

**KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**April 19, 2018 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)**  
**Location – Transportation Security Administration**  
**12200 N. Ambassador Drive, Suite 212**  
**Kansas City, Missouri 64163**

<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>            1. Greg Giese            2. Gary Pixler            3. Duane Rider            4. Karen Hutchinson            6. Emily LaVine            7. Jonni Christian         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Via teleconference</u>            1. Michael Ciliege            2. Larry Hisle            3. Mickey Carlson            4. Vanessa Thomson            5. Becky Beilharz         </td> </tr> </table>	<u>In person</u> 1. Greg Giese 2. Gary Pixler 3. Duane Rider 4. Karen Hutchinson 6. Emily LaVine 7. Jonni Christian	<u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Michael Ciliege 2. Larry Hisle 3. Mickey Carlson 4. Vanessa Thomson 5. Becky Beilharz	N/A
<u>In person</u> 1. Greg Giese 2. Gary Pixler 3. Duane Rider 4. Karen Hutchinson 6. Emily LaVine 7. Jonni Christian	<u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Michael Ciliege 2. Larry Hisle 3. Mickey Carlson 4. Vanessa Thomson 5. Becky Beilharz			
<b>GUEST SPEAKERS</b>				
Debbie Childress and Sherry Simmerman – Valor Ranch	<p>Valor Ranch was founded in 2016 as a 501(c)(3) organization; and although they have their Federal Tax ID #, they are still waiting for their 501(c)(3) status. Debbie knows that every January Kansas City does a homeless count in one night, however, she knows some veterans that are not being talked to or counted in the statistics. She said over 55% of homeless in the US are veterans, and in Kansas City, there are over 1,400 homeless veterans.</p> <p>She shared with the group a story of one of the founders, whose story of her husband, a veteran with PTSD, left her and her family having little resources. Valor Ranch's vision is to help the veterans learn the necessary skills to re-enter civilian life successfully and in a positive way. It offers housing, transportation to counseling, medical appointments, etc. and workshops and seminars. Future phases include adding canine and equine therapy, as well as on-site counseling. They plan to provide job training workshops, individualized coaching and support, and numerous group activities to supplement the one-to-one support.</p> <p>Valor Ranch, located in Smithville, MO provides housing and assistance to homeless veterans in the Kansas City Missouri area. They have a partnership with Warrior Ascent, where the attendees will spend one week with them, and then Valor Ranch helps get the veterans employment. Valor Ranch will house up to 10 veterans at a time for 8-18 months.</p>	<a href="http://valorranch.org/">http://valorranch.org/</a>  Smithville, MO		

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	Valor Ranch strives to be a safe, low cost or free housing for veterans. They have an energy-efficient, move-in ready home house that sits on 80-acres. They are striving to raise sufficient funds from donations or grants.	
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>		
1. Minutes	The Minutes of the 3/15/18 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: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/veteranscommunityproject/">https://www.facebook.com/veteranscommunityproject/</a> . The Veterans Affairs Committee would like to visit the site on May 17 in lieu of a May Veterans Affairs Committee meeting. Veterans attending should bring a copy of their DD Form 214 to obtain a free bus pass.	Greg Giese / Chris Stout  <a href="http://veteranscommunityproject.org/">http://veteranscommunityproject.org/</a>
3. Heart of America Stand Down	<p>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. Time during meeting would be 1-3pm on set up day for 8-10 people. If earlier, 2-3 hours from 8am-1pm they need 50+ volunteers for bulk of the setup. Or, Friday from 7:30-noon (starting at 8am) would need 100+ to assist in processing. After noon, need 15-20 people to help clean up.</p> <p>Mickey said they manage St. Michael's. She manages the property, and said last year there were parking issues, so people should come early unless you want transport via golf cart. Phase 3 has been put on hold because government put tax credits on hold, but both buildings are full. Service Coordinator is full time staff member to focus on Catholic charities for veterans. Can do a tour if you come beforehand. Greg would like to have a meeting at St. Michael's, but need a good conference line.</p> <p>Greg will send questionnaire to the group asking if we can attend and if we have identified which periods are better to help. He will get number from committee and if we want to open up for other federal employees.</p>	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 <a href="mailto:dennis@kcstanddown.org">dennis@kcstanddown.org</a>

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<b>PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS</b>		
a. Discounts & Events	T-Mobile has new discounts for veterans and family members, as much as 50% off plans. <a href="https://www.t-mobile.com/offers/military-phone-plans?icid=WMM_TM_FIDELIS_051FX21TV7S13121">https://www.t-mobile.com/offers/military-phone-plans?icid=WMM_TM_FIDELIS_051FX21TV7S13121</a>	Michael Ciliege
b. Veteran Benefits	Greg Giese periodically sends out VA Benefits Bulletins to the group.	Alan Edmonds/vacant
c. Stand Down - <a href="http://kcstanddown.org/">http://kcstanddown.org/</a>	Their website has undergone major changes. They are in need of clothes for all genders and sizes and toiletries due to the needs of families.	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 <a href="mailto:dennis@kcstanddown.org">dennis@kcstanddown.org</a>
d. Women Veterans	Jonni said they are looking to create a brochure and will send to Greg for review before distributing.	Jonni Christian/Monique Koger
<b>Open Discussion</b>		
Vanessa Thomson	Vanessa said she will be on maternity leave during the May, June, July, and August meetings. Therefore, if anyone would like to volunteer as scribe for those months, it would be appreciated.	
<b>NEXT MEETINGS:</b>	<b>May 17th, 2018 at 1:30 pm. Veteran's Community Project.</b>	
	<b>June 7, 2018. St. Michael's Veteran's Center (Morning Setup)</b>	

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Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

- 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/>
- Wed, May 2    Conversations with U.S. Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (MO-04) regarding Veterans Affairs from 2:30-3:30pm. Camp Valor Outdoors: 1527 SW 300 Road, Kingsville, MO 64061
- Mon, May 14    Free movie screening of “Honor Flight: One Last Mission” at 1:30pm and 7:00pm at The Grand Estates on Greenwood, 13350 South Greenwood Street, Olathe, KS 66062.
- Wed, May 16    8<sup>th</sup> annual VA2K Walk & Roll event at 11:00am at 4801 E. Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO. <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/va2k/>
- Sat, May 19    Armed Forces Day event from 11:00am-5:00pm at 13700 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS 66223. <http://www.outlawcigar.com/outlaw/contact-us/>
- Sun, May 20    3<sup>rd</sup> 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 at St. Michael’s Veteran’s Center, 3838 Chelsea Drive, Kansas City, MO 64128.  
<http://kcstanddown.org/>
- Sat, Jun 9    Army Birthday Celebration 2018 at KC Downtown Marriott at 6:00pm  
<http://kcausa.org/>
- Thu, Jun 14    Flag Day event at 9:00am. Flag Retirement Ceremonies at noon and 5:00pm. Held at St. Michael’s Veterans Center Campus, 3818 Chelsea Drive, Kansas City, MO 64128. [www.smvets.org](http://www.smvets.org).