



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

January 11, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAR 1 ETMAC meeting, Red Cross, 6921 Middlebrook Pike at 8:30am
- MAR 1 Smoky Mountain Service Dogs "Passing of the Leash. 3:30pm. Tellico Village Community Church, 130 Chota Center, Loudon, TN.
- MAR 6-19 Patrice in Vietnam & Cambodia
- MAR 17 Veteran's Breakfast, Powell Community Center 1708 Emory Road at 8:00am.
- MAR 29 Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Day
- APR 5 ETMAC meeting, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, 8:30am
- APR 13-14 Mountain Man Memorial March, Gatlinburg. Contact Joleen 571-332-3100 for info.
- MAY 7 Medal of Honor Dinner at The Foundry, 747 World's Fair Park Drive @ 5:30pm - \$500 table of 8. Contact Joleen Dewald 571-332-3100 for info. *purchase <https://etvma.org/moheve/>*

For a complete listing please visit <http://www.etmac.org> and click events

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, **February 1, 2018**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. Vice President **Jess Hernandez** presided over the meeting. A total number of **79** were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Vice President Jess Hernandez
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - Joe Smith, MSgt USAF Retired, Mortgage Loans
 - Andy Lupina, LTCOL USAF Retired as of 1 April
 - Heather Watson, MSgt USAF Retired, Veterans Program Coordinator Blount County
 - James Yeary, Chaplain Smoky Mountain Home Health and Hospice
 - Herbana Dickinson, Smoky Mountain Home Health and Hospice
 - Senior Chief Clay Wissmann, U.S. Coast Guard, Recruiter in Charge of Atlanta Office
 - Judd Conatser, CDR RET
 - Lisa Bentley, Social Worker with Covenant Home Care and Hospice
 - John Capra, Major working as Deputy at TEC assisting Col. Lovely
 - MAJ Allison Lombardo with Knoxville MEPS.
- **Treasurer's Report: Darren Burrell** –Started month with 13k in bank. Deposits of \$451 and expenses a little over \$100. Finished up little over 14k for the month. Thanks to TVBA for the excellent dinner and congratulations to Patrice Collins for her Humanitarian Award.

Membership dues can be paid online <https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmac-resources/membership-application/> or bring check to Patrice Collins at the next meeting.

