



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

January 11, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JAN 16 REBOOT 12wk Combat recovery @ Farragut Church of Christ. Call 865-582-5330.
- JAN 18 Rolling Thunder Fundraiser at Blaze Pizza, 5-8 pm. 20% goes to support Veterans.
- JAN 20 Veteran's Breakfast, Powell Community Center 1708 Emory Road at 8:30am.
- JAN 29 TVBA Keynote Dinner & Reception at Crowne Plaza 5:30 – 9pm
- JAN 30 TVBA Business Expo & Job Fair, Knoxville Crowne Plaza 9am – 5pm
- FEB 1 ETMAC meeting, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce 8:00am
- FEB 10 Yellow Ribbon Fund Fundraiser Civil War Presentation Dr. Curt Field, Tellico Village \$10
- FEB 17 Veteran's Breakfast, Powell Community Center 1708 Emory Road at 8:00am.
- MAR 1 ETMAC meeting, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, 8:30am
- 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. \$500 table of 8. Contact Joleen Dewald 571-332-3100 for info.

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, **January 11, 2018**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. MAJ Stephanie McKeen presided over the meeting. A total number of **76** were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Vice President Jess Hernandez
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - **Frankie Bellew** - Bethel University
 - **Glen Jacobs** - Running for Knox County Mayor
 - **Ron Boneau** - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
 - **Janet Stormbarns** - Humana
 - **SFC Joe Guetzloff** - Fundraising leader for the National Desert Storm Memorial
 - **Lt Col Travers Hurst** - 134th Air Refueling Wing
- **Treasurer's Report: Darren Burrell** –Started last year around 12k, ended up 15k. Now about 13k in bank after luncheon. Please pay dues, go online or bring check to Patrice Collins.
- **National Desert Storm Memorial – SFC Joe Guetzloff** – National Desert Storm Memorial approved by Presidents Obama and Trump. Presently raising funds. Current goal is 25-30 million dollars and all has to be private or corporate donations. Tax dollars are not approved for this. Hoping to locate one

block north of the Lincoln Memorial and one block over from Vietnam Memorial. Looking for volunteers to help raise funds and will be fundraising for the next three years.

- Blount County Veterans Treatment Court – **Dennis Lovin** – Retired Air Force chaplain and volunteer with the Blount County Veterans Treatment Court. Received a 300K grant to stand up a court which will begin the next few weeks. Looking for volunteers to serve as mentors for people going into recovery program.
- ETMAC Announcements – **Patrice Collins** – When you send flier of information over to Patrice for distribution to ETMAC members, will also need a drafted email that is worded as if you are speaking directly to the members and with all the details to go with it. Fliers of information will not be sent without an introduction email. The information table in back is a great way to get out your information, but it is a lot of work to set up and break down all of the information, fliers, business cards, etc. so everyone will need to put out their own literature before the meeting and then take it with you after the meeting is over.
- President's Report – **Major Stephanie McKeen** – President Major Stephanie McKeen is taking a tour to Germany. Election of Officers and other vacant board positions.

Read by Joleen Dewald:

ETMAC Officers and Board of Director Elections

EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 8.1 of ETMAC's By-Laws, President Major Stephanie McKeen appointed Joleen Dewald, to serve as the Nominations chair to solicit and recommend candidates for the positions of ETMAC President, Vice President, Treasurer, and two positions on the Board of Directors to replace Breckenridge Morgan and Josh Richardson whose terms were completed.

Those candidates recommended are:

President – Owen Ragland

Vice President – Jess Hernandez

Secretary – Bonnie Harlow (IAW By-Laws position appointed by President – she has agreed to serve)

Treasurer- Derren Burrell

At-Large Board of Directors position (3 yrs 2018-19-20)- Gina Massey

At-Large Board of Directors position- (3 yrs 2018-19-20) Willie Posey

They will join the remaining board members:

Jack D'Araujo

Joleen Dewald

Todd Johnson

Freddie Owens

Patrice Collins

No nominees were presented from the floor for any of the positions.

