



EAST TENNESSEE MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

November 7, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Every WED Combat Coffee Hour for all Veterans, 7:30 Knoxville Vet Center, 1645 Downtown West Blvd #28 (Black Rifle Coffee Company <https://www.blackriflecoffee.com/>)
- Every Second Saturday: Breakfast for Buds from 8:30 until 10am. Mama Grits in Tellico Village. Contact Dennis Drake at dennisdrake2012@outlook.com for more information.
- 14 DEC Wreaths Across America wreath placement at all three cemeteries
- 7 JAN TVBA Keynote Breakfast, Business Expo, and Veteran Job Fair www.getvba.com for details.

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

We are changing the format of the monthly minutes. All organization contact information will be in a list at the end of the minutes. We hope you will find having the information in one place will be beneficial to you, and hope you find the minutes easier to read.

ETMAC BUSINESS SESSION

- **Welcome and Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting of the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council was held on Thursday, **November 7, 2019**, 8:30am at the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. President **Owen Ragland** presided over the meeting. A total number of **65** were present.

Introduction of new Attendees:

- 2nd Lt. Richard Michelhaugh with the 119th COS
 - Lt Col Jaime Blanton with the 134th ARW
 - Jody Martin
 - Aletha Purkey with Tennessee's Community Assistance Corp
 - Kimberly Montierth with Just Serve
 - Nichole Chapin with VA-Mountain Home
- **President's Report – Owen Ragland-** Please check your contact information within these minutes to ensure they are correct and let us know if they are not. Elections for leadership of ETMAC will be upcoming in December. Officers serve for one-year term, and board members serve for three years. A nomination committee has been formed and includes Joe Sutter, Paula Penson and Jim Mungenast. Jim reported on open positions. Call him if you are interested in serving at 865-386-5859. Owen also talked about the scholarships that will be awarded at the luncheon as well as the Sam Hardman Award.
 - **Webmaster's Report - Col Dent Young-** There were 798 visitors to the website last month. 772 of them were new users. Most were from the US, with Argentina coming in second.

- Treasurer's Report: Derren Burrell –

Beginning Balance	\$18,865.37
Deposits	\$6,099.67
Expenses	\$528.38
Ending Balance	\$24,436.66

Membership dues may be paid online

<https://www.etmac.org/resources/etmacresources/membership-application/> or bring check to Patrice Collins at the next meeting. Donations are also appreciated.

- Other ETMAC Announcements - Patrice Collins – She reported that the expected attendance at the Veteran Lunch will be 490 people.

MILITARY UNIT UPDATES

- 3rd Regiment of the Tennessee State Guard – **MAJ Joseph Westfall**- upcoming mission is the Wreaths Across America at the Johnson City Veteran's Cemetery.
- 119th Cyberspace Operations Squadron – **Maj Willie Posey** - warned about opening links for gift cards and others that you aren't familiar with. They may infect your computer with a virus. The unit is recruiting for new members interested in Cyber Operations.
- 1-230 Assault Helicopter Battalion – **CPT Philip Webster** – unable to attend.
- 134th Air Refueling Wing – **Col Lisa Simmons**- heavy deployment cycle, next year even more. Working on taking care of families. They do Santa Cops at Children's hospital each year.
- 241st Engineering & Installation Squadron (Chattanooga) - **Lt Col Dave Moss** – unable to attend.
- 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment – **CW3 Kelly Copeland**. Troops in motion. Participating in several Veteran's Day events and planning for a busy time coming up.
- 332nd Air Force Recruiting Squadron – **Lt Col Michael Kovalchek** – unable to attend
- 489th Civil Affairs Battalion - **MAJ BW Osten** – unable to attend.
- 844th Engineering Battalion – **MAJ Justin Belford** – unable to attend.
- Coast Guard Recruiting – East TN Region – **ME1 Steven Brashear** – unable to attend
- Co D 4th Combat Engineer Battalion – **Sgt Dunn** - Toys for Tots major focus. Collection box will be at the Veteran Luncheon.
- I.G. Brown Training and Education Center - **Lt Col John Capra** – 330 students currently.
- Knoxville Recruiting Company (Army) – **CPT Patrick Conner**- unable to attend
- Military Entrance Processing Station – **LCDR Galo Cavalvanti** – 245 new recruits. Still requesting officers that can perform induction ceremonies.
- Navy Operational Support Center – **CDR Scott Moss** – unable to attend.
- Navy Recruiting – Talent Acquisition Onboarding Center – **HM2 Josh Dixon**- unable to attend
- Tennessee Wing, Civil Air Patrol – **Col Dent Young** –. Nothing to report

- USCG Auxiliary Division 12 – **Div. CDR Ron Boneau** Election for new officers held in October. Helped with Vietnam Veteran picnic. Sea Scouts rolled out in our area.
- UT Air Force ROTC – **Lt Col Matt “Ocho” Castillo** – Alumni council established. Cadets participating in various Veteran Day events. 12 November Career Day. 3 December Cadet Change of Command. Full pass and review at Neyland Stadium.
- UT Army ROTC – **LTC Justin Howe** – 14-17 November field training for the fall semester at Fort Loudon. Over 200 cadets will participate. 6 December Retirement Ceremony for MSGT Jeff Valentine. Commissioning for winter will be 13 December at the Student Center on campus. MMMM will be 25 April 2020.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES

