

## EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

### APRIL 2, 2015 MEETING SUMMARY

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

APRIL 7	Project Healing Waters' Pint Night Fundraiser at River Sports Outfitters
APRIL 9	Jefferson Co. High School's Night of the Patriots for Veteran Families
APRIL 10-11	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mountain Man Memorial March
APRIL 11	Operations Military Kids' Baseball Game Event
APRIL 11	Marines Corps League's Pistol Match
APRIL 15	Honor Air Flight and 8 p.m. Welcome Home Ceremony
APRIL 18	Pellissippi State's Adult Learner/Veterans' Open House
APRIL 25	Red Cross' Free Zoo and Lunch Event for Military Children and their Families
MAY 4	East TN Veterans Memorial Association 5th Annual Medal of Honor Evening
MAY 9	Marine Corps League's Rifle Match
MAY 12-13	Project Healing Waters' Fly Fishing with Wounded Warrior Project
MAY 25	East TN Veterans Memorial Association Memorial Day Reading of the Names

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#### ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at the Knoxville Chamber Office. President Owen Ragland presided over the meeting. A total of 63 members and guests were present.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Owen Ragland
- **Introduction of New Attendees:**
  - LCDR Jeremy Farmer incoming Commander, Navy Operational Support Center
  - Ms. Gail Pappas with the New Horizons Center

- **Minutes of Previous Meetings:** February meeting minutes were approved as submitted. March meeting was cancelled due to weather, but “upcoming events” minutes were mailed out. These were also accepted.
- **Treasurer’s Report (Steve Dillenburg):** Beginning balance of \$11,610. With dues received and checks paid, ending balance of \$13,414.
- **Webmaster’s Report (Barry Allen):** Webmaster reported it's been a slow month for visitors to the site. There were 216 viewers, which originate from all over the world: 30% from the U.S., 7% from China, 5% from Japan, and 3% from Russia and South Korea, respectively. Demographics show the average age range of viewers: 34% (24-34 age range) and 28% (18-24 age range). Also 46% of viewers are female, and 54% are male. Please send anything to be added to the calendar to Barry Allen, ETMAC Webmaster, at [barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com](mailto:barry.allen@yourvaadvocate.com)
- **Guest Report - Cindy Atchley from Pellissippi State CC:** Saturday, April 18th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the school will be hosting its first ever Adult Learner Open House. The program offers support services for veterans and adult student interested in returning to school. They will evaluate transcripts, provide financial aid counseling and tutoring resources, and teach participants how to create a degree plan. They're targeting adults age 24 and older and answering the 3 Questions: Where am I right now? How can I get to where I want to be? And how can you help me? Anyone interested in continuing their education is welcomed to attend. RSVP at [http://pstcc15.pstcc.edu/adult/#.VSFdM-HAo\\_g](http://pstcc15.pstcc.edu/adult/#.VSFdM-HAo_g) to reserve your spot. The Open House will take place at the Pellissippi State's College Center in the Goins Building on Hardin Valley Campus, 10915 Hardin Valley Road, Knoxville, TN.
- **President's Report (Owen Ragland):** Action items and discussion from the 26 Feb 2015 Board meeting were reported.
  - **IRS Report and State Filings:** Treasurer Steve Dillenburg completed the IRS and state filings. He submitted the IRS 990 filing requirement and the annual report required by the state of TN. The third filing, which continues the 501c3 exemption, will be completed shortly as well.
  - **Financial Review of Dues:** Looking back at past dues over the years, typically ETMAC has 15 corporate memberships and 60-70 individual memberships. Collectively, this generates approx. \$3,000 per year in dues. Owen reports we're fractionally over that amount currently. Additionally, he reported the biggest expense item of the year is the Veterans Day luncheon, which is not a fundraiser but is planned to cover expenses. ETMAC coins are also available which provide a small amount of funds. Other yearly expenses are meeting refreshments, parking validations, the Chamber fee, and the website fee. Owen explained *the financial breakdown currently projects a budget deficit.*
  - **Encouraging Due Payments:** Owen said one solution is to encourage and promote membership so that ETMAC may continue supporting the incoming funding requests and give back to the community.
    - ✓ **REMINDER:** Annual membership is \$25 per individual, and \$100 for corporations/units/organizations. Membership dues go toward ETMAC activities such as family days, Yellow Ribbon events, and other military support. You can pay online at the ETMAC website (\$2 service fee) or give dues directly to Patrice Collins or Barry Allen.

