

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2019 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)
Location – Kauffman Foundation Conference Center
4801 Rockhill Road,
Kansas City, Missouri 64110

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: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>In person</u> 1. Greg Giese 2. Vanessa Thomson 3. Brian Moore 4. Emma Toops 5. Karen Sorenson </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Jonni Christian 2. Jim Dixon 3. Gary Pixler </td> </tr> </table>	<u>In person</u> 1. Greg Giese 2. Vanessa Thomson 3. Brian Moore 4. Emma Toops 5. Karen Sorenson	<u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Jonni Christian 2. Jim Dixon 3. Gary Pixler	N/A
<u>In person</u> 1. Greg Giese 2. Vanessa Thomson 3. Brian Moore 4. Emma Toops 5. Karen Sorenson	<u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Jonni Christian 2. Jim Dixon 3. Gary Pixler			
GUEST SPEAKERS				
Brian Moore, Caregivers on the Homefront – Kansas City	<p>Brian came to discuss Caregivers on the Homefront, a 501(c)(3) organization founded in Kansas City whose mission is to provide caregivers of our nation's veterans and first responders with hopefulness, a sense of togetherness, and a firm foundation of resiliency. Caregivers are spouses, family members, and friends without formal training that are supporting the wounded, ill, or injured veterans and first responders. Classes cover financial and legal plans, navigating the DoD, VA, and Social Security, PTSD, suicide prevention, and more.</p> <p>Brian said that first responder suicides are at a rate that is higher than their line of duty deaths. Thirty-one officers have already taken their own lives since the first of the year. Our veterans are taking their lives at a rate of twenty a day. The organization is two years old this June. They have a Mental Health & Wellness Restorative Weekend on May 31, 2019. The restorative weekend last took place in October and there are 12 slots per class. They had 120+ applications to attend the class in October. They had one last year, two this year, three next year, and plan to have a restorative weekend once a quarter after that.</p> <p>Caregivers on the Homefront will have its 1st Annual “Will You Walk With Me?” 5K Fun Walk/Run on June 29, 2019 at the National WWI Memorial - a walk for awareness of veteran and first responder suicide and those that love them.</p>	https://caregivers-homefront.org/		

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OLD BUSINESS		
1. Meeting Minutes	Greg sent out the Minutes of the 11/18/18 meeting by email. Name corrections and other minor changes can still be emailed to Greg or Vanessa.	Greg Giese
2. Future Meetings	<p>The VA Committee had planned to meet at the Salvation Army for January's meeting, but the meeting was cancelled due to the lack of government funding.</p> <p>The group discussed various methods to conduct meetings, such as Zoom, Skype, Webex, Go To meeting, and Adobe Connect. Greg said all participants of a Skype meeting need a government email address. In the past, there had been a travel ban in the government, and the Committee couldn't meet. Emma said her organization (KCUSA) doesn't have a brick and mortar building, and Zoom meetings work well for them.</p>	
NEW BUSINESS		
1. Government Shutdown Protocol	Greg realized during the recent government shutdown, that he should send a group email to everyone involved that we may not have a meeting if there is a lack in government funding. Vanessa mentioned being able to have the FEB VA website updated to reflect that information, especially since Larry Hisle still works during a shutdown.	
2. Vacant Program Coordinator Positions	<p>Guest speaker and Women Veterans are two vacancies we have in Program Coordinator Positions. Please let Greg know if you are interested.</p> <p>John Rogers is the Vice President of the FEB VA Committee, but Greg hasn't had contact with him in quite a while. Normally, the Vice can conduct meetings if the President is unavailable.</p>	
3. Stand Down	The next Stand Down event will be on Jun 7, 2019. Setup will be on Jun 6 starting at 0800. We would like to help out as a Committee in any way possible. Dennis Johnson will let us know.	https://kcstanddown.org/

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS		
a. Discounts & Events	Not present.	Michael Ciliege
b. Veteran Benefits	Not present.	Alan Edmonds/vacant
c. Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/	See information regarding Stand Down in New Business section above.	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 dennis@kcstanddown.org
d. Women Veterans	Jonni said Terry Cray had mentioned she was transitioning out, but a new coordinator has not been selected or in place yet. She will reach out again soon to see if a selection has been made.	Jonni Christian/vacant
e. Guest Speaker	Vacant.	
Open Discussion		
Karen Sorenson	Karen said Military One Source state consultants were asked to provide their home town and home state for those new to the military to help those going to basic training or their family members know what to expect.	https://www.militaryonesource.mil/
NEXT MEETINGS:	Apr 18th, 2019 at 1:30 pm. Location TBD. May 16th, 2019 at 1:30pm. Location TBD. Jun 6 or 7, assist with StandDown in lieu of June meeting	

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Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

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| Mar 26, 1900 | "Weight of Honor" free screening at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, Liberty, MO.
https://theweightofhonormovie.com/calendar |
| Mar 28, 1100-1500 | Kansas City Veterans Job Fair at Arrowhead Stadium.
https://success.recruitmilitary.com/events/kansas-city-veterans-job-fair-march-28-2019 |
| Jun 7, 0730-1300 | The Summer Stand Down at St. Michael's Veterans Center, 3838 Chelsea Drive, Kansas City, MO 64128 |
| Jun 29, 0700 | Caregivers on the Homefront 1 st Annual "Will You Walk With Me?" 5K Fun Walk/Run at the National WWI Memorial
https://caregivers-homefront.org/will-you-walk-with-me-suicide-prevention-5k-walkrun.html |