

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2019 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)
Location – Salvation Army
101 W Linwood Blvd,
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

ITEM	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION/ASSIGNMENT/POC</u> If/As Applicable
Opening / Introductions		Greg Giese
Attendees	<p><u>In person</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greg Giese 2. David Thomas 3. David Stepp 4. Larry Hisle 5. Vanessa Thomson <p><u>Via teleconference</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jonni Christian 2. Gary Pixler 	N/A
GUEST SPEAKER		
Dave Thomas – Salvation Army	<p>Dave Thomas, member of the VA Committee, hosted the August meeting at the Salvation Army, so he told the group more about what his organization does for veterans. The Salvation Army offers shelters to veterans, hot meals, helping finding employment, and a fresh start. It also offers adult rehabilitation centers. Only 1 day of active duty is a requirement for help. Dave talked about Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) which awards millions of dollars to grand programs. All it takes is less than a minute to plug someone’s DOB, SSN, name, and gender in to find out if they’re eligible for VA services. After screening, they used case-based management to assist customers with a needs, house, and goal list. However, the management stops after the person “graduates” from the program, and no statistics can be obtained for what happens after they leave the program.</p> <p>The VA occasionally goes out with the police with water and hygiene kits to talk to homeless and find out if they are veterans. Lots of people will say they are veterans, but are not, so they are offered help from the Union Mission or other shelters.</p>	https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/serve-veterans/

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	Dave said one disconnect is that the sign up to get permanent housing can take up to 45 days. There aren't many shelters to hold people short term. The SSVF program allows the person to choose what county they want to live in and the place they live in.	
OLD/NEW BUSINESS		
1. Stand Down 2019	A Stand Down event was held Jun 7, 2019 at St. Michael's Veterans Center. The fall Stand Down will be Friday, Nov 8 at Memorial Hall in Kansas City, KS from 0700-1330.	https://kcstanddown.org/
2. Future Meetings	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	Guest speakers can be a non-profit, who helps veterans; or a person you know, like another veteran or anyone who speaks about something veteran-oriented.	
4. Vacant Program Coordinator Positions	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.	
PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS		
a. Discounts & Events	Not present.	Michael Ciliege
b. Veteran Benefits	Not present.	Jeff Winters
c. Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/	See information regarding Stand Down in New Business section above.	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 DKJ@POBox.com

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d. Women Veterans	No update.	Jonni Christian/vacant
e. Guest Speaker	Vacant.	
Open Discussion		
Dave Thomas	Dave said he is looking for WWII veterans to attend the Vet to Vet event on Oct 19. He found a WW2 veteran who was a nurse, and looking for more to honor after opening ceremonies.	David.Thomas@usc.salvationarmy.com
Vanessa Thomson	Vanessa was pleased to notify everyone that all meeting minutes are on the website thanks to help from John Cleveland.	https://kansascity.feb.gov/committees/vet/
Larry Hisle	Larry reminded everyone of public employee discounts through the FEB. The Kansas City Royals are offering Public Employee 50% off select games in August, (including the Cardinals and Mets). Please go to https://www.mlb.com/royals/tickets/group-tickets/bounceback to check out the offers. Other discounts include Sporting KC, KC Chiefs, Silver Dollar City, and the KC Renaissance Festival. These and other discounts can be found online at www.kansascity.feb.gov .	www.kansascity.feb.gov
David Stepp	David said his agency (Social Security Administration) is looking to onboard 50-60 and the VRA will push it. If your agency isn't hiring, he'll get them in contact with HR. Positions have a 5-7-9 career ladder to an 11. Skills vary to solving puzzles for policy to decide why it didn't go through. Position, grade experience may not need a degree. Call center experience is desired, but looking for stability. Debt management branch looking for people too. 601 e 12th street, downtown in the federal building.	
NEXT MEETINGS:	Sep 19th, 2019 at 1:30pm. Location TBD.	

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Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

Sep 19, 1900	Living History Series: Gary DeRigne Vietnam Purple Heart Veteran, Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64131
Oct 19, 0800-1400	Vet to Vet event in St. Joseph at the Civic Arena, 100 N Fourth Street, St Joseph, MO 64501
Nov 8, 0700-1330	StandDown for Homeless Veterans, Memorial Hall, 600 N 7 th Street Trfy, Kansas City, KS 66101