 rd annual Vet 2 Vet event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and St. Joseph Youth Alliance to be held May 20. It offers free admission, free food and haircuts, and a Thunder Run to kick off the opening ceremonies. He will send more information to Greg.	http://saintjoseph.com/ https://www.facebook.com/events/1264386303642681/
Mike Kinney	Mike reminded the Committee about Warrior's Ascent, a community formed to support one another through those warriors suffering trauma. New five-day classes start in February.	https://www.warriorsascent.org/
RideKC Veterans Pass	The group was reminded about the free are for veterans program that began in April 2017. The program has provided more than 500,000 rides and distributed more than 3,500 passes. KCATA, in partnership with the Kansas City Veterans Administration and the VCP honors veterans through the program. The initiative is sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Labor Unions/AFL-CIO. The annual pass is available at the VCP in south Kansas City, 8900 Troost, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The RideKC Veterans Pass is the only form of identification that allows veterans to ride for free. Program participants must bring valid proof of veteran status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Veterans Affairs ID • Active military service ID • State of Missouri photo ID showing veteran status 	http://ridekc.org/news/ridekc-veterans-pass-needed-to-ride-beginning-july-1
NEXT MEETINGS:	February 15th, 2018 at 1:30 pm. National Archives and Records Administration Facility: Open to the public. March 15th, 2018 at 1:30 pm. National Archives and Records Administration Facility: Open to the public.	

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Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

- Jan 24-25 2018 Point in Time homeless count event (<http://www.hscgkc.org/index.html>) will take place from 3 – 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24 and from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 25.
- Jan 26 and 27 Mavericks Military Appreciation Weekend. \$10 terrace level seats. <http://bit.ly/MavsMilitary> Code: VCP
- Mon, Jan 29 Veteran's Community Project (VCP) Open House from 2:00-5:00pm. 8900 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64131
- Feb 9-11 Volunteers needed for VCP attendance at KC Remodel and Garden Show at the American Royal. Volunteers will need to be able to stand for long periods of time, speak on behalf of VCP, and engage people taking tours of the tiny house as well as work with staff. Please email volunteer@vcp-kc.org to secure your spot and let us know your time availability and preference. .

Friday, February 9, 2018

10:00-2:00 4 people

2:00-6:00 4 people

6:00-9:00 4 people

Saturday, February 10, 2018

10:00-2:00 4 people

2:00-6:00 4 people

- Thu, Mar 22 KC Veteran's Job Fair at Arrowhead Stadium from 11am-3pm
<https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/kansas-city-veterans-job-fair-march-22-2018>
- May VA2K event
<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/va2k/>
- Sun, May 20 3rd Annual Vet 2 Vet event from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the St. Joseph Civic Arena.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1264386303642681/>
- June The Heart of America Stand Down
<http://kcstanddown.org/>