All motions received unanimous approval.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **MAJ Joseph Westfall** - Introduced a recruiting program in high school adding 4 MOS categories to our training. If we can add value training to our program that can be better transferred to the civilian world will be a benefit to our recruiting.
- 1-100th Engineer Battalion – **unable to attend**
- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – **Captain Willie Posey** – Col. Vince Franklin left to become Chief of Staff of the Joint Forces HQ and Col. Chris Smith is new Cyberspace Operations Squadron Commander. Presently have 12 personnel assisting CyberCom trying to keep everyone safer in the cyber space.
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – **LTC Pat Wade unable to attend**
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **Col Lee Hartley** – We have a new assistant Adjutant General of the Air National Guard for the state of Tennessee, Col Jason Glass based in Nashville replacing Brig Gen Don Johnson. Still have some personnel deployed and that will be ongoing. We will be helping 278th on their move in the Spring and Col Hurst will be taking MAJ McKeen's spot.

- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **MAJ Jay Richards** – Currently preparing for national training center rotation in May. Additional training going on at Ft. Pickett, VA, Ft Shelby, MS, Ft Campbell, KY.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **MSgt Chris Robson** – As of 1 January, transgender applicants have been authorized. Still learning the process but want to treat all with respect. If you know of any applicants that are interested in combat control, air rescue and those kinds of fields, we have 3 recruiters in Tennessee that specialize in recruiting for battlefield airman positions. 2017 was challenging for recruiting, met the challenge and last 9 months have gone very well and expect to continue to do well in 2018. Personal Note: last meeting as representative for Air Force Recruiting service. Will retire after 21 years in Air Force and will stay in East Tennessee for the next 10 years at least. Special thanks to everyone in their support.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **Dennis McVey** – *nothing to report*
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – Still looking for 3 active reserve or active duty pilots that want to transfer to coast guard active duty to finish out their retirement. Must be a command pilot in any kind of aircraft and an O3 or O4. Also have 10 reserve vacancies within 200 miles of here. If anyone less than 14 years prior service, hasn't reached age of 41, come talk to us.
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **1st Sgt Gabe Burns** – unable to attend
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Col Kerry Lovely** – This week received 110 students for Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA), 150 in leadership school including from Canada and Bulgaria. New deputy reporting tomorrow replacing temporary deputy Col. Taft who has been standing in.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) - *unable to attend*
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **LCDR Emily Wilson** – less than average number of applicants due to holidays - 150 delayed entry, 270 physicals and shipped over 100 new recruits to their training centers. Conducted quarterly interservice recruiting committee meeting and new recruiter orientation training. We will have 2 positions open at the MEPS – GS5 testing clerk and GS4 intermittent test administrator part time administering the ASVAB at local schools.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **LCDR Kevin Settle** – Thanks to all who gave to Toys for Tots for the Marines. It was a very successful event. Great Drill weekend, Regional Deputy Capt McGregor came out from Jacksonville. Very pleased with everything he saw from the reserve side as well as from the full time staff. Getting ready for a Command inspection the 1st week of March. We are putting a lot into preparing for that.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** – *unable to attend*
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **DCDR Tom Murphy** – Ron Boneau is the incoming unit commander for this year. This will be last meeting in leadership capacity but may be filling in from time to time. Presently 120 members in East Tennessee in support of the U.S. Coast Guard and boating safety. Have grown 40% in 2017. That group has given a total of 22,000 mission hours in 2017 in the area. 30% increase over the prior year. We have been awarded the best performing division in 14 states that make up our district. We are also the largest division and Thanks to ETMAC for all the support.
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Capt Mark Farley**, New semester with 110 cadets and busy semester planned. Dining-out coming up and a unique FTX with Knox County Sherriff Department teaching some unique skills from their SWAT team. April 13-14, Mountain Man Memorial march which our cadets plan to participate in. 14 Cadets commissioning this year and many great cadets to follow.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Paula Penson** – https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter – Participating in the TVBA expo and will reach out to cadets to see if they can assist. Recruited 3 people recently as honorary recruiter – Pellissippi state college student, ticket agent at American Airlines and a Nurse Practitioner at a CVS minute clinic.
- American Legion – **Larry Sharp** - legionknox.com - Next year 2019 is 100th anniversary. Presently planning for that celebration. Invite everyone out, we meet 1st Monday of every month at the Red Cross building on Middlebrook Pike. Join us for a free dinner and good fellowship. We will be a

sponsor for the Mountain Man Memorial march coming up in April and Joleen will tell you more about that.

