

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)

Location – USDA

6501 Beacon Drive,

Kansas City, Missouri 64133

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%;"><u>In person</u></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>Via teleconference</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1. Greg Giese</td> <td>7. Vanessa Thomson</td> <td>1. Dave Stepp</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Jonni Christian</td> <td>8. David Thomas</td> <td>2. Gary Pixler</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Michael Ciliege</td> <td>9. Rich Carassi</td> <td>3. Jeff Winters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Larry Hisle</td> <td>10. Dave White</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Dennis Johnson</td> <td>11. Alyssa Biermaier</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Karen Hutchinson</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<u>In person</u>		<u>Via teleconference</u>	1. Greg Giese	7. Vanessa Thomson	1. Dave Stepp	2. Jonni Christian	8. David Thomas	2. Gary Pixler	3. Michael Ciliege	9. Rich Carassi	3. Jeff Winters	4. Larry Hisle	10. Dave White		5. Dennis Johnson	11. Alyssa Biermaier		6. Karen Hutchinson			N/A
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GUEST SPEAKERS																							
Dave White, Chair of Military Matters Operating Committee – Military Matters	<p>Military Matters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit program of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation offering free and low cost legal advice to veterans. The program strives to fill the gap in legal services available to veterans and active duty military personnel living or with a home of record in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, covering 9 counties. They collaborate with support agencies serving veterans in the area to identify the most needed legal services and provide assistance to those who do not qualify for aid from other agencies.</p> <p>In 2012, KCMBF's Board of Directors approved a signature umbrella charitable program format, Legal Connection. KCMBF's Legal Connection brings together various organizations and individuals throughout the community through interdisciplinary collaboration and education that initiates meaningful conversations and creates effective solutions to societal issues. The Legal Connection umbrella charitable program currently focuses on two specific causes: the Domestic Violence & Children Interdisciplinary Conference and Legal Connection: Military Matters. Military Matters began in 2014, they have had about 600 cases from 2016 to now. Military Matters offers a centralized place where legal services for veterans can be obtained, removing frustration and contributing to lowering the veteran suicide rates.</p> <p>All requests for a lawyer referral through the Military Matters program must be made with one of the Community Organization Partners to avoid conflicts of interest. The partners vet each individual to determine their eligibility as a veteran or family member. Military Matters does not</p>	https://kcllegalconnection.org/																					

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	<p>take direct requests for referral services from individuals. The current partners are: The United Way, Kansas City VA, Legal Aid of Western MO, Kansas Legal Services, and the Veterans Community Project.</p> <p>The 5th Annual Military Matters Symposium will be held on Nov 8 at KCMBA HQ. It brings together representatives from the frontline providers of Military and Veteran services in the greater Kansas City Metropolitan area to continue the discussion on how best to alleviate the gaps in legal services and other support services available to veterans, active duty military, and Reserve components.</p>	
OLD BUSINESS		
1. Guest Speakers	<p>If the VA Committee receives requests for speakers for Veteran’s Day events or other opportunities, all information to include place, date, time, needs to be provided as well.</p> <p>Greg is coordinating the guest speakers at this time, but would like a POC to take charge.</p>	Greg Giese
NEW BUSINESS		
1. Future Meetings	Greg would like to rotate the location of the monthly FEB VA Committee meeting to various locations and agencies.	Greg Giese
2. Website Update	Our website has been updated to include current program coordinators and the most recent meeting minutes. Greg said we will post future meetings on the website (they are also included in the posted meeting minutes). To enable a meeting reminder on Microsoft Outlook, we will see if we can find a way to subscribe to future meetings from the website and make it automated.	https://kansascity.feb.gov/committees/vet/
3. Camp Corral	Vanessa’s daughter attended a week-long camp for free this past summer with Camp Corral. Camp Corral is a Camp Corral, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit corporation. It is a free, one-of-a-kind summer camp for children ages 8-15 of wounded, ill, injured, or fallen military service members. In 2017, 3,683 campers attended 23 sessions hosted at 22 camps in 19 states.	https://campcorral.org/

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	Golden Corral Corporation is their founding sponsor and has raised more than \$5 million for Camp Corral over the past 4 years. Vanessa is looking into having a speaker from the organization come speak to the VA Committee in the next few months.	
4. Vacant Program Coordinator Positions - Nominations	Greg nominated Jeff Winters to co-coordinate with Alan Edmonds on Veteran Benefits. Jeff had expressed interest in the past, and was accepted by vote to be a program co-coordinator.	
PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS		
a. Discounts & Events	Vanessa mentioned a unique Veteran's day deal through McCormick and Schmick's. The company typically has a free meal for veterans the Sunday prior to Veteran's Day, and this year the meal will be Sun, Nov 11, 2018. http://www.mccormickandschmicks.com/featured-promotion/Veterans-Day.aspx	Michael Ciliege
b. Veteran Benefits	Alan forwarded information to the group on Oct 17 that Veterans who are receiving VA health care can get the flu shot at a nearby VA health care facility. Veterans can also receive their flu shot at Walgreens, and the information will be automatically added to their VA health record. https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp	Alan Edmonds/vacant
c. Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/	Dennis said the fall Stand Down will be on Nov 2 at Memorial Hall in Kansas City, KS. http://kcstanddown.org/	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 dennis@kcstanddown.org
d. Women Veterans	Jonni said Terry Curry is a Women Veteran and will be our guest speaker next month.	Jonni Christian/vacant
Open Discussion		
David Thomas	David expressed the need for the VA to obtain veteran eligibility to help veterans instantaneously. He advocates for SSVF and veterans seeking housing and has encountered	

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	<p>the problem of a veteran waiting 4 weeks until a Veteran ID card is obtained because their DD Form 214 cannot be located.</p> <p>The VA Committee recommended he write to his local congressman to explain the details of what happened, so a case of lack of training can be addressed. The Committee also recommended a great resource to obtain a DD Form 214 more quickly; https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage.</p>	
NEXT MEETINGS:	<p>Nov 15th, 2018 at 1:30pm. American Job Center, 1720 Paseo, Kansas City, MO. Speaker: Karen Yarbrough</p> <p>Jan 17th, 2019 at 1:30 pm. Location: Salvation Army, 101 W Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64111</p> <p>Feb 14th, 2019 at 1:30 pm. Location TBD.</p> <p>Mar 21st, 2019 at 1:30 pm. Location TBD.</p> <p>Apr 18th, 2018 at 1:30 pm. Location TBD.</p>	

Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

- Fri, Nov 2 Heart of America Stand Down, Memorial Hall, 600 N 7th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101 from 0730-1330
- Sat, Nov 3 Veteran Benefits Forum, Family Life Center, 5111 Harry S Truman Drive, Grandview, MO from 10:00am-1:00pm
- Thu, Nov 8 5th Annual Military Matters Symposium at KCMBA headquarters from 1100-1700
- Mon, Nov 12 Veteran's Day (observed)
- Wed, Nov 14 Celebration of Heroes event on Wed, Nov 14 at 5:00pm at the National WWI Museum. (<https://www.smvets.org/celebration.html>).
- Nov 15-17 2018 Farmer Veteran Stakeholders Conference will be held in Kansas City from Nov 15-17. <https://www.farmvetco.org/kansascity/>