

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2018 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)
Location – National Archives and Records Administration
400 West Pershing Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

ITEM	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION/ASSIGNMENT/POC</u> If/As Applicable			
Opening / Introductions		Greg Giese			
Attendees	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"><u>In person</u> 1. Greg Giese 2. Dennis Johnson 3. Duane Rider 4. Chip Hillescheim 5. Karen Hutchinson 6. Scott Flood</td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"><u>In person (continued)</u> 7. Celeste from UPS 8. Dave Thomas 9. Jonni Christian</td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"><u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Monique Koger 2. Larry Hisle 3. David Dewitt 4. Vanessa Thomson 5. Dave Stepp 6. Jim Dixon</td> </tr> </table>	<u>In person</u> 1. Greg Giese 2. Dennis Johnson 3. Duane Rider 4. Chip Hillescheim 5. Karen Hutchinson 6. Scott Flood	<u>In person (continued)</u> 7. Celeste from UPS 8. Dave Thomas 9. Jonni Christian	<u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Monique Koger 2. Larry Hisle 3. David Dewitt 4. Vanessa Thomson 5. Dave Stepp 6. Jim Dixon	N/A
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GUEST SPEAKERS					
Patrick Benson – Co-Founder/Director and John Parker – Director of Development for Warhorses for Veterans	<p>War Horses for Veterans is a 501(c)(3) Equine-based Networking Non-profit for Combat Veterans. It is a three-day equine and networking experience. Veterans will have the opportunity to bond with horses, as well as each other, in a safe and comfortable country environment. In 2014, Patrick Co-Founded the program with Andy and Patricia Brown. The program has served over 114 veterans from all over the country in 3 years. They are currently putting up a new facility which has an arena with a very large veterans lounge. Combat veterans can apply online, groups are 4-7, and have high personal interaction. Gary Luellen, a Vietnam veteran, is crucial to the program's success because he is a warrior from that era who they look up to. Attendees have reported a drastic drop in anxiety, feel comfortable, have peace, and are vulnerable. Veterans don't need to know a thing about horses before coming in, but will learn a skill/trade and build confidence with peer on peer support. They are not a rehab. People with problems are not a good fit, because there is not 24/7 surveillance. First night includes Jack Stack BBQ dinner. Sat morn, they eat breakfast and check out the horses. A plan is developed and executed, and never limits them to what the rider can do. The end result is an attitude of everything in life being approachable and having the ability to make a plan and not give up. Life is reinvigorated, then they bring a buddy service person and they can become the mentor. On Nov 10, a Today Show special video from Megyn Kelly was posted on the website.</p>	<p>https://warhorsesforveterans.com/</p> <p>PO Box 363, Stillwell, KS 66085</p>			

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OLD BUSINESS		
1. Minutes	The Minutes of the 2/15/18 meeting were approved. Name corrections and other minor changes can still be emailed to Greg.	Greg Giese
2. Veteran's Community Project (VCP) Site Visit	"Tiny homes" for homeless veterans progress can be followed on their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/veteranscommunityproject/ . The Veterans Affairs Committee would like to visit the site on May 17, and Greg is awaiting a response.	Greg Giese http://veteranscommunityproject.org/
3. Heart of America Stand Down	The FEB VA Committee has decided it would like to be a part of the Stand Down scheduled to be held on Jun 8, 2018, providing volunteers and donations, and possible help to set up on Jun 7, 2018 in lieu of a June VA Committee meeting. 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.	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 dennis@kcstanddown.org
4. 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. Greg sent a message to John Cleveland and hopes to get the website updated soon.	Greg Giese https://kansascity.feb.gov/committees/vet/
NEW BUSINESS		
1. The National Vietnam War Veterans Day – March 29	On March 29th, 2018 at 10:00am the Fort Leavenworth Commissary will be observing the Vietnam War Veteran's Commemoration near the entrance of the commissary to include a flag ceremony, guest speakers, and a free luncheon at the conclusion of the ceremony. Grilled burgers, hot dogs, and bratwurst will be available with BOSS and MWR doint the grilling. The general public is also invited and encouraged to attend the ceremonies and honor our Vietnam Veterans. VFW Post 7397, Lenexa, KS, will also hold a Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration on March 29, 2018 at 10:00 AM.	Greg Giese

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS		
a. Discounts & Events	Not Present.	Michael Ciliege
b. Veteran Benefits	This Coordinator position has been reclassified from “Education benefits” to “Veteran benefits” because it will cover more than just education. Karen said she will email an electronic copy she has of a sample of a list of benefits to include colleges or learning, etc. The Department of Veterans Affairs is sending a monthly update to veterans, so maybe that can be incorporated as well.	Alan Edmonds/vacant
c. Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/	See information above in Old Business section.	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 dennis@kcstanddown.org
d. Women Veterans	Joni and Monique were voted in as co-coordinators. A discussion revolved around the fact that Program Coordinators take over positions, but they don’t know the responsibilities unless they’re already involved or have a footing, so nothing gets done. A procedure or guide as to where you get information, or what you do so when someone steps in they’re not overwhelmed with having nothing there, would be helpful. Greg, Joni, and Monique will set up a time to meet to go over the position.	Joni Christian/Monique Koger
Open Discussion		
NEXT MEETINGS:	April 19th, 2018 at 1:30 pm. Transportation Security Administration: 12200 N Ambassador Drive, Suite 212, Kansas City, MO 64163. Speaker: Debbie Childress, Valor Ranch May 17th, 2018 at 1:30 pm. Location TBD.	

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Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

- Sat, Mar 17 “The Power in Your Story” workshop for military, veteran, and first responder caregivers at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church from 5:30-8:30pm.
<https://caregivers-homefrontorg.presencehost.net/news-events/storytelling-workshop-registration-form.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>
- Mar 24-25 Veteran Retreat with Precious Blood Renewal Center. <http://www.pbrenewalcenter.org/images/Client-Provided/veteran-retreat-2018.png>
- Thu, Mar 29 National Vietnam War Veteran Recognition Day at Fort Leavenworth Commissary at 10:00am.
<https://www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/fort-leavenworth>
- Thu, Mar 29 Career fair Overland Park Convention Center from 10am-2pm
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jobnewsusacom-kansas-city-job-fair-tickets-43319545928>
- Wed, Apr 25 Get Hired Kansas City – Career Fair from 9:00am-1:00pm held at the Kansas City Kansas Community College - Fieldhouse.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/get-hired-kansas-city-career-fair-tickets-37244788164>
- Sat, Apr 28 St. James Parish Military-Veteran Ministry & Fr. Vincent Capodanno, Memorial Catholic War Veterans Post 1974 sponsoring a “Veteran’s Salute-Fair” April 28, 2018 from 9:30am -2:30pm; Location: 309 S. Stewart Rd. Liberty, MO. Contact: Ann Marie Roberts at 816-469-0271.
<http://www.stjames-liberty.org/stjames2/ministries/groups/military-outreach-ministry/>
- 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/>
- Fri, Jun 8 The Heart of America Stand Down
<http://kcstanddown.org/>
- Sat, Jun 9 Army Birthday Celebration 2018 at KC Downtown Marriott at 6:00pm
<http://kcausa.org/>