



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

November 2, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- NOV 1 Humana Coat/Winter clothes drive for Veterans @ 4438 Western Ave. 865-329-8892
- NOV 4 4th Annual “Seymour Salutes Veterans” 10a – 2p @ Seymour Heights Christian Church
- NOV 8 Veterans Health & Services Fair, 11am to 4pm, 4438 Western Ave. 865-329-8892
- NOV 8 Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremony @ 2:30pm, 4438 Western Ave. 865-329-8892
- NOV 9 Little River Trading Co. Veteran Appreciation Night 20% off, 7-8:30p 865-681-4141
- NOV 9 Veteran’s Appreciation Luncheon @ 11:30am, Downtown Marriott
- NOV 10 Veteran’s Day Parade, Gay Street Downtown Knoxville, 11am
- NOV 11 Rocky Top Crafter’s Honoring Vets @ Main Street Baptist Church, Rocky Top, TN
- NOV 13 DAV Veteran’s Appreciation Dinner at Golden Corral
- NOV 14 UT Men’s Basketball vs. High Point @ 7pm. Free admission Military/ Veteran’s and immediately family with valid ID / DD-214. Free parking at AG campus with shuttle.
- NOV 17 UT Military Veteran Alumni Reunion Weekend
- Month of NOVEMBER – Sequoyah Dental Arts **Free Veteran Dental Services**, Call 865-524-1265.
- DEC 16 Wreath Laying Ceremony at Lyon’s View Knoxville National Cemetery @ Noon
- JAN 29-30 TVBA Business Expo & Job Fair, Knoxville Crowne Plaza

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, November 2, 2017 at 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. MAJ Stephanie McKeen presided over the meeting. A total number of 67 were present.

- **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by MAJ Stephanie McKeen
- **Introduction of new Attendees:**
 - **Byron Dickerson – Volunteer Assisted Transportation**
 - **Jerry Sullivan, King University**
 - **Rachelle Barnes, Department of Labor on Middlebrook. Help find jobs for Veterans.**
 - **Amber Ryan (sp?)– Pellissippi State Community College**
 - **Lyle Allen, New Veteran Outreach Specialist**
- **Treasurer’s Report:** Balance of \$ 15,000 approximately after luncheon expenses. Deposit \$ 4,000 mostly for luncheon .
- **Webmaster’s Report** – *no report*
- **Veterans Day Parade – Fri., Nov. 10 - Gay Street/downtown Knoxville – (go to legionknox.com)**
Gene Bayless – A different route this year. Grand Marshall is Furman Swanson, Navy WWII Veteran and Capt Buziak is reviewing officer. 78 units and 9 bands this year. Look on line. Parade line-up will be posted on Tuesday.
- **Veterans Appreciation Luncheon – Patrice Collins Thursday, November 9th - ETMAC's 35th Annual Veterans Appreciation and Recognition Luncheon** – expecting 425 in attendance. Those who have reserved tables, provide names to Patrice as soon as possible. All 22 band members have been covered for the complimentary luncheon. Registration opens at 9:45 and Band will start 10:55. Would like to have representation when the band begins playing. Uniform of day for units, unless you are in Ceremony.

The 35th Annual ETMAC Veterans Appreciation and Recognition Luncheon honors local military units and Westbrook Scholars.

This year’s recognized branch of service is the U.S. Navy & U.S. Navy Reserves. Members of the U.S. Fleet Forces Parade Band will perform.

Guest speaker will be Captain Christopher (Chris) Buziak, United States Navy. Buziak is Director, Restricted Line/Staff Corps Officer and Career Management Division. CAPT Buziak’s distinctions include COMSUBPAC Asian Engineer of the Year and selection as a Naval Astronaut Candidate. CAPT Buziak is authorized to wear the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (six awards), Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit and campaign awards including Four Battle Efficiency awards. He is joint service officer qualified.

Luncheon Tickets are \$30 per person or \$300 for a table of ten.