- **American Red Cross – Tom DeHoog** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> - Most important mission is service to the Armed Forces. National HQ has established a new requirement that any service member who initiates their own emergency communication message or has a request for financial aid, must have their profile developed according to our Red Cross protocol. Info on back table. Contact number on the front so call if you have any questions. Home fire campaign is set for 28th of April. Need to install over 200 smoke detectors. Will need volunteers.
- **Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/> - Has been some confusion over past week that 70% or greater service connected veteran pays nothing to come to our facility and they don't lose their pension. Available to come out and speak to groups to educate about state veteran homes. We are different from nursing home. If you are private pay will save about half.
- **Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – Gary Ellis** <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/> - Vice president standing in for President Don Smith in Cookeville. Just out grew Red cross so we have moved to Redemption Church, 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6pm. This week had 120 people. We are the fastest growing chapter in US and selected the best chapter last year. Don Smith has a goal to get veteran organization working together on projects. Next month will put a meeting together maybe at the Red Cross to get organizations together to work together on some projects. 1st on agenda is Wreaths across America that we are taking over from Mayor Burchett's office. Our goal is to put a wreath on every grave like they did in Chattanooga. Remind you all that March 29 is Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day. Working with Joleen on a ceremony that morning.
- **Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – Garrett Hanas** <https://www.dav.org/> - DAV saw 264 veterans in the month of Dec, file 163 claims. Submitted 76 claims for health care corrections and military records, etc. 280 volunteer hours for transportation, drove 4,300 miles and transported 45 veterans to their medical appointments and scheduled 19 veterans for the AMVET van. We took in two chairs, put out 3 powered chairs, 1 scooter and installed a chair lift.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association – Joleen DeWald** – <https://etvma.org/> - This is the year of Alvin York, 100th anniversary of his receipt of Medal of Honor. Medal of Honor dinner will be held on Monday, May 7th. Sgt York family will be in attendance. Will be working with East Tennessee History Center on Gay Street, opening an exhibit on Alvin York. Military Units and personnel will get preferred placement for tables at the cost of \$500 - 8 top table. There are only 27 tables and presently we have sold 7. Will sell out fast. Go online at end of the month or give check to Joleen. Deadline March 15 to hold tables for military groups. President Wes Stowers has stepped down after 3 years and we have a new President Retired COL Scott Suchomski from the Tennessee Valley Fair will be taking over in January.
- **East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard** – <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> *unable to attend*
- **Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner** <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> - We have 2 homes eligible for habitat for heroes. 25 years interest free mortgage with payments less than \$600. If you know of a Veteran or military family looking for a home, please let them know about this.
- **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 effects 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.
- **Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Freddy Owens** <http://tnvhc.org/> - Personally, for health updates go to Facebook page, stage 4 cancer and in bones but hanging in there. This year is the year of the Women Veterans. Have had about 400 phone calls from women vets in area that are looking for relief. Committee meeting this morning at 11am for ideas on what we can do for the women veterans. Looking for new ideas on what we can do. So many women veterans looking for a little help to get them through a rough time. Anyone interested in helping or with ideas, let Freddy know.

