



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

MARCH 1, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAR 22-28 Marine Corps League, 72nd Annual Southeast Convention <https://www.mclknoxville.org/>
- MAR 23 Military Christian Fellowship meeting, UT Campus House of Prayer, 1:30-2:30pm
- MAR 29 National Vietnam War Veteran's Day Ceremony, Worlds Fair Park, 11am
- MAR 29 Humana Health & Services Fair 11am – 3pm, 4438 Western Avenue at I-640 plaza
Vietnam Veterans Pinning and Proclamation Ceremony 1 – 2:30 pm
Veteran's Social 2:30 – 3:30
- APR 4 United Veterans Council of East Tennessee meeting at Red Cross, 6pm
- APR 5 ETMAC meeting, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, 8:30am
- APR 7 Softball Tournament to end homelessness, Willow Creek Youth Park, 7530 Quarry Road
Contact: Leslie Casteel, LCasteel@Casteelandcompany.com 865-254-0848
- APR 13-14 Mountain Man Memorial March, Gatlinburg. Contact Joleen 571-332-3100 for info.
- APR 14 Marine Corps League Spring Department Conference, Ryan's Steak House 11am – 5pm
405 Cumberland Street, Lebanon, TN 37087 <https://www.mclknoxville.org/>
- APR 28 Smoke Alarm Installment Project of Red Cross, 9:00am – 3:00pm. Meeting at Chilhowee Baptist Church, 4614 Asheville Hwy <http://redcross.org/STAknoxville>
- APR 28 Marine Corps League Jack McGivney Memorial Pistol Match, Camp Bonnyman Pistol Range
1010 Boling Road, Seymour, TN. Jay Holmes, 404-414-4225 or jaysholmes@gmail.com
- APR 28-29 American Legion Spring Turkey Shoot
- 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. <https://etvma.org/moheve/>
- MAY 19 Veterans Heritage Ridge Run 5k, Lincoln Park Baptist Church 9:00am
<https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/TN/Knoxville/TheVeteransHeritageRidgeRun5K>
- JUN 16 American Legion Golf Tournament
- JUN 21-23 Marine Corps League Dept of TN 37th Annual Convention
Hilton Knoxville Airport <https://www.mclknoxville.org/>
- SEP 15 Marine Corps League Mud Run <https://www.mclknoxville.org/>