Knoxville Marriott Downtown, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

- ETMAC Announcements – Patrice Collins –.
- President’s Report – Major Stephanie McKeen –

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – MAJ Joseph Westfall Oct had Man’s qualification work and we are changing locations of 278th.to Jefferson City.
- 1-100th Engineer Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 119th Cyber Operations Squadron – Maj Chris Morin – behalf of Col Franklin. Leadership will be at a weapons conference. Officeial change of name on 1 November to 119th Cyber Operations Squadron.
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – LTC Pat Wade *unable to attend*
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – Col Lee Hartley – Some deployed in Middle East and busu wotj Hurricane relief efforts still going on in Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Savannah, GA. 60th anniversary went very well. Had a great career day. Next outreach in December in partnership with Children’s Hospital.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – MAJ Jay Richards – regiment came back from leadership training program at National Training Center. Preparing for NTC rotation in May. Took about 300 officers and NCOs for training and mentorship. Chance to get out on terrain in Mohabe dessert. Continuing to

prepare for National training center and a couple of task forces deploying so doing preparation for that.

- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – MSgt Chris Robson – *unable to attend*
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion – *unable to attend*
- 844th Engineering Battalion – MAJ Andrew Wyman - *unable to attend*
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – AET1 Christopher Rapp
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – Capt Cullen Tores – Back from Talahoma, construct an engineering training site. Next weekend is the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Not at full capacity so tickets still available. Toys for Tots is still going on. Would like to provide new toys for kids in need. If there is need for a Marine Corps Color guard for your event, please give advance notice so we can prepare and comply with all details and meet Marine Corps standards.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center – Col Kerry Lovely – Supported Hurricane efforts in GA and Puerto Rico. 2 classes on board now. Also, looking for volunteer opportunities so let know of any volunteer needs. Increased number of students from 4000 to 6000 this year. Still have staff changes going on. We have our 50th anniversary next July and beginning to plan for that.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) - *unable to attend*
- Military Entrance Processing Station – LCDR Emily Wilson Meps have processed 550 applicants for full physicals, assessed over 600 applicants for the delayed entry program and shipped over 320 to respective boot camps. Attended the US metcomm Commanders Conference conference in Wisconsin. Senior Advisor Symonette has been selected for rank of Sergeant Major
- Navy Operational Support Center – YN1(SW) Noah C. Jaques - Navy Ball had a great turnout of 210 which was biggest turnout ever. Thanks to all. Planning for next year. Participated in clay shooting.
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – Col Dent Young (recently promoted to Col & TN Wing Commander! Congrats!) – We closed out last year, 9 aircraft flew about 2000 hours. Closed out counter drugs with 400 sorties and 600 flying hours. 11 members spent 10 days in Puerto Rico working with hurricane disaster recovery. Lots of devastation. Crowd source funding link will send out through Patrice so you can see for yourself the damage.
- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – *unable to attend*
- UT Air Force ROTC – Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo – completed career day, 100 cadets received great insight for career ideas. Invited two Cadets, Wilson and Scott for introduction on community participation. Working on final details for Veterans day reunion weekend on Nov 18 at the UT football game and our cadet change of command info and will send that out via Patrice

