



January 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Meeting Location: Knoxville Chamber
61 Attendees

Upcoming Events

ONGOING Fundraiser for Operation Honor Guard at <https://www.wate.com/operation-honor-guard/>
Donate today!!

Free Veterans Breakfast on Saturdays from 8:00 am – 9:30 am for Veterans and their guests at eight locations in East Tennessee. Doors at each location open at 8:00 am and chow line opens at 8:30 am.

1st Sat: Breakfast Locations:
– Sevierville First United Methodist Church, 214 Cedar St, Sevierville
– The Elks Club #160, 5600 Lonas Rd, Knoxville

2nd Sat: Breakfast Locations:
– Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 1615 Price Ave, Knoxville
– Kodak UMC 2923 Bryan Rd Kodak

3rd Sat: Breakfast Locations:
- Community Center in Powell, 1708 W. Emory Rd, Powell

Last Sat: Breakfast Locations: * **please note these breakfasts are the LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.** If there are five Saturdays in a month, there will not be a breakfast on the 4th Saturday:
– DAV Chapter #24, 2600 Holbrook Dr., Knoxville
– VFW Post 5154 in Blount County, 2561 Hobbs Rd., Louisville
– DAV Tri-County Chapter #26, 530 Kingston Ave, Oliver Springs

Fridays Free Yoga at STAR, from 1:15-2:30pm 11800 Highway 11E, Lenoir City.
For a complete listing of events, visit Contact Chelsea Taylor at 865/988-4711 or email at chelsea@rideatstar.org

19 JAN East TN Women Veterans get together at Calhoun's at 6515 Kingston Pike, Knoxville at 6pm

19 JAN Cavett Station Chapter of DAR is having a fundraiser at Blaze Pizza at 113 N Peters Rd, from 5-9pm.

26 JAN ETN Women Veterans get together at Golden Girls Restaurant in Clinton at 6pm

28 JAN ETN Women Veterans get together at Holston's Kitchen in Sevierville at 11:30am

For more information on upcoming events in our area go to our website at www.etmac.org and click on the events tab

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Treasurer's Report – Tim Thurston**

<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>\$12,465.53</i>
<i>Deposits including interest</i>	<i>1,167.51</i>
<i>Expenses</i>	<i><u>301.93</u></i>
<i>Ending Balance</i>	<i>\$13,331.11</i>
- **It is time to pay your 2023 Membership dues. You may pay online with a debit or credit card at this link.** <https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmac-resources/membership-application/> or mail a check payable to ETMAC to Patrice Collins at the Knoxville Chamber: 17 Market Square, #201, Knoxville, TN 37902. Donations on our website are also appreciated.
- **President's Report- Leslie Purser** – Thank you to the Veteran's Heritage Site Foundation volunteers and their hard work for Wreaths Across America. They placed wreaths in many remote locations throughout the Smoky Mountains.
- **ETMAC Report - Patrice Collins** – The 2023 ETMAC Veterans Appreciation and Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, November 9, at the Airport Hilton. Due to the high increase in food costs for this year's luncheon, ETMAC has had no choice but to raise the ticket price from \$30 per person to \$40 per person and \$300 per table of 10 to \$400 for a table of 10. ETMAC had not raised their pricing since 2013.
- **Webmaster's Report** – Dent Young – 326 users with 317 being new. Local Resources, Veterans Groups and Veteran Services were the most visited pages. Counties of origin that were most unusual were India, China and the Philippines.

First Time Attendees:

- **Ross A. Myers – US Navy retired**
- **Lt Col Willis Parker – 134th ARW**
- **LTC Frances Young – Carson Newman ROTC Commander**
- **Patricia Bivens – Carson Newman Director of Military and Veteran Services**
- **Lt Col Mike Wilson – 332nd USAF Recruiting Squadron Commander**
- **LT Brandon Rodriguez – 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion**

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- **3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard** – LTC Joseph Westfall-No active missions but are continuing to train.
- **1-100th Engineer Battalion** – MAJ Matt Marshall – *unable to attend*
- **119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron** – Ethan Frazier – Leadership going to Texas to work with counterparts there.
- **1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion** – LT Rodriguez – 8 rescues in the mountains. Also assisted in other parts of the state.
- **134th Air Refueling Wing** – Lt Col Willis Parker – Won best Air Show in the country. Won Stanley F.H. Newman award. This year they are focusing on readiness.
- **278th Armored Calvary Unit** – LTC Colby Tippens. – Troops in motion. Still under construction at main headquarters. Training in new equipment.

- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – Lt Col Mike Wilson – new in the job, thanks for the support. Need to get the word out that the military is a good choice for a career. Prior service is good.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – CPT Jacqueline Bradford – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – CPT Brett DeHanas – Work in the Philippines, Will be helping the Boy Scouts at Camp Davy Crockett to refurbish some of their buildings and grounds.
- D Co 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – 1st Sgt Leland Braun – 20k more toys received this year than ever before for Toys for Tots. Drill coming up as well as annual training.
- Coast Guard Recruiting – ME1 Steven Bradshear – *unable to attend*
- Coast Guard Auxiliary – Kevin Lindsay – *unable to attend*
- ETSU Army ROTC – 1LT Andrew J. Sepulveda – *unable to attend*
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Col Roxanne Toy - 2023 focus is on Air University. They will be training individuals from other services from other countries in a reciprocal relationship.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – *unable to attend*
- Military Entrance Processing Station – LCDR Justin Bergman – working on allowing family members to attend virtually for signing in ceremonies.
- National Guard Recruiting and Retention BN – 1LT Daryl Jackson – *unable to attend*
- Naval Reserve Center Knoxville – CDR Trier Kissell – thanks to ETMAC for awarding an award to one of their sailors and as a result, he reupped.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – Col Dent Young – Assisting Homeland Security, cadets are excited for summer encampments.
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – *unable to attend*
- UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col Tony Estep – Commissioned 3 new officers in December. Professional Officer Course competition gearing up at the end of January.
- UT Army ROTC – LTC Justin Howe – *unable to attend*
- Carson Newman ROTC – LTC Frances Young – happy to be here and is willing to mentor any students needing help, especially those entering nursing.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air and Space Force Association – Dick Webber – Working on adding STEM to elementary schools. Beginning in Tri Cities and then Loudon County.
- Air Force Sergeant's Association – Jamie Prince – *unable to attend*
- American Legion Post 2 – Joleen Dewald – Still meeting at the DAV in Fountain City on the first Monday of the month at 6pm.
- American Red Cross Knoxville – *unable to attend*
- Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – Doug Ottinger – *unable to attend*
- Bunker Labs – Derren Burrell – no report

- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078- Pat Polis – in 2022 we were able to build and dedicate a memorial monument near the East TN Veterans Memorial in World’s Fair Park. VVA also raised enough donations to place over 18,000 wreaths at every headstone at the two East TN Veterans Cemetery as well as the National Cemetery. The number of graves is growing each year by about 1000 graves.
- CNS/Y-12 Serving our Service Members – Christine Shawhan –New SOS 2023 leadership team: Oneta Fioravanti, Chair; Jeremiah Marcoe, Co-chair; and Kristen Rawson, Secretary. Supporting Heroes and Horses at the Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding (STAR) with a Veteran Support Social on Fridays, starting January 13th, 10:45 – noon.
-All are invited to “A Hike to Remember” at 511 Tactical, 272 Peters Rd, Knoxville, on Saturday, January 21st, 9-11am, to remember the 22 veterans a day (average) who die by suicide. This is an easy, out and back hike (do what you can do) or come support as cheering crowd.
Also supporting on April 21/22 the UT Army ROTC at the Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg with volunteers and participants.
- Caris Health Care – Brenda Palmatier - *unable to attend*
- Covenant Health Military Recognition Program – Cindy Winterberger – *unable to attend*
- Disabled Veterans Chapter #24 – Dave Swanson – *unable to attend*
- East Tennessee Veteran’s Honor Guard – Jim Mungenast –still need volunteers.
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association - Joleen Dewald – The 2023 Medal of Honor dinner will be held on Monday, May 1 at the Foundry at World’s Fair Park. The website is up and running and ready for ticket sales. Due to the much higher food costs this year, ticket prices have been increased. Individual tickets are now \$125; tables for 10 are \$1000. Eligible veteran organizations may purchase additional tables for \$850. The speaker this year will be James M. Scott, and the MOH Honoree will be SSG Raymond H. Cooley.
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) - Jim Mungenast / Leslie Purser – 49 nominations this year for the Freedom Award. The new Adjutant General of Tennessee will be Brigadier General Warner Ross. Working on scheduling all units to receive their USERRA briefing. Thanks to the 278th for their help. Steve Martin is taking over as chair of the local committee.
- Frontline Gardens – Stephanie Trost – *unable to attend*
- Greater Knoxville Women Veterans Network – Jessica Hodge – New organization of women veterans that get together at various locations to network and have a ton of fun. Please contact Jessica Hodge at tnjunebug@gmail.com for more information on upcoming events.
- Helen Ross McNabb Veterans Services – Lou Danner – *unable to attend*
- Honor Air - Joe Sutter –Flight 32 will be 12 April 2023.
- Irreverent Warriors – Christine Shawhan - Our annual urban hike has been approved – it will be held on May 6, 2023. Open to all veterans. Civilians are welcome to volunteer – it takes a village.
- James H Quillen VA Medical Center – Billy Key – They are hiring in several areas, [USAJOBS-Search](#) to apply. They are also conducting outreach to enroll veterans in VA health care. Call 423/926-1171x7200 for more information.
- Knights of Columbus, Monsignor Francis D. Grady Assembly 1083 – Jeff Brown – They had successful activities at Christmas.
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner – no report
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries – *unable to attend*
- Knoxville Vet Center – Lyle Allen – *unable to attend*.