- **Current Dues/Grants:** The Board discussed whether to increase or decrease dues. They decided current dues will remain the same. Discussion was held on decreasing grant amounts due to possible future budget deficit. Board ruled to keep the grant requests unchanged at an amount up to \$300 (but will consider higher on a case-by-case basis).
- **ETMAC Grants:** \$350 was granted toward the Mountain Man Memorial March event (amount increased due to increased hotel prices; Board voted and approved this increase). \$300 was also granted toward the Month of the Military Child event at the University of Tennessee. Send grant requests to Patrice.
- **Amended Sponsorship Request Forms:** Owen clarified that ETMAC is an organization that exists and desires to support our military units to provide funding. To clarify any legal issues regarding a unit's request for a grant, wording on the sponsorship request forms will be changed and 2 separate forms will be made: one for military units, and one for other organizations. A link to the forms will also be provided on the ETMAC website. This will clarify that ETMAC is an organization that exists to offer support with funding.
- **Annual Financial Review:** Two Board members were chosen to assist in completing an annual audit of the financial records- Mike Gates and Breckenridge Morgan have completed their analysis of the financial review and reported finances are in good shape. A signed letter has been submitted to the President.
- **Review of Bylaws:** The Board will soon be reviewing the bylaws for currency.

### MILITARY UNITS UPDATES

- **Air Force Recruiting Command (MSgt Chris Robinson):** Are still actively recruiting prior service E4s, E5s, and E6s who want to return to active duty. Contact Owen for MSgt Robinson's email and phone number if you know anyone who is interested. He also can share with you the list of specific careers they are looking for. You do not have to be Air Force to be eligible. Other military branches also may qualify.
- **Military Entrance Processing Station (LCDR Jason McNear):** They're assigned a student testing bill each year, and have exceeded their goal. The student testing program does two things: it qualifies those for recruiting and provides them a career exploration tool to help them decide if they're destined for a vocational career or something college bound.
- **119<sup>th</sup> Command and Control (MAJ Jody Ogle):** Current focus continues to be their transition to a new cyber mission, and resolving the manpower issue with the Guard Bureau. The 119th has a long history of working with the TN Emergency Management Agency and local agencies and supporting them. Since the last meeting, they deployed the Joint Incident Site Communication Capability (JISCC) package to Greene County. For their main mission they had a joint global exercise from March 19th-26th. Gatlinburg will also be hosting a Fire Chiefs Conference later this month, in which the 119th will be participating and setting up their JISCC package.
- **134<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing (Capt Stephanie McKeen):** Just attended their National Guard conference this past weekend - theme was "do more, with less." Stephanie reports that morale is still very high and praised the TN National Guard. They are now ramping up for summer deployments.

- **1-230 Air Cavalry Squadron (LTC Mel Clawson):** All that were deployed are now currently back to work and starting to fly again. They just completed their first of two annual training events at Fort Knox where they completed aerial lifts and air exercises. They finished their Conference on Tuesday and were briefed on what's to come for Army Aviation. LTC Clawson reported that Tennessee is the only state currently affected by ARI, the Army Aviation Restructure Initiative; a moratorium was placed on other states in March, he said. In the next couple of months they will have their 2nd annual training event at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Are also looking forward to the arrival of the UH-60s; a debate still on whether the aircraft will go through reset or the Guard Bureau will be the bill payer to have them back up and ready. Also, their National Conference is in September at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville.
- **278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (MAJ Steven Turner):** Conducted two division warfighters recently: one in Camp Atterberry, Indiana with the 38th Infantry Division, and they returned 2 weeks ago from one at Camp Casey, South Korea (collectively, was their first trip to Korea). Has been preparing for their 5 weeks of annual training. After completion they will be picking up an additional field artillery battery and a second engineering company, as one of their battalions transition from a special troops battalion to an armored brigade engineer battalion. Their regiment is growing.
- **489th Civil Affairs Battalion (MAJ Bryce Wunder):** Conducting their National Training Center (NTC) rotation in the next couple of months, and their war fighter in Fort Bliss, TX. In preparation for the NTC in May they are having a mini 4-day training at a volunteer National Guard training site in Tullahoma, TN. Next year they'll have their joint readiness training exercise in Fort Polk, Louisiana in May/June. The Army needed a Major in Fort Polk, Louisiana: Major Wunder will be moving there in July for 2 years. Captain Adam Stickley will be his stand-in while away.

Owen Ragland commented that he and John Dyess attended the 489th's dining out event in March and thoroughly enjoyed it. Owen also encouraged ETAMC attendees to attend these various events in support of the organizations and to consider invites when presented to support them.

- **844th Engineering Battalion (CPT Robert Henning):** Will be the facilitators of the Best Warrior competition in Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin from April through May. Also, in July, staff will be in Japan for 3 weeks for a staff exercise.

LTC Ken Nance also expressed his appreciation for ETMAC and all of the support they have given to the 844th.