- **ESGR – Jack D’Araujo**- <https://www.esgr.mil/> - 34,000 guards/ reserves on federal active duty and National Guard has over 4,500 on state emergency recovery drug operations. Reminder to military members that we stand ready to support yellow ribbon program pre/post deployment briefings for ESGR purposes. Supporting TVBA efforts on Jan 29 and 30. Working on an opportunity to take employers of 278th Armored Cav to see what they will be doing at the National Training Center in California.
- **Honor Air –Joe Sutter** - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> - *unable to attend* - next flight #26 is Wednesday, April 11, 2018. 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.
- **Knoxville Career Center – David Webb** – State of Tennessee unemployment rate is at 3%. Knox County is 2.6% and Knox County Veteran rate is 2.1%. Will be supporting TVBA event on January 29 & 30.
- **VFW post 5154 – David Webb** – Supported 4 veterans from the Ben Atchley for Christmas, we had a Christmas event at Shannondale nursing home, provided Christmas gifts and food boxes for families in Blount county, presented the teacher of the year for high school and middle school awards in January and the voice of democracy award, the patriots and essay contest winner awards in February. We are looking for nominations for the law enforcement and EMT officers award in Feb or March. Next meeting is February 6 at 6:30 pm.
- **Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries** <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - VA changed regulation regards to veteran who see out emergency room treatment. Previously, if veteran had other medical insurance, the VA didn't pay. From now on, VA will pick up whatever other health insurance doesn't cover for non-preapproved visit for emergency care.
- **Knoxville Vet Center –Emily Feedback** – reminder, Knoxville vet center is co-located at 8033 Ray Mears with VA outpatient clinic. Will be in permanent location later this year. Working close with clinic staff reaching veterans previously not able to reach. Some phone problems but a Vet center representative may also be reached at (865) 545-4592 ext. 4400.
- **Marine Corps League – Eric Nash** <http://www.mclknox.org/> - *unable to attend*.
- **Mountain Man Memorial March –http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/ - Joleen DeWald** - This is the 11th annual scheduled for April 13-14 in Gatlinburg. Will have start finish line in same parking lot location. Need volunteers for water and medical volunteers. Looking for someone to donate a gator/ 4-wheeler up and down the route. Some parts inaccessible and we need a vehicle like this to use. Looking for Donations of in-kind 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. Will have more information coming up in next meeting.
- **MOWW – Owen Haddock** <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> – New Senior Vice Commander Lt Col Bill Green, Army Retired will come to ETMAC when he is in town. New Commander Trent Laviano will also be here from time to time. At yesterday's meeting, Commander Emily Wilson spoke about what she does and the Girls Scout Area Director, Carrie Mills also joined us. Going to encourage that mentors work with kids beginning around 5th grade. Will be working with a program called Patriotic Education to mentor youth with a strong role model and get them heading in the right direction.
- **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Dan MoneyMaker** <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> - Last year 4th Annual tournament, turned in over \$60k to our HQ which puts us as the third largest money-making program in the nation. Served over 7200 veterans in 2017 with over 35k volunteer hours. Now going into cold weather activities which include rod building class and a fly tying class. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Red Cross. There is never a cost to a veteran. We provide everything. In March will start monthly outings. Looking for support from organizations to provide sponsorship – lunches, donations, etc.
- **Veteran Appreciation Program- Larry Sharp** –<http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> - Continues to be conduit between veteran friendly business and Veterans in Tennessee. List on website organizations and companies that will give a discount to veterans in the area. Recently set up a Veteran emergency fund in Anderson county so when someone needs for example, air conditioner, hospital bed, etc. that funds are put aside to provide needs that aren't covered by other sources for our Veterans. The Powell appreciation breakfast, **Saturday, Jan 20**, recurring on the third Saturday of each month at 8am at Powell Community Center.

- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** – <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> - *Nothing to report*
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – **Catherine Bearden** for **Clyde Vincent** <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> - *unable to attend*
- Women Marines Association – **Lindsay Long** <https://www.womenmarines.org/> - *unable to attend*
- Rolling Thunder – **Robert Sullivan** - <http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - *unable to attend*
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** - <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - Veteran caregiver support organization that has grown to 90 caregivers. We have a fundraiser on February 10th in Tellico Village. Dr. Curt Fields is doing a presentation on Civil War as Gen Ulysses S. Grant – tickets \$10. All funds go direct to local Yellow Ribbon Fund.
- Jim Mungenast - Chairman of board of a New Honor Guard in Pigeon Forge, TN. First Military funeral honors for Pharmacist mate third class Frances Ostergren, 106 years old at 1400 tomorrow, Friday at new cemetery at John Sevier. See link: http://www.themountainpress.com/obituaries/frances-campbell-wade-ostergren/article_030fe3ee510-11e7-b316-8fc8077dc7cb.html
- Gary Ellis - 8am on Saturday wreath pick up Saturday at National Cemetery. Needing Volunteers.
- Tennessee Veteran's Business Association **Steve Stiltz** – <https://gotvba.com>
Monday, January 29th & Tuesday, January 30th, 2018
Annual TVBA Keynote Dinner, Veteran Job Fair & Business Expo
 Celebrating the veteran business community, our Champion Partners and veteran supporters!
 Monday, Jan 29th - Exhibitor Setup, Cocktail Reception, Keynote Dinner & Awards 5:30 – 9pm
<https://gotvba.com/events/tvba-annual-keynote-dinner-reception/>
 Tuesday, Jan 30th - Veteran Job Fair & Business Expo, Lunch Buffet for Exhibitors
 Crowne Plaza Knoxville. 9am – 5pm
- Frankie Ballew, Bethel University Higher education programs of interest are available for veterans. Information on back table or call Bethel University and ask for Frankie Bellew.
- Cindy Winterberger, Covenant Hospice. 2017 admitted 100 Veterans into hospice. Will email to Patrice a flier and always in need of volunteers to sit with Veterans.
- UPDATE: Toys for tots distributed 8000 toys to 1000 families in 5 area counties.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 1, 2018
Knoxville Chamber of Commerce

For input or corrections, contact:



Bonnie Harlow
 (865) 406-4237
 Secretary



www.ETMAC.org
 East Tennessee Military Affairs Council