

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2019 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)
Location – FAA Office
901 Locust,
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

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. Jonni Christian 3. Alan Edmonds 4. Larry Hisle 5. Dave Thomas 6. Chris Alstein </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>In person</u> 7. William Hakes 8. Jason Sindeldecker 9. Sandra Sindeldecker </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Jim Dixon 2. Vanessa Thomson </td> </tr> </table>	<u>In person</u> 1. Greg Giese 2. Jonni Christian 3. Alan Edmonds 4. Larry Hisle 5. Dave Thomas 6. Chris Alstein	<u>In person</u> 7. William Hakes 8. Jason Sindeldecker 9. Sandra Sindeldecker	<u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Jim Dixon 2. Vanessa Thomson	N/A
<u>In person</u> 1. Greg Giese 2. Jonni Christian 3. Alan Edmonds 4. Larry Hisle 5. Dave Thomas 6. Chris Alstein	<u>In person</u> 7. William Hakes 8. Jason Sindeldecker 9. Sandra Sindeldecker	<u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Jim Dixon 2. Vanessa Thomson			
GUEST SPEAKER					
William Hakes, Jason Sindeldecker, and Sandra Sindeldecker, Missouri Patriot Paws	<p>Sandra is on the Missouri Patriot Paws (MPP) Board. MPP was established in Dec 2013 to provide the training of service dogs for Missouri veterans and first responders with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)/Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). MPP is a non-profit organization. Most dogs are rescued from local shelters, and MPP has helped over 60 veterans to get paired with a dog. MPP pairs the veteran/first responder with a rescued dog who will train together until graduation. Group training is held weekly for 6-9 months and they graduate by doing citizen and public access testing. To be qualified for the MPP program, a DD Form 214 is required for veterans, and a physician's note for first responders.</p> <p>Jason discussed some "do and don't"s with the group. He said if you come across a service dog, don't make a big deal of it because they are treated as medical equipment. Don't stare or bother them. Handlers carry a diaper bag to be prepared for any situation. Dogs have patches that might say "service dog in training". Some dogs' commands are in German, Dutch, or Polish, which makes is better for strangers not being able to give a dog a command. You can use any language you want to train a dog as long as it is paired with the correct attitude.</p> <p>William Hakes is a Navy veteran and KCMO police officer who has PTSD from combat deployments and TBI from the Police Department. He has broken vertebrae from motorcycle</p>	http://www.mopatriotpaws.org/index.html https://www.facebook.com/mopatriotpaws.org			

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	injuries and has had 4 knee surgeries. William said not every disability is visible; if you have epilepsy or are diabetic, little dogs can help. Veterans with PTSD are reclusive and don't want to leave the house, but service dogs can help them get out and help them be a part of society again. Businesses cannot ask why the person needs a service dog, but can ask what service the dog provides to the person.	
OLD/NEW BUSINESS		
1. Stand Down 2019	A Stand Down event was held Jun 7, 2019 at St. Michael's Veterans Center. The VA Committee volunteered to help in lieu of a June meeting. 6 VA Committee members helped for 30 hours. 465 people were served: 392 males, 23 females, and 50 family members. Jim Lannigan handed his duties to Tom Houlihan. Reps are looking ahead to the next Stand Down which will be held in colder weather. They are already working with shelters and hope to receive military grade outdoor gear for homeless.	https://kcstanddown.org/
2. Future Meetings	Meetings are always held the 3 rd Thursday of every month. Greg thanked Jonni for hosting the July meeting. Dave Thomas said he can host the August meeting at the Salvation Army. Greg is looking for a host for September's meeting. After September, Greg will likely step down as chair for the Committee as this is his 3 rd year and he is getting very busy.	
3. Guest Speakers Needed	Jonni has a contact coming in who serves as Women's Veteran's coordinator from Eastern Kansas. Greg needs to get back in touch with two people that contacted him about speaking. Greg reminded the Committee that we don't pay speakers to come talk.	
4. Vacant Program Coordinator Positions	Jeff Winters decided to take care of Veteran's Benefits. Guest Speaker and Women Veterans are two vacancies we have in Program Coordinator Positions. A Vice Chair is another vacant position. Normally, the Vice can conduct meetings if the President is unavailable and represent the FEB in other capacities.	

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS		
a. Discounts & Events	Not present.	Michael Ciliege
b. Veteran Benefits	'Blue Water' Vietnam Veterans are now eligible for agent orange benefits. The case is now being passed to the President to increase the geographical area covered.	Jeff Winters
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	No update.	Jonni Christian/vacant
e. Guest Speaker	Vacant.	
Open Discussion		
Dave Stepp	Dave said he needs help setting up for the 5 th annual "vet to vet" event to be held in St. Joseph on Oct 19 from 8am-2pm. This event is not only for homeless veterans, but active duty as well. Last year they had over 90 vendors, and this year will be open to 15 more counties. The St. Joseph Mayor has declared this day as a day to veterans. The event will have an excellent catered meal provided to all veterans to include 250 pounds of pulled pork, green beans, chips, and cherry cobbler (no hotdogs).	David.Thomas@usc.salvationarmy.com
NEXT MEETINGS:	Aug 15th, 2019 at 1:30pm. Location TBD. Sep 19th, 2019 at 1:30pm. Location TBD.	

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Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

Oct 19, 0800-1400 Vet to Vet event in St. Joseph at the Civic Arena, 100 N Fourth Street, St Joseph, MO 64501