- Vice President's Report – **Jess Hernandez** – ETMAC would like to recognize Bonnie Harlow, Secretary for all hard work with the monthly notes.
Also would like to recognize Patrice Collins, ETMAC's Chamber representative for her help with all the different organizations volunteering everywhere she can. She is the glue that holds the organization together.
- ETMAC Announcements – **Patrice Collins**
 - Back table information needs to be cleaned off after every meeting. Everyone is welcome to put out information, but please take it back with you or it will be thrown away. Too much time to set up and clean off after every meeting.
 - TVBA was very generous in providing free tables for Veteran organizations. Please write a thank you note so that they know how much their generosity is appreciated.
 - Any organization wishing to sponsor coffee and donuts can contact Patrice. The organization has grown and so have the expenses for refreshments and parking, so donations and sponsors are appreciated.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **MAJ Joseph Westfall** - The year has started off smoothly. We are running security for Remote Area Medical this weekend and are honored to assist to help many get medical and dental care that they would otherwise not be able to afford.
- 1-100th Engineer Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – **Captain Willie Posey** – we have 12 individuals coming back after defending in “cyber world”. Right now there is a Cyber vulnerability asking Netflix customers for their information so please don't update that information if you are watching and are asked for your information. If you do, you may be compromised. Netflix will never ask for your information so keep that in mind.
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – **LTC Pat Wade** *unable to attend*
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **Col Lee Hartley** – *unable to attend*
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **LTC Brad Bowlin** – Col Cole is at Ft. Bliss right now. We are preparing to go to National Training Center. We are staying busy, still located over on Sutherland.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – *unable to attend*
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **Dennis McVey** – Nothing to report
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – nothing to report
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **Capt Cullen Tores** – January started with aggressive training. Unfortunately, on 10 January we lost a Marine. Mr. Hernandez came to our company with professional counselors and met with our people to help them to grieve. We will integrate the Red Cross again in March to keep up an awareness and to offer assistance to those who need it.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Col Kerry Lovely** – Glad to report that our deputy arrived in January. Because of potential shutdown, we compressed school schedule. 3 classes to graduate on the 8th of February. Other than that, business as usual.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) - *unable to attend*
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **MAJ Allison Lombardo** – Filling in for LTC Wilson. Processed over 400 applicants, shipped over 300 and tested over 300 so it was a good month.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **LCDR Kevin Settle** – Drill this weekend. Next few months will start security upgrades since we are off base which stems from the shooting that happened at the recruiting center down in Chattanooga. Rest of this month will be busy preparing for our big command assessment first week of March which happens every 2 years.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** – unable to attend
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div CDR Ron Boneau** - I just took over 4 days ago for East Tennessee. Just worked the 3 day TN fishing show to hand out brochures, talk about safe boating and recruiting. End of March is boat show and will be doing that again. Weather too cold for patrols. When it breaks, will be back on water again.
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** – We have about 100 cadets right now. 12 are in their last semester and will be graduating and commissioned in May.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – Paula Penson – https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter – We had a great time at TVBA. We are an organization of 20-30 strong and will be offering resume writing, leadership training, interview coaching, career counseling and mentorship to all veterans free of charge. We have about 1000 years of experience between all of the members. Will get the information out in a flyer to Patrice.
- American Legion – Larry Sharp - legionknox.com - celebrating next year our 100th anniversary. Also sponsor of the Annual Veteran's day parade, and the Mountain Man March coming up in April. Always looking for new members.
- American Red Cross – Tom DeHoog - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> - nothing to report
- Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – Doug Ottinger – <http://www.tsvh.org/> - attained 5th star for rating. 4 empty beds.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – Don Smith <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/> - this year celebrating 50th year. 21st of this month at Red Cross, will have an organizational meeting to organize a Veteran's coalition for the Knoxville area organizations in place to help veterans.
- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – Garrett Hanas <https://www.dav.org/> - last Friday went to Kingsport to meet with Congressman Rogue, Chairman of the House of the Veteran Affairs committee and agreed to support the caregiver's bill. Since last June, DAV in compensation for claims, June – Dec, \$ 22,230,000 brought into the state. \$174,000,000 dollars brought in half a year. Overall we bring in 30 billion dollars to the state of Tennessee so using that to work on some bills as one of largest industries for state of Tennessee.
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association - Joleen DeWald –<https://etvma.org/>– Sgt York is our honoree for our Medal of Honor event that will be held on May 7th at the Foundry. East Tennessee History Museum on Gay Street has a beautiful exhibit honoring Sgt. York. Tables for the dinner are still discounted \$500 for Veteran Service Organization but are selling fast. Also, ETVMA is 10 years old this year and will be doing an event sometime in the Fall and will get more information out on that, soon.
- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard –Reid Gerhardt - <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> - *unable to attend*
- Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> - currently have 4 veterans working with. Chris and wife Holly starting on their house this month. Hope to get in this spring. We have one who has been in about a year, rent to own, closing this month and all rent goes to purchase. 25 year, 0% interest mortgage is a great deal for Veterans. Always looking for volunteers if anyone looking for service opportunities.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Freddy Owens <http://tnvhc.org/> - This Sunday starts care cuts on 5th avenue across from old high school. We get about 200 per month so if you can come help, be there between 8 or 9am and runs until finished. We have been busy on working with Cindy of Covenant Health and Vicky from Humana on coordinating various aspects of VA programs with women veterans that are registered in school at different programs, no including UT. This is the Year of the Woman Veteran. We have a Prototype of a pin that is going to be selling to recognize the woman veteran. Robert Sullivan is doing the prototype. Women Veterans are suffering the same kind of difficulties with services– mammograms and gynecology taking longer than necessary for service. The women veterans need advocates out there. We are looking to make a booklet with all of services for women so we can hand it out and they can know everything going on and where to go to get it.
- ESGR – Mul Wyman <https://www.esgr.mil/> - 33,100 guards and reserves on federal active duty. 6000 on counter drug operations. Participated in TVBA job fair. Pleased with turnout of participants and vendors/ employers. Looking to support the several yellow ribbon programs over next couple of months. Col Bowlin makes the National training center sounds like routine business but that is just like going to war without bleeding. This is a BIG DEAL. ESGR is looking to take about 30 employers out there to see what their employees do while they are serving their country.
- Honor Air –Joe Sutter - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> - *unable to attend* - next flight #26 is on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. Letters have gone out to 5 WWII, 25 Korean War Veterans and 100 Vietnam War Veterans. Also, planning a virtual flight to give those veterans who are physically or

emotionally unable to make the trip the chance to experience the flight without the actual physical exertion of it. Think of anyone you might know and will provide more information next month.