- Air Force Association – **Dick Webber** – Annual Golf Tournament on Columbus Day had 71 players. This was the most successful tournament to date.
- American Job Center / State of TN Department of Labor – **David Webb**- Average weekly earnings per week in the US is \$969.39. US unemployment is at 3.6% with Veterans coming in 2% lower at 1.6%. Knox County is at 2.9%, Knoxville at 3.2%, Blount County at 3.1% and the state of Tennessee is at 3.4%.
- American Legion – **Joleen Dewald** – unable to attend – Post 2 Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11.
- American Red Cross – **Jess Hernandez** – Help for families of deployed.
- Ben Atchley Veteran’s Home – **Doug Ottinger** –5 empty beds. Still have openings for nurses. Annual memorial service on November 19.
- Bunker Labs – **Rich Gross** – help for veteran entrepreneurs Nov 21 at Blackhorse Pub. There is a need for an additional leader.
- Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078 – **Gary Ellis** Meet 2nd Tuesday evening. Veterans Picnic had about 450-500 attend. They shut down early due to rain, but everyone still had a great time. Thanks to the City of Knoxville for all their help.
- Disabled Veterans Chapter #24 - **Garrett Hanas** – wheelchairs donated. Need more.
- East Tennessee Veteran’s Honor Guard - **Jim Mungenast**- Raised about \$65k. Need volunteers to help with the ceremonies. Average age of those participating is 80 years old.
- East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association - **Joleen Dewald** –unable to attend.
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) – **Jim Mungenast** – New National Chair is Ron Vogel. Would like to see more nominees for awards. Leslie Purser talked about the USERRA briefings that are annual requirements for each unit. ESGR will be reaching out to try and schedule briefings next year. There are 30 Ombudsmen in the state with about a 90% success rate.
- Honor Air - **Joe Sutter** – unable to attend
- Knoxville Habitat for Heroes – **Rick Garner** - nothing to report.

- Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council – **Ed Junod** – Veteran Suicide play coming up. This year in Tennessee suicide is the number one cause of death among young men. Expungement clinics are very successful, especially in rural areas. UT is helping and was awarded \$100k to hold these clinics. November 23 will be a clinic in Polk County.
- Knox County Veteran Services Office – **Tom Humphries** – Mobile meals has a couple of homebound veterans that would appreciate visits. Contact Tom for details if you're interested.
- Knoxville Vet Center – **Lyle Allen** – unable to attend.
- Marine Corps League – **Eric Nash** – Helping with Toys for Tots and Wreaths Across America.
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) – **Bill Potter** – Meet with MOWW each month.
- Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) – **Bill Grieve** – Meets 2nd Wednesday at Rothchild's from 11-1.
- Mountain Man Memorial March - **Joleen Dewald** – Unable to attend.
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – **Steve Thompson** – unable to attend.
- REBOOT Combat Recovery – **Darrell Williams**– 12-week course on the spiritual aspects of PTSD.
- Rolling Thunder – **Carlos Hollifield** – Changing from national to regional activities. Have proposed legislation to fly the POW flag anytime the US flag is flown. Will be helping with Wreaths Across America.
- STAR – Horses & Heroes Program – **Cathy Dolson** –Winding down fall classes. Limited classes beginning in January.
- Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless - **Brandon Harris**- unable to attend
- Tennessee Veterans Business Associations (TVBA) – **Steve Stilts** – visit website for details on their program.
- United Veterans Council – **Gary Ellis** – 18k wreaths needed at the 3 cemeteries. 14 December will be placement of wreaths. Go to the website to donate. There is a veteran breakfast each Saturday of the month at a different location throughout the area.
- UT Army ROTC Alumni Council – **Geoff Freeman** –nothing to report.
- Veteran Heritage Site Foundation – **Patty McGrew** – April 4th trail run. Patty talked about Vet to Vet Clinics held in area nursing homes.
- VVA Chapter 1073 & VFW Post 3380 (Morristown). **Whit Whitman** - They cover 7 counties and provide flags in all classrooms for the 88 schools in their counties.
- Volunteers of America/Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down – **Ivette Torres** – unable to attend.
- Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group – **Stephanie Trost** –unable to attend

Next meeting: Thursday, December 5, 2019 @ Knoxville Chamber at 8:30am

**For input or corrections, please contact Kim Spencer
865/691-0898 or kim@nallssherbakoff.com**

ETMAC Board of Directors:

Owen Ragland, President 865-556-6338 email: oragland@kmfpc.com

Jess Hernandez, Vice President 865-567-6134 email: Jess.Hernandez@redcross.org

Derren Burrell, Treasurer 865-771-4243 email: derren@tagresources.com

Kim Spencer, Secretary 865-661-9856 email: kim@nallssherbakoff.com

Patrice Collins, Board Member & Chamber Rep: 865-806-4487

email: pcollins@knoxvillechamber.com

Joleen Dewald, At Large Director, 571-332-3100 email: joleen@thedewalds.org

Capt Willie Posey, At Large Director, 865-274-9901 email: willie.s.posey.mil@mail.mil

Gina Massey, At Large Director, 865-363-2994 email: gmassey@etmafcu.net

Tom Humphries, At Large Dir 865-215-5645 Thomas.humphries@knoxcounty.org

Don Smith, At Large Director 931-335-0477 email: donandmarysmith@aol.com

Rick Garner, At Large Director 865-740-2970 email: rgarner@khfh.com

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

Dent Young, Webmaster 387543@tncap.us

Unit and Veteran Organization Contact Information

ETMAC

www.ETMAC.org

American Job Center/State of TN Dept of Labor

<http://www.careeronestop.org/ResourcesFor/Veteran/veteran.aspx>

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/>

Captain Bill Robinson Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1078

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

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

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/>

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/>

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/>

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

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

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

REBOOT Combat Recovery

<https://rebootalliance.com/reboot>

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

Rolling Thunder

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

STAR – Horses and Heroes Program

<http://www.rideatstar.org/heroes--horses.html>

Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless

<https://tvchomeless.org/>

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 of America Supportive Services for Veterans Families/Stand Down

<https://www.voamid.org/ssvftn>

Yellow Ribbon Fund Veteran Caregivers Support Group

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