- **I.G. Brown Training and Education Center (Col Jessica Meyeraan):** On April 9th they will be graduating their current non-commissioned officers and the leadership school class. Following graduation they will be dedicating and naming Building 412 after Retired Chief Master Sgt. Rick Moon, who is a former Commandant of TEC, and former Command Chief of the Air National Guard. 21% of their construction project is complete - retaining walls are finished and project is on schedule. 13th Commandant T.K. Stout retired in January. The new commandant will be Chief Master Sgt. Edward Walden from the National Guard Bureau who is coming in May. Last month they hosted the Coast Guard Auxiliary and completed a leadership course. The Civil Air Patrol will be on campus soon. Col Meyeraan also said to contact her for facility requests.

- **Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol (Lt Col Dent Young):** Starting to ramp up training at Fort Campbell, and will have 150 cadets and officers in late June. Will have a readiness exercise by the U.S. Air Force emphasizing everything they can do. Thanked Meyeraan for the professionalism of TEC's instructors.
- **Navy Operational Support Center (LCDR Jeremy Farmer):** Drill weekend April 11th
- **USCG Auxiliary Division 12 (CDR Dave Roberts):** The Coast Guard mobilized people to Norris Lake for a multi-agency response; roof collapses sunk several boats there. Also Coast Guard had a big readiness exercise as a result of a big train derailment in West Virginia. Knoxville is a secondary route for train crude oil shipment. They also just finished their first half of their leadership school. Will have their 2016 conference at the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center.

### **VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES**

- **Mountain Man Memorial March (Joleen Dewald):** April 10th & 11<sup>th</sup> in Gatlinburg, TN. Looking for participants, volunteers, and sponsors. 91 Gold Star families are attending. They broke the 1,000 participants mark in March. For JROTC or Boy Scouts, they offer reduced rates for t-shirts and hotel reservations. Accommodations are at Greystone Lodge in Gatlinburg for a reduced rate of \$82/night. Currently they are seeking teams of 5 or individuals to do the 10Km, the 13.1 half marathon, or the full 26.2 mile marathon. There are two divisions: heavy and light. Light division is shorts and t-shirt attire. Heavy division carries a 40 lb. pack and wears military uniform and boots, etc. For more details, to register, or to sponsor a Gold Star family, visit <http://www.mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> Those interested can still register up to the morning of the race.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association (Joleen Dewald):** May 4th is ETVMA's Fifth Annual Medal of Honor evening event. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner and presentation starts at 6:30 p.m., at the Foundry Building at 747 World's Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, TN. \$75 for individuals, and a table of 8 is \$600. They will be honoring WWII Medal of Honor recipient T/Sgt. Charles H. Coolidge, U.S. Army, one of the only seven MOH recipients still living who served during WWII. He is also from Chattanooga. For tickets, sponsorship, and more information, visit <http://etvma.org/moheve/>
  - **Memorial Day** is Monday, May 25th; ETVMA will start their 2015 "Reading of the Names" at sunrise that day. They are currently taking volunteers to read; families and children are welcomed. Call ETVMA at (865) 633-8337 if interested.
- **Air Force Association (Steven Dillenburg):** 2,000 teams participating worldwide. 52 teams and increasing. East Tennessee swept the state competition. Farragut took home 2nd and 3rd places. Working on National Competition. Recognizing teams May 16th-17th. The Teacher of the Year award went to Dr. Jamie Nelson, who teaches at L&N Stem Academy. She is a local and state teacher of the year awardee. Her nomination has also been forwarded to the National Competition.
- **Honor Air (Joe Sutter):** Flight #18, the next Honor Air flight is April 15th with 125 veterans. They had their orientation on March 28th. The Welcome Home ceremony takes place at 8 p.m. that day at McGhee Tyson Airport for all those interested to welcome home our veterans. To support Honor Air Knoxville or for more information in how to apply, please visit <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>

- **Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (John Dyess):** 20,000+ guardsman and reservists continue to mobilize in the next, 69, 90, and 120 days. ESGR will be hosting a recognition luncheon for community leaders and employers who support them. ESGR will also soon be taking employers on another refueling flight. Dyess reports there is an immediate need for 4 truck drivers, preferably military. Email him at [dyess2010@gmail.com](mailto:dyess2010@gmail.com) if you know of any interested. The need is now.
- **American Red Cross (Jess Hernandez):** April is the month of the military child. On April 25th, Red Cross is hosting a free event to honor and celebrate our military kids at the Knoxville Zoo. Lunch and admission to the zoo is complimentary for all registered attendees. Open to children (ages: 0-17) and their parent(s) currently serving or veteran. Space is limited. RSVP here: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/military-kids-serve-too-knoxville-tickets-16089723797> Check-in is from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and the recognition ceremony begins at 1 p.m. Families can then walk the zoo afterwards from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Red Cross is also hosting an event in Chattanooga at the Creative Discovery Museum, on Sunday, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call Jess for more information at (865) 584-2999 or by email at [jess.hernandez@redcross.org](mailto:jess.hernandez@redcross.org)
- **Knox County Veterans Services Office (Tom Humphries):** The Knox Co. Veterans Office offers presentations and speakers that will come out and speak with your group or units who are interested in learning more about veteran benefits. Contact Tom's Office at (865) 215-5645 for more information.
- **Marine Corps League (Laimon Godel):** Will be having rifle and pistol matches at the Volunteer Rifle & Pistol Club, 2327 Rifle Range Road in Knoxville, TN. For more information, visit <http://mclknox.org/>