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – *unable to attend* - https://secure.afa.org/contact_links.asp?searchby=state&stabbr=TN&ent=chapter
- American Legion – Larry Sharp - legionknox.com - Veterans day parade is all set and ready to go.
- American Red Cross – Tom DeHoog - <http://www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee> - last month
- Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – *unable to attend* <http://www.tsvh.org/>
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – Don Smith <https://vva.org/chapter/vva-chapter-1078/> - last month we had approximately over 9000 visitors for the Wall that heals here in Knoxville. Thanks to all that made it a huge success. Everyone came out and supported it and very grateful.
- Disabled Veterans – Chapter #24 – Garrett Hanas <https://www.dav.org/> - *unable to attend*
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association – Joleen Dewald <https://etvma.org/> - thank all who supported clay shoot last Friday. Air Force took home canteens as high shooters for the day. First Monday in May is the annual dinner, so we are beginning preparations and will honor Alvin York. Will have speakers from Washington and some Medal of Honor recipients in attendance. More information will be coming out in the next few months.
- 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/> - 20% families in our program are now Veterans, that is 9 out of 45. Veterans are welcome to do the regular program which takes about 12-14 months but they can get in 90 to 120 days in the Heroes program. Will be at Humana Veterans Fair coming up.
- REBOOT –Mike Simpson. We will be starting a new course on January 9th – 12 week course. We have money, location, date and time – need participants. Please send out info via Patrice.
- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – Freddy Owens <http://tnvhc.org/> - Healthy update can be found on facebook page, doing well but still going through treatment for prostate cancer. Introduce Gary who will be assisting Freddy. Expungement at Beck Center last week with help of Buzz and the Mayor’s office. 651 preregistered. 538 showed up. 45 walkins. To get derogatory info expunged from their records. Judget Thomas was in attendance and impressed with the process and will do a clinic in March for Monroe County. Also, Care Cuts on 5th avenue is still going on and need volunteers.
- ESGR – Bob Williams <https://www.esgr.mil/> will be sponsoring a table at Veterans day lunch and prepared to talk with any guard or reservists that will be called up.
- Honor Air –<http://www.honorairknoxville.com/> - *unable to attend*
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – Tom Humphries <https://www.knoxcounty.org/veterans/> - nothing to report
- Knoxville Vet Center – Lyle Allen- can use referrals and if you know of any events that can benefit from our services, please advise and we will be there.
- Marine Corps League – Eric Nash <http://www.mclknox.org/> - *unable to attend*
- Mountain Man Memorial March – Joleen Dewald <http://mountainmanmemorialmarch.com/> - 3rd week in April. Will send out registration information. Hopefully will open up in December. Working with Gatlinburg on details for a new route after fires.
- MOWW – Owen Haddock <http://mowwregionv.org/posts.html> - Officer program meets every 2nd Wednesday between 11- 1 with a great speaker. Wrote article on psychological warfare, ValuesVirtuesandOutcome.net.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Steve Thompson <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> - *unable to attend*
- Veteran Appreciation Program – Larry Sharp <http://www.veteransappreciationprogram.com/> - Business connection between military personnel and veteran friendly businesses . Saturday, November 5 at 8am - DAV is sponsoring a Veterans breakfast at the Powell community center. Fanatics brewery has a beer titled “Welcome Home” beer for GIs coming back, an appreciation beer. Portion of every beer sold goes to Honor Air. It is on tap at many local establishments.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – Patty McGrew <http://veteransheritagesite.org/> - Received a grant \$25,000 for materials from Home Depot. Work day on November 18th and we need volunteers. Next meeting on November 29th with a holiday reception. Trail run moved to May.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – Catherine Bearden for Clyde Vincent <https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn> - Lots of money to spend, please send us your homeless vets.
- Women Marines Association – Lindsay Long <https://www.womenmarines.org/> - *unable to attend*
- Rolling Thunder – Brenda Owensby <http://www.rollingthundern3.com/index.php/about-tn3/> - *unable to attend*
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – Stephanie Trost <http://www.yellowribbonfund.org/> - *unable to attend*
- Honor Air, Patrice Collins for Joe Sutter- Recent article in Knox News that mentioned a Honor Air Flight on November 12 for Veterans that we unable to make the actual flight. That has been postponed so will be held sometime in 2018.
- Humana is doing a push to help veterans and doing a Vietnam Veteran pinning and and proclamation ceremony on November 8th at 2:30. Also having a Coats and clothing drive for homeless Veterans the month of November.
- Bill Potter – Military Officers Association, looking for new members and encourage current members to meet with MOWW at Rothchilds. In process of getting reorganized and preparing for spring

campaign to award medals to High School JROTC and in part to college ROTC. Looking for help to make presentations because a lot of the awards come at the same time in March, April and early May.

- Rachelle Barnes for Coast Guard recruiting - always recruiting so if you want to talk about Coast Guard, contact them. Operation Stand down moved to Chattanooga, is any update on why not in Knoxville. Reason may be because of renovation of the armory. May be back next year.
- Sydney Winterberg from Covenant Hospice – working to achieve our level 4, highest level. This year first time able to collect data. 80 Veterans on hospice this year, 22 that needed additional help and within 2 days to 2 weeks able to get them enrolled in Johnson City hospice. 2 of 22 had no insurance so VA paid for their home hospice. Up to 80 veteran volunteers to visit hospice veterans. Anyone who is interested in volunteering contact Covenant Hospice.

**Next meeting is Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017 at
Knoxville Chamber of Commerce**

****NOTE - January meeting will be held one week later than normal –
Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018**

**For Corrections or input, Contact:
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