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, March 1, 2018, 8:30am at the Red Cross, 6921 Middlebrook Pike. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of 92 were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President Owen Ragland
- Red Cross, Jess Hernandez – Introduction of Red Cross “Hosts” - Allen Sheets, Volunteer helps set up everything. Lori Marsh, Development Officer and has a son in Air Force and Tom DeHoog, Key Volunteer. Red Cross is very active and does a lot for the military as well as our community.
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - Tom Rayford, Covenant Home Health and Hospice
 - Veronica Jackson-Patrick, VA Field Consultant
 - Gary Woodall, Roane County Veteran Services Office
 - Cathy Dolson, STAR Heroes and Horses
 - Tom Walker, Faith and Courage
 - Kendall Card, Oak Ridge National Lab
 - Vito Sagliano, Candidate for Congress, VitoForCongress.com
 - Douglas Cunha, College Program at UT
 - Ryan Saylor, Started Veteran Organization work with Elderly Veterans & Nursing homes to build wheelchair ramps
 - Dennis Jones, Cross Connection Plumbing Company (Veteran friendly business)
- **Treasurer’s Report: Derren Burrell –**
 - Started month with approx.. \$13,000 in bank.
 - Deposits of \$ 2,600 and expenses a little over \$ 1000.
 - Finished up little over \$15,000 for the month.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.
- **President’s Report – Owen Ragland –** bylaws direct a board meeting. Meeting was held on Thursday, February 8th, 2018. One priority is to update our bylaws. Once we do that, will bring them to the group for a vote. ETMAC has an open position for a webmaster. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please let Owen know. This is appointed by the President. Appreciate a full room of people at our meeting who desire to be involved, to help and to support our military and veterans.
- **Honor Air Virtual Flight – Joe Sutter –** flight #26 will be on Wednesday, April 11. Orientation will be held soon. Virtual flight planned on June 16. Opportunity for those WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans that are unable to make an actual flight will be held on Saturday, June 16th at 9am at the Bridgewater Event Center. Flight will leave at 10am and will go through the entire Honor Air flight program. End time expected around noon. Online application can be found at <http://honorairknoxville.com/applications.html> email to Jan Recort at jrector@honorairknoxville.com or call her at 865-859-9279 for more information or to have an application mailed out.
- **Homes for Heroes – Jennie Smith –** United Real Estate Solutions – A home buying program for retired, reserve and active duty military personnel, firefighters, healthcare professionals, EMS and teachers. Provide services with real estate transactions on the selling and buying side. If purchase a home, get a check back as way of saying thank you. Assistance with selling, buying and refinancing a home. www.homesforheros.com
- **Survey – Todd Johnson –** an email went out for a survey and received about 100 responses. Will help to complete master’s degree. Tennessee Valley Coalition for the homeless. <http://tvhomeless.org/>
- **ETMAC Announcements: Patrice Collins**
 - Vietnam Trip March 6 – 20th. Please no emails until after March 22nd. Thank you!
 - Literature table in back – Available for all to lay out information, but materials must be taken with you after meeting. Any remaining papers, literature, etc. will be thrown away.
 - Sponsors for coffee and refreshments are appreciated. If interested, contact Patrice.
 - Veterans Day Luncheon confirmed at Marriott on Thursday, November 8.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **MAJ Joseph Westfall** - Successful RAM, going to Smyrna for Drill this weekend.
- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – **Captain Willie Posey** – *unable to attend*
- 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion – **LTC Pat Wade** *unable to attend*
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **Lt Col Travers Hurst** – Recently recognized as top tanker unit out of 17 ANG units. We want to continue to do great things for the East Tennessee region.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **Chief Brian Culberson** – *nothing to report*
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **TSgt Howard Kitter** – We have a new recruiter in NC and recently reopened the office in Cookeville.
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **Dennis McVey** – Business as usual. Appreciate all the support that ETMAC gives to our Battalion.
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **AET1 Christopher Rapp** – *unable to attend*
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **Capt Cullen Tores / 1st Sgt Gabe Burns** – Drill coming up this weekend. Red Cross coming over and have an active shooter drill planned with the Knoxville Police.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – **Maj John Capra** – NCO class going on, 100 students and a couple of conferences coming up. Working on infield, running track. Just wanted to let everyone know that there is a Base Exchange on base.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) - *unable to attend*
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **LCDR Emily Wilson** – *nothing to report*
- Navy Operational Support Center – **LCDR Kevin Settle** – In the next couple of weeks, will have a command assessment which happens every two years.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Lt Col Ande Boyer** – have a search and rescue disaster relief drill coming up and in March.
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div CDR Ron Boneau** - Haven't started on water patrol due to weather. Will attend the Knoxville boat show March 7-11. Mission to talk about safe boating, life jackets and recruiting.
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Capt. Jessica Manaco** – 6 new Pilot selects. Field training exercise coming up and dining out in April.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Paula Penson** – Just returned from symposium. Available to help with resume writing, interviewing skills and career transition readiness.
https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter –
- American Legion – **Joleen DeWald** - legionknox.com - 2 events - The spring turkey shoot on April 28-29, 10am – 2pm and Golf Tournament on June 16th.
- American Red Cross – **Tom DeHoog** - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> - Red Cross mission is to eliminate human suffering in the face of adversity. April 28 will kick off Sound the Alarm, Smoke Alarms Save Lives program meeting at the Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church, 4614 Asheville Hwy, Knoxville at 9am – 3pm. Fliers on table. We need as many volunteers as we can get. Also, we offer 30% off CPR training.
- Ben Atchley Veteran's Home – **Doug Ottinger** – <http://www.tsvh.org/> - We have some CNA positions and 5 open beds if you know of anyone.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Don Smith**
<https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/> - March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Will host an annual ceremony at 11am at World's Fair Park. Last week had first meeting of the **United Veterans Council of East Tennessee** to bring all groups together to work on events that each group is working on individually. Next meeting, April 4 at 6pm here at Red Cross building. How does this organization differ from ETMAC? This is not just a reporting organization, but an organization that is involved in the planning, organizing and executing of the activities and events that benefit the Military and Veterans.

- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – Garrett Hanas <https://www.dav.org/> - spent 4 days in Washington visiting congressmen and senators promoting the caregiver bill and other bills of interests for our Military and Veterans.
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association - Joleen DeWald –<https://etvma.org/>– Reading of the names will happen again on Memorial Day. We are looking for volunteers for that event. The East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association presents the **8th Annual Medal of Honor Evening**, Honoring World War I Medal of Honor Recipient **Sgt. Alvin C. York**, United States Army. The event will be held **Monday, May 7th, 2018** at The Historic Foundry Building at 747 World’s Fair Park Drive, Knoxville TN. Special guest Dr. Edward Lengel, Chief Historian, The White House Historical Society. Social hour begins at 5:30pm, followed by dinner & presentation at 6:30pm. Purchase tickets at <https://etvma.org/moheve/#purchase>
- East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard –Reid Gerhardt - <https://www.facebook.com/East-Tennessee-Veterans-Honor-Guard-109780775701142/> - Milestone will do the 5000th honor guard.
- Habitat for Heroes – Rick Garner <https://knoxvillehabitatforhumanity.com/habitat-for-heroes/> - Looking for veterans to put into homes. 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 at Redemption Church on Pleasant Ridge Road at 12:15 having first award ceremony for women veterans receiving pins for the Year of the Women Veterans. 2nd meeting 21 April with UT Law department to help with the ongoing expungement program. Also, we offer a program for suicide prevention for Veterans and are training additional people to offer the services and are available for education to your groups. Banquet to serve Korean War Veterans is upcoming and will get details out to Patrice for distribution.
- ESGR – Jack D’Araujo <https://www.esgr.mil/> - 35,000 guardsmen and reserves on federal active duty. 8,000 on counter drug operations. We are supporting the Marine Corps for their family day. On March 10th we will provide support for the Yellow Ribbon program and on March 31 for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. If any other units need us, please advise and we will be available.
- Honor Air –Joe Sutter - <http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> - *Already reported out*
- Knoxville Career Center – Rachele Barnes – will hold a multi-employer Job fair on March 21st at the Career Center, 2700 Middlebrook Pike #100, Knoxville, TN 37921.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - VA has reopened the application for veteran ID cards. Go to VETS.Gov and click on the link at the bottom of the page. Call 865-215-5645 for more information.
- Knoxville Vet Center –Lyle Allen – (865) 545-4592 ext. 4400 – The new building will open in May.
- Marine Corps League – Eric Nash <http://www.mclknox.org/> - working on the 72nd Annual Southeast Convention which will be held at the Smoky Mountain Resort in Pigeon Forge, March 22-28. The 37th Annual State Convention will be held at the Airport Hilton on June 21-23. Lots of Marines will be coming into the area. We will have great speakers and is open to all. Will get info out to Patrice. Dining in will be happening on March 17th. We are taking applications for the 2018 scholarship program open to qualified applicants. Click on this link to see the eligibility and requirements for application: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/5ddd44_cbbd4c14f4be48b0891c9f1faa3e2296.pdf September 17th is the date for the Mud Run.
- Mountain Man Memorial March- Joleen DeWald –<http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> - 11th annual MMM scheduled for April 13-14 in Gatlinburg. Need volunteers to staff water station and to help with clean up. The start and finish line will be in the same parking lot location. Online registration is now open. Need volunteers for water, Gatorade, 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 access those areas. Would like more teams to participate in the 10k, half marathon and full marathon. Medal of honor recipient from WWII, Woody Williams will be our speaker. Anticipate 145 members of gold star families coming to the event. We especially need volunteers for breakdown on Saturday.
- MOWW – Bill Grieve <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> –Meet every 2nd Wed of month at Rothchild’s at 11am. Past speaker was Col. Kerry Lovely of the IG Brown Training and Education Center. March 14th will have next meeting and all are invited.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Dan Moneymaker <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> - finished up fly-tying classes. Right now in middle of the rod-building classes. 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. This month we will have silent auction if anyone would like to donate something for auction.

