

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2020 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)

Location – Kansas City VA Medical Center, Hall of Heroes, 4801 Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64128

ITEM	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION/ASSIGNMENT</u> <u>/POC</u> If/As Applicable			
Opening / Introductions		Melissa Jacobson			
Attendees	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>In person</u> 1. Melissa Jacobson (Chairperson) 2. Bill Rieger 3. John Cleveland 4. Arian Gilyot </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> 5. David Thomas 6. Ryan Martin 7. Alan Edmonds 8. Helen Phares </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> 9. Dean Scott 10. Jose Torres </td> </tr> </table>	<u>In person</u> 1. Melissa Jacobson (Chairperson) 2. Bill Rieger 3. John Cleveland 4. Arian Gilyot	5. David Thomas 6. Ryan Martin 7. Alan Edmonds 8. Helen Phares	9. Dean Scott 10. Jose Torres	<u>Via teleconference</u> 1. Larry Hisle 2. Dennis Branson 3. Diana McCoy 4. Michael Bonds 5. Joshua Lansdale 6. Olivia Schuckman
<u>In person</u> 1. Melissa Jacobson (Chairperson) 2. Bill Rieger 3. John Cleveland 4. Arian Gilyot	5. David Thomas 6. Ryan Martin 7. Alan Edmonds 8. Helen Phares	9. Dean Scott 10. Jose Torres			
GUEST SPEAKER					
Bill Rieger, Disabled American Veterans, Northern Regional Manager/Department Service Officer	Mr. Rieger provided a history of the Disabled American Veterans organization and the services they provide to veterans to include: Veterans Transportation Network, helping veterans file claims for benefits and being advocates for veterans on a national level. Mr. Rieger discussed some of the benefits available to veterans and their families to include compensation, education, health care, burial, survivors benefits and more. There are many organizations that will help veterans file claims to receive the benefits they've earned and veterans should be encouraged to seek the free help provided by service officers of these organizations.	www.dav.org			
OLD/NEW BUSINESS					
1. Future Meetings & Guest Speakers/t	Thursday, March 19, 2020: Location-Kansas City VA Thursday, April 16, 2020: Location-KCVA Honor Annex Thursday, May 21, 2020: Location-Kansas City VA Thursday, June 18, 2020: Location-Kansas City VA Thursday, July 16, 2020: Location-Kansas City VA Thursday, August 20, 2020: Location-Kansas City VA Thursday, September 17, 2020: Location-Kansas City VA Thursday, October 15, 2020: Location-KCVA Honor Annex Thursday, November 19, 2020: Location-Kansas City VA Thursday, December 17, 2020: (Volunteer Event, no meeting)				

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS		
a. Discounts & Events	No update.	Michael Ciliege
b. Veteran Benefits	No update.	Jeff Winters/Alan Edmonds
c. Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/	Heart of America Stand Down, June 4 (set-up 8a-1p) and June 5 th (6:30a-2pm) St. Michael's Veterans Center, 3838 Chelsea Dr, KCMO 64128 Committee members interested in volunteering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean Scott • Daniel Harper 	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802 DKJ@POBox.com
d. Women Veterans	Ms. Jacobson will arrange April's guest speaker with a topic of Women Veterans Health.	Jonni Christian
e. Guest Speaker	Mr. Scott reported that the March speaker will be Tim Matney from Wounded Warrior Project. Ms. Jacobson has invited a speaker on Suicide Prevention to the March meeting as well.	Dean Scott
Open Discussion		
a. VFW	VFW Magazine, February Issue, page 6 lists goal priorities for Veterans in 2020. https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/vfw-magazine	
b. DAV	DAV's Mid-Winter Policy Goals	

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	 Midwinter Policy Goals.pdf	
c. Medical Marijuana/VA	VA's stance on medical marijuana. https://www.publichealth.va.gov/marijuana.asp	
d. Census	Veterans can be census takers.  A Vet Flyer.pdf	
e. Veteran engagement	Committee members distributed snacks to veterans in the outpatient areas after the meeting adjourned.	
NEXT MEETINGS:	<p>Mar 19, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Apr 16, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA-Honor Annex May 21, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Jun 18, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Jul 16, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA.</p>	<p>Aug 20, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Sep 17, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Oct 15, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA-Honor Annex Nov 19, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Dec 17, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA.</p>

Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

Mar 13, 2020 Public Employees Recognition Day Awards, nominations due