**[EVENTS]:**

- April 11th: Jim Peacock Memorial Pistol Match event for center fire and .22 pistol shooters.
  - May 9th: William H. Gerst Memorial Rifle Memorial Match (M1 & M1A)
  - Sept. 26th: Marine Mud Run. Registration is open. Inform your units and in-service rivalry of the Mud Run event. For more information, visit <http://www.knoxmud.org/>
- **Vietnam Veterans of America (Gary Ellis):** Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Red Cross building at 6921 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN. Lots of social activities take place, and all is welcome to join them. They also had their VVA Region III Conference last weekend with 275 attendees. Gary thanked Patrice Collins, Joleen Dewald, Visit Knoxville, Buzz Buswell from Mayor Burchett's Office, and both the City and County for the wonderful job and support they provided. He said it was a great event covered by the news and media, and that there is a good chance the City of Knoxville will be hosting the National Conference in 2019.
  - **Military Order of the World Wars (Nolan Sharbel):** Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Rothchild Catering and Conference Center. 11 a.m. for lunch and social hour. 12-1 p.m. for regular meeting. Knoxville FBI Special Agent in Charge Ed Reinhold will be their next guest speaker. MOWW has an active group of WWII veterans, which include Joe Sutter, Col. Westbrook, and Leo Holloway.
  - **Marine Corps Reserve Association (Lindsay Long):** March was Military Women History month. They celebrated 2 women who served in WWII and one will be on the next Honor Air flight this month. April 18th is the Tennessee Women Veterans Summit

in Nashville. Two representatives will represent in the conference. In May they will be having a regional conference in Florida if you know of any women Marines interested in attending.

- **Project Healing Waters (Steve Thompson):** UT's School of Journalism created a video celebrating and honoring the work and healing that Project Healing Waters provides for its veterans. Watch video here: <https://vimeo.com/121934312>  
Currently, the program has 11 new veteran participants. Recently, the group helped a veteran get his house ready for inspection and helped nail down his floor so the veteran could go fly fishing. The second rod building class takes place in 4 weeks. Last month, they went to Blackberry Farms to fish.

**[EVENTS]:**

- April 7th: River Sports Outfitters Pint Night Fundraiser, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (10% of retail sales and 100% of the beer sales will go to Project Healing Waters). River Sports will have a live band, food truck, limbo contests, hoolah hooping, and will also be showing the fly fishing film (see link above to view). River Sports Outfitters is at 2918 Sutherland Avenue, Knoxville, TN.
- April 12th: Will have tent setup at the Mountain Man Memorial March. The fishing class chose the event to support.
- April 28th: Will be fishing on Norton Creek
- May 12-13th: They will be hosting the Wounded Warrior Project along the Clinch River

Project Healing Waters is an organization registered with the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**; 3 cents per dollar spent go to the local Knoxville Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program. Log on to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> to participate. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is dedicated to the emotional and physical rehabilitation of wounded and disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing education and outings. For more information, visit: <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/>

Barry Allen also thanked Project Healing Waters, stating they helped another veteran he knows of in his healing.

- **Operation Military Kids:** April 11th is their free ticket event to the baseball game. For more information, visit <https://www.operationmilitarykids.org/public/getInvolvedBy.aspx?state=Tennessee>
- **Jefferson County High School (Patrice Collins):** On April 9th, in an effort to support and honor veterans, they will be hosting their 22nd Night of the Patriots from 5-7 p.m. in the school gymnasium. The program will entail a complimentary chili supper starting at 5 p.m., and at 7 p.m. a patriotic presentation of music and dance honoring veterans organized by the students. The high school also came to the Veterans Day Parade, and 75 of JCHS students are participating in the Mountain Man Memorial March.
- **University of TN School of Journalism (Barry Allen):** Barry said UT's Journalism School created a video from the Medal of Honor Convention, which starts from the flag raising to the last event of the Convention. The school is looking for donations or you can buy a copy.

Owen Ragland closed the meeting, remarking there are wonderful programs happening in the community and that it is ETMAC's purpose to get the word out and offer support in these events. He thanked everyone for being leaders in their organizations and in making these things happen.

- ✓ Parking validations are available for those who park in Market Square Garage during the monthly meetings. See Patrice to have your parking validated.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 7th at the RED CROSS OFFICES, 6921 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN – 8:30 a.m.**