- Knoxville Career Center – **David Webb** – We are located on Middlebrook pike and have job clubs the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month where we go over interviewing skills, resumes and other things to help with job hunting. Also supporting Knox works job fair on February 15th, 9a – 1pm at CSPC. Multi employer job fair will be at the center on February 2, 10am to noon, and Snyder truck company looking for CDL drivers on February 13th. Will send information to Patrice for distribution.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Mark Lett** <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - pass on that VA has reopened the application for veteran ID cards. Go to VETS.Gov. link at bottom of the page. Call 865-215-5645 for more information.
- Knoxville Vet Center – **Lyle Allen** – (865) 545-4592 ext. 4400. - *unable to attend*
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> - working on getting the Southeast convention to Gatlinburg in March and the State convention at Airport Hilton in June. Lots of Marines coming in to area. Great speakers will be open to all and will get info out to Patrice. Dining in will be happening soon in March and all are invited.
- Mountain Man Memorial March- **Joleen Dewald** –<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> - 11th annual scheduled for April 13-14 in Gatlinburg. Will have start finish line in same parking lot location. Online registration is now open. Need volunteers for water and medical volunteers and supplies. Need big, long coolers, water and snacks. Looking for someone to donate a golf cart or gator/ 4 wheeler up and down the route. Some parts inaccessible and we need a vehicle like this to use. Looking for donations of inkind and monetary and participants/marchers. Would like more teams. 10k/ half and full marathon. Presently in talks for medal of honor recipient Woody Williams to come down and join us. Anticipate 145 gold star families coming down. Need Volunteers, especially for breakdown on Saturday.
- MOWW – **Bill Grieve** <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> –would like to introduce New Senior Vice Commander Lt Col Bill Grieve, Army Retired. Meet every 2nd Wed of month at Rothchilds at 11am. Eat lunch and have a guest speaker. This Wednesday on 4th have Col. Kerry Lovely of the IG Brown training center will be guest speaker and extend invitation to all.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – **Dan Moneymaker** <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> - right in middle of fly tying classes. Rod building classes will start after this, ending in Feb. starting in March, will be out on water every month until November. Pushing for each chapter to take Vets out as often as possible. We can also take active duty. Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Red Cross. Never a cost to a Veteran.
- Veteran Appreciation Program- **Larry Sharp** –<http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> - continues to be connection between Veteran friendly businesses and Veterans and Military in East Tennessee. Veteran/ Military will receive discounts from the organizations on the website. We continue to grow. Participated in the TVBA job fair and signed up some businesses there.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** –<http://veteransheritagesite.org/> - Don't have to be a veteran to be a member. Meet 4th Wed at the Red Cross office at 6:30. May 20, trail run and walk at 9am at Sharp's Ridge. Try to improve and preserve various veterans sites. Right now, working on Sharp's Ridge. Also, looking for sponsors and will have a cleanup at Sharp's Ridge this spring. Flyers in the back.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – **Clyde Vincent** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> - We still have money available to help families get or stay in housing. Planning to have a stand down in Knoxville area this summer. Will keep you updated on location and logistics. If anyone needs or want suicide prevention training, we will provide "safe talk" training for anyone who needs that.
- Women Marines Association – **Lindsay Long** <https://www.womenmarines.org/> - *unable to attend*
- REBOOT – **Mike Simpson** – New session starts on Tuesday, January 16, 2018: Still have room for more attendees.

ReBoot Combat Recovery 12-week Program focuses on the Spiritual Aspects of Combat and is a course, not a support group, that provides practical help for service members and families dealing with the after affects of combat. The first of twelve classes will be held Tuesday, January 16, 2018 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Farragut Church of Christ, 136 Smith Road, Farragut, TN. Dinner and childcare are provided. To sign up or for more information, contact Stacey Nichols at snich@tds.net or 865-582-5330 or Michael Simpson at mike@visionaryhorizons.com.

- Rolling Thunder – **Carlos Hollifield** - <http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - we have changed time date of meeting location, high school community center at Powell Tn, 3:30 on 2nd Sunday of every month. We are a Veteran service organization and not a motorcycle club. Recently ran a food drive and breakfast for Honor guard and had 19 members attend that. We have a fundraiser coming up, a poker run on April 21. Need sponsorship and riders to participate - \$20 entry fee. Call Chapter President is Cindy (865) 556-4645 Chaplain (865) 919-1368. If you have a Veteran that needs someone to talk to, give them the number.
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** - *unable to attend* <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> -
- Tennessee Veteran Business Association – Steve Stiltz thanks to Patrice and ETMAC for support for the TVBA dinner. It was a huge success. Will plan it again next year the last Monday and Tuesday of January at the Crown Plaza Hotel since all went well but may outgrow that facility. We will have a Golf tournament last Monday of June.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 1, 2018
At the Red Cross at 6921 Middlebrook Pike

For input or corrections, contact:



Bonnie Harlow
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Secretary



www.ETMAC.org
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