- **REBOOT – Mike Simpson** – New session started on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 and just over half way through. 8-10 graduates Veterans will complete the program. Next session starting in June and completely free.
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 starting in June 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.rollingthundern3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - Meeting location is at Powell Community Center 1708 West Emory Road, Powell TN, 3:30 on the 2nd Sunday of every month. We are a Veteran service organization and not a motorcycle club. We have an event on April 7, riding up to New Freedom Farm in VA. Location that will offer retreats to those suffering from PTSD. We have a fundraiser coming up, a poker run on April 21 at the Powell Community Center. Need sponsorship and riders to participate - \$20 entry fee. Call Chapter President Cindy (865) 556-4645 or Chaplain (865) 919-1368. Looking ahead, we will be attending the Memorial Day event in Washington D.C. If anyone knows of someone in need, who just needs someone to talk to and listen, call the Chaplain's number at (865) 919-1368 anytime, will be available.
- **STAR – Horses & Heroes Program – Cathy Dolson** - <https://www.rideatstar.org/heroos--horses.html> - Spring session starts on March 6 and we are working with yellow ribbon fund to work with spouses and caregivers. This is a fully funded program, free to participants.
- **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/> - Work and cleanup day in April. Date not set yet, but will send out info. Don't have to be a veteran to be a member. Meet 4th Wed at the Red Cross office at 6:30. May 19, trail run and walk at 9am at Sharp's Ridge. Sign up at:
<https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/TN/Knoxville/TheVeteransHeritageRidgeRun5K>
Trying to improve and preserve various veteran sites. Right now, working on Sharp's Ridge. Looking for sponsors. We 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> - *unable to attend*
- **Women Marines Association – Lindsay Long** <https://www.womenmarines.org/> - *unable to attend*
- **Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – Stephanie Trost**
<http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - this month 2 veterans committed suicide. Have worked with those families. For the commanders, VA has launched two new exams, exposure exam and the burn pit exam. For any veterans that served Post 911, the VA will be starting a NEW Burn pit exam and registry. This exam is going to be similar to the exposure exam and registry but it is going to be specifically focused on veterans that have pulmonary issues. They have started taking a registration list at the Knoxville VA and as soon as they have the specialist in place will be contacting parties on the list to set up the exam. If you are experiencing any pulmonary problems, call your VA and ask them about this NEW burn pit exam and see if you can get your name on the list.
- **Military Christian Fellowship of East TN** – Seeking military-connected believers to be a part of a community of believers striving to encourage and inspire in East Tennessee. Meeting March 23rd at UT Campus House of Prayer, 1915 Lake Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916. Connect on Facebook: Military Christian Fellowship of East TN
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/420041871784346/about/>
- **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) - Bill Potter** –
<http://www.moaa.org/chapter/easttennessee> - The East Tennessee chapter continues to work a renewal and revitalization of our program for members. We are into several projects and need members to step up and help in these projects. First, we are actively recruiting local new and previous members to join us. Lately, we have appreciated the invitation and joining with the MOWW to have joint meetings.

Thanks to them. We continue to help doing various projects in the East TN area. Second, we continue to do our annual project of helping local colleges and university ROTC and high school Jr ROTC units with their yearly award ceremonies. We will be able to continue to do this if members continue to sign up with annual chapter dues. Members can contact Bill Potter at (865) 254-9218 for more information or to volunteer to help in these important projects. Last year we made three (3) \$500.00 stipend awards to university ROTC junior students rising to be senior ROTC cadets at UT (Army and Air Force ROTC) and Carson-Newman Army ROTC. At the high school level we (members or designated representatives) presented 12 awards, medals and citations to students from Lenoir City to Maryville, Knoxville, Jefferson City and Newport on up to Kingsport. Most of these awards were in the Knoxville School system. We continue to look for volunteers to help make these presentations and need member support to continue this program. Thank you ETMAC for the wonderful group forum and opportunity to share community activities.

**Next meeting: Thursday, April 5, 2018
At the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce**

For input or corrections, contact:



Bonnie Harlow
(865) 406-4237
Secretary

www.ETMAC.org
East Tennessee Military Affairs Council