

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2017 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)
Location – Federal Grain Inspection Service, National Grain Center
10383 N Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, Missouri 64153

ITEM	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION/ASSIGNMENT/POC</u> If/As Applicable
Opening / Introductions		Greg Giese
Attendees	<p><u>In person</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greg Giese 2. Dennis Johnson 3. Dwayne Rider <p><u>Via teleconference</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vanessa Thomson 2. Jim Dixon 3. Gary Pixler 4. Chip Hillesheim 5. John Cleveland 	N/A
GUEST SPEAKERS		
Bob McNay, Johnson County Community College. CDL Veteran Coordinator.	<p>Topic: Veteran Commercial Driver License Class-A Training.</p> <p>In Sep 2016, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training (CMVOST) grant was enacted, providing 100 percent paid tuition for 24 veterans or their immediate family members who want to earn a CDL-A. Funding will cover the tuition cost for the 10-week professional truck driver training program at JCCC.</p> <p>The purpose of the CMVOST grant is to train current and former members of the United States armed forces, including National Guard and reservists, to obtain their CDL. Current spouses and children of service members are also eligible for such training, with or without the service member. The dependent of the service member must be qualified and at or under the age of 24 years (on the first day of class). The CDL program requires participants to be at least 18 years of age to drive intrastate and 21 for interstate driving. A high school diploma or GED is also required for all program participants.</p> <p>Classes are held for a few hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and behind-the-wheel training for three hours each week on Saturdays and Sundays. The weekend drive time/behind-the-wheel time is designed for students who work full time during the week.</p>	<p>http://www.jccc.edu/academics/transportation/commercial-drivers-license/ce-cdl-veterans.html</p>

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	<p>JCCC has dedicated training space and a driving range near Logistics Park Kansas City in nearby Edgerton, Kansas. The one-to-one student-to-truck ratio means students get individualized hands-on CDL training.</p> <p>A new class starts Feb 6. A free orientation will be held on Jan 9.</p> <p>JCCC is considering offering a 5-week, 5-day accelerated program. The scholarships flow directly to the college, so the students aren't liable for taxes. They can choose what company best fits their needs, and the college works with about 75 different companies. The program has a 90% graduation success rate. A minimal out of pocket expense of about \$100 is for permit, license and drug testing. Shortage today in industry because of retiring folks, and the DOT changed driving hours, so more drivers are needed during those hours. Placement is not an issue. A typical starting salary is \$63K. Long distance, local, and regional options.</p>	
<p>Aarikca Thompson, Kansas City Veteran Affairs Medical Center</p>	<p>Topic: Veteran Commercial Driver License Class-A Training.</p> <p>Although she works for the VA now, she has 8 years of experience working with the homeless program, which she is very passionate about. Aarikca is the person coordinating Stand Down for the VA, but is also a part of the team.</p> <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 6/2/17 in Missouri and the next will be in Kansas at Memorial Hall on Fri, 11/3/17 from 7am-2pm. 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. The summer Stand Down had about 700 participants in all – 438 veterans (gender, race, era). They are seeing women veterans coming. The fall Stand Down usually has more people because folks are getting prepared for winter. It takes 5 months preparation for</p>	<p>Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/</p>

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	<p>each Stand Down. Stand Down has been given Queen size Serta mattresses and made deliveries to those in HUD program because bed bugs are awful. They also have 25 starter kits from the VA – kitchen/bathroom/bedroom areas with everything needed except for vacuums. During the meeting someone mentioned a local vacuum company that she could contact to possible get donations (Marbeck Appliances).</p> <p>Greg stated the FEB VA Committee would like to be a part of the Stand Down in the summer.</p>	
OLD BUSINESS		
1. Minutes	The Minutes of the 8/31/17 and 9/21/17 meetings were approved.	Greg Giese
2. Heart of America Stand Down	The FEB VA Committee was willing to volunteer at the fall 2017 Stand Down, but volunteers are at capacity. We will get with Dennis Johnson to see if we can volunteer in the spring.	Greg Giese
3. Veteran's Community Project	Greg reached out to Chris Stout to ask for a list of things the VA Committee can volunteer for.	Greg Giese
NEW BUSINESS		
1. FEB VA Committee Nov/Dec 2017 Meetings	Greg said the VA Committee will have the next meeting at NARA on Nov 16. At that time, we will vote on holding a December meeting (tentatively held for Dec 21) or not. We will not have too much to discuss as far as planning, since we already know we want to help at Stand Down in the spring.	Greg Giese
PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS		
a. Committee Liaison	Not Present. The VA Committee will vote to remove this position during the next meeting.	Jennifer King

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b. Community Outreach http://veteranscommunityproject.org/	Not Present.	Donna Mayfield
c. Discounts & Events	Not Present. Greg suggested Michael put together a list of discounts closer to Veteran's day.	Michael Ciliege
d. Education Benefits	No Update.	Vanessa Thomson
e. Guest Speakers	James has had to take a leave of absence. Thanks to Duane who offered Aaricka as a speaker today.	James White
f. Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/	See Guest Speaker item regarding Stand Down.	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 dennis@kcstanddown.org
g. Women Veterans	Not Present.	Mackenzie Smith
Open Discussion		
Greg Giese	Greg said John Underwood asked Greg to serve as Chairperson for another year. Greg said it is a good idea for the VA Committee meeting members to confirm with agency leadership if they still want to be involved in the next year or not. Greg reminded the group to always send any suggestions to him on how to run the meetings more smoothly or with any comments at all.	
Dwayne Rider	VA is asking to have one month of days honoring veterans, not just on Veteran's Day. Nov 1 they are having an open house and will fill 21 days of activities that is beyond the VA hospital. He will send the schedule to Greg.	
NEXT MEETINGS:	November 16, 2017 at 1:30 pm. National Archives and Records Administration Facility: Open to the public. December 21th, 2017 at 1:30 pm. National Archives and Records Administration Facility: Open to the public. It is proposed that this meeting be closed due to historically low attendance and proximity to Christmas.	

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Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

- Sat, Oct 28 Military Fun and Family Day
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veteran-family-day-registration-35154343588>
- Fri, Nov 3 The Heart of America Stand Down from 7am-2pm at Memorial Hall at 600 N 7th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101
<http://kcstanddown.org/>
- Sat, Nov 4 Photography exhibit sharing stories of the triumphs of veterans after war will be held at 2014 Broadway, Kansas City, MO from 6-9pm
<https://www.warriorsascent.org/hope-22-event>
- Thu, Nov 9 Sprint's Annual Veteran's day Celebration to be held at the Overland Park campus – POC is Valerie Coyazo
<https://www.opkansas.org/events/veterans-day-celebration-2/>
- Sat, Nov 11 A benefit gala for Veteran's Village – a tiny house community for homeless veterans
<https://event-imaginers.ticketleap.com/swing-gala/details>
- Tue, Nov 14 Veteran's Summit at the Penn Valley campus at the Metropolitan Community College with a kickoff at 7:30am
- January Point in Time event
<http://www.hscgkc.org/index.html>
- 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/>
- June The Heart of America Stand Down
<http://kcstanddown.org/>