- Marine Corps League – Billy Jo McCarley – *no report*
- 194 Fleet Reserve Association – Eric Nash - *unable to attend*
- MOAA – Bill Potter - *unable to attend*
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)/ Reserve Officers Assoc.– Bill Grieve – *unable to attend*
- Mountain Man Memorial March – Justin Howe – *unable to attend*
- ORNL/UT Battelle Veterans Group– John Gearhart – *unable to attend*
- Pets for Vets – Heinz Lauer – *unable to attend*
- STAR – Horses & Heroes Program –Chelsea Taylor – *unable to attend*
- TN Department of Veteran Services – Knoxville Field Office – Charles McGhee – no report
- Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network – Emily Hager- *unable to attend*
- The Lost Vets Rescue – *unable to attend*
- United Veterans Council – Natalie Donahue – There are now 8 veteran breakfasts. See events section at the top of these minutes for dates and locations. They are always seeking sponsorships for these breakfasts. If interested in sponsoring please contact Natalie Donahue at n_donahue@us.aflac.com or (240) 372-4189.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council - Geoff Freeman
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – Marilyn Childress – Thanks to everyone for their help in placing wreaths in the Smokies. They placed over 1000 wreaths. 24 February they will be cleaning gravestones in the Smokies. DAR is giving scholarships, contact Marilyn for details.
- Veterans Mental Health Council – Cindy Winterberger – *unable to attend*
- VFW Post 5154 in Maryville – Neal Whetsel – Continuing to repair their facility.
- Volunteers of America – Amanda Millsaps- *unable to attend*

Next ETMAC meeting is Thursday, February 2, 2023, at the Knoxville Chamber

Any input or corrections, please contact Kim Spencer 865/661 9856 or kim@yourplacetoflourish.com

ETMAC Board of Directors:

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Geoff Freeman, Immediate Past President C: 843/743-5661 gafreeman@comcast.net

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Tim Thurston, Treasurer/Membership C: 210/540-4531 timthurston1972@gmail.com

Kim Spencer, Secretary C:865/661-9856 kim@yourplacetoflourish.com

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pcollins@knoxvillechamber.com

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Robert Brown, ETMAC Calendar C: 865/458-0759 rl_brown@hotmail.com

Dent Young, Webmaster, C: 865/604-8621 W: 865/483-7467 387543@tncap.us

Unit and Veteran Organization Contact Information

ETMAC

www.ETMAC.org

American Job Center/State of TN Dept of Labor

<https://www.tn.gov/workforce/jobs-and-education/services-by-group/services-by-group-redirect/job-placement-for-veterans.html> or www.jobs4tn.gov

American Legion

legionknox.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Post2Knoxville/>

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee>

<https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossTN/>

Ben Atchley

<http://www.tsvh.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TNStateVetreans/>

Bunker Labs Knoxville

<https://chapters.bunkerlabs.org/knoxville/>

Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078

<http://www.vva1078.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/vvachapter1078knoxville/>

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Assoc 18-12

<https://www.cvma18-12.com/upcoming-gatherings.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/481217796399085>

Disabled Veterans Chapter 24

<https://www.dav.org>

East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association <https://etvma.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ETVMA/>

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

<https://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/Tennessee> <https://www.facebook.com/Tennessee-ESGR-171685266196286/>

Honor Air

<http://www.honorairknoxville.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/honorair/>

Knoxville Habitat for Heroes

<https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleHabitatforHumanity/>

Knights of Columbus Henry Usey 865-246-4413

Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council <http://tnvhc.org/>

Knox County Veteran Services Office <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org

Knoxville Vet Center - <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

Lost Vets Rescue - thelostvetsrescue2022@gmail.com ; (865) 518-1012 ; <https://thelostvets.org/>

Marine Corps League - <http://www.mclknox.org/>

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) www.moaa.org

Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) - www.moww.org

Mountain Man Memorial March

<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainManMemorialMarch/>

Pets for Vets – Heinz Lauer ceclauer@gmail.com or 865/888-2754

Project Healing Waters FishingJoe.noe@projecthealingwaters.org 629-213-9707

Rolling Thunder <http://www.rollingthundertn3.com/index.php/about-tn3/>

United Veterans Council of East Tennessee, Inc.

<https://m.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/The-United-Veterans-Council-of-East-Tennessee-Inc-1912897478820375/>

UT Army ROTC Alumni Council

http://alumni.utk.edu/s/1341/alumni/interior_alumni.aspx?sid=1341&gid=2&pgid=7955

<https://www.facebook.com/UTKAmyROTC/>

Veteran Heritage Site Foundation <http://veteransheritagesite.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VeteransHeritageSiteFoundation>

Volunteers for Veterans - Noah Rempfer; nempfer@vols.utk.edu; 434.665.0679

Volunteer State Honor Guard <http://www.milhonors.com>

Y12 Servicing our Service Members (SOS) <https://www.y12.doe.gov/> Bonnie Harlow (865) 406-4237

bonnie.harlow@pxy12.doe.gov and Christine Shawhan (865) 410-4815 christine.shawhan@pxy12.doe.gov