

Tulsa Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council March 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The regular Mayor's Veterans Council Meeting was held on the third Thursday at VFW Post 577 in Tulsa.

The Meeting was called to order at 2 PM by Sandy Oxford, of the Veterans Center at the Eastgate business center on 21st Street.

General

1. Reporting is not in any order of ranking, importance, set or actual order.
2. Information sources may include from American Legion, Mohawk Post 308 meetings, from the All Veterans Association meetings, from the FRA 280 (Fleet Reserve Association) meetings or other sources encountered in my travels as germane to veterans or their families.
3. Each monthly report tries to focus on new findings or reports without necessarily repeating information already reported previously.

Report:

1. The Oklahoma Woman Veterans Organization meets the second Saturday in Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec. This info is from a handout recently received though with 2016 dates. Check e-mail at: womenvetstulsa@gmail.com.

-An OK Woman Veterans Recognition day is noted as Oct 21-22 at the Windham Hotel. Again, check these dates at the e-mail above.

-They are also looking for folks to donate unused I-PODS that can be cleaned and donated to the Claremore Veterans Hospital.
2. The Tulsa World is expanding its "Serving Our Country" series. It is expanding beyond WWII to Korea, and Vietnam. If you could recommend a vet for a possible interview on such conflicts, please send the name, contact information, branch of service and a few service details to bobby.marshall@tulsaworld.com.
3. If you need and help with the VA or other military related item, Congressman Bridenstine's assistant Ashley Wells at his office at 91-8935-3222 from 9 to 5 may be able to help.

-Also, Jim Bridenstine is holding a free, open house at the Mabee Center at ORU on April 11, from 6:30 to 8 PM. Questions focusing on homeland security, our broken healthcare system, ISIS etc. can be posed to Jim for your information.

3.A A second source of vets governmental and regulatory help is Senator Jim Inhofe's assistant, Kristen Moore, at 918-748-5111.

4. The National VA Air Gun Outreach Series will be held in Tulsa for Disabled Vets, or Armed Forces Members. Initial training day is Saturdays April 1 from 8:30 to 3 PM. Following classes and competition will be Fridays from 10 to noon 4/7 to 5/19.

Location: Paralympic Sport Club Tulsa, The Center for individuals with physical challenges, 815 S. Utica Ave., Tulsa, OK 74104. Registration was supposed to be held by March 20, but call Margie Crossno at 918-794-4510 for info. mcrossno@tulsacenter.org, or Burt McLachlan 918-794-4516, bmclachlan@tulsacenter.org.

4.Hideaway Pizza benefit night: April 5 from 4 to 9:30 PM the store at 1150 N. 9th Street in Broken Arrow will donate 15% of proceeds to the Broken Arrow Blue Star Mothers organization. The store is at 918-286-1777.

-Another, similar Blue Star fund raiser will be at Cane's Chicken Fingers, April 18th from 10 AM to 8 PM. This store is located at 11301 E. 96th Street, Owasso. Tel: 918-376-9426.

-A third Blue Star event is "the Run," Sunday May 7th, 2 to 7 PM. Come out to meet the Tulsa Oilers Mascot, live music, and a silent auction.

-A Poker Run will be held June 24. Registration starts at 9:00 AM at the Military History Museum, 112 N. Main Street in Broken Arrow. There will be a new route this year, more info to come. For info on this activity, call Rochelle Maciha at 918-261-7204.

-Call Susan Thesenvitz at 918-808-0747 for more info. Go to www.babbluestar.org for more information as well as a full 2017 activity calendar.

5. A new group, BlueGrass/Country Gospel and Variety Shows will try to help give a dog to a vet. Their first monthly show was held March 16th at 6 PM in the Veterans Memorial Building, 903 W. Main Street, Collinsville. Call Ray Page, Program Director at cell, 918-237-7664 or home at 918-553-8596 for current show dates and locations.

6. As previously reported the VA is expanding coverage and making coverage easier to get for those exposed to hazardous water for 30 or more days at Camp Lejeune from August, 1953 through Dec. 31, 1987. Contact the VA for more details.

7. The BA Blue Star Mothers will be at the Tulsa Oilers VS Wichita Thunder hockey game Saturday, April 8th at 7:05 PM. A block party, raffle drawing and more! Tickets may be ordered at 918-632-7825. Support our troops until they come home!

8. A reminder the NObesity Revolution 2 K walk will be held at VFW Post 577 Saturday, May 20 from 8 AM to 1 PM. Location 1109 E. 6th St. Tulsa.

9. Veterans Assistance for in home companion services can be had through Interim Healthcare. Call Monica, 918-749-9933, monicaw@interimok.com for program coverage and qualifying details.

10. For vets looking for work for 5 months or more, Work Ready Oklahoma has free resources to help get you hired. There may even be tuition assistance for those who qualify. This group deals in rapid reemployment, job training, career advancement etc.

Contact WR at 405-418-3923, or apply on line at: apply.workreadyoklahoma.com

Information sessions: March 28th, TCC NE Campus, 4-6 PM, March 29, TCC Metro Campus, 11 AM – 1 PM. Call 918-378-3369 for questions.

11. Tulsa Blue Star Mothers, OK1, have relocated effective Friday, March 17th to 907 S. Detroit Avenue, Suite 128, Tulsa, OK 74112 (in the old Sunoco building.) bluestarmothersok@sbcglobal.net, www.okbluestarmothers.org

-Tuesday, March 28th, Kendra Scott Jewelry in Utica Square from 5 to 7 PM. 20% of her sales will go to the Tulsa Blue Star Mothers. Champagne and bites will be served.

12. Project Veterans Assistance, Assisting vets and their families in dealing with and getting aid and benefits from the VA Call Steven M. Juett, 918-523-9933, e-mail: sjuett@swbell.net. This is broad scope help for vets and their families. No fees are charged.

13. A Remembrance Day Walk, to be held on Sunday, April 23 at 1:45 PM, from Rivergate Church parking lot, ½ mile to the Jewish Federation. This is to remember the Holocaust and horrors of the death camps such as Dachau. For more information call 918-851-0651 or 918-728-4296, e-mail: tulsamofremembrance@gmail.com.

14. Tid Bit: March 17th in Oklahoma, is the Oklahoma Vietnam Veterans remembrance day. The National Vietnam Day is in June.

15. Tulsa is only one of two USA cities who have a Medal of Honor Day. It is on April 29th with ceremonies the day before (the 28th) at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum and at Floral Haven's military area the 29th.

16. Aspen Dental will be having a vets assistance day fairly soon. I will get dates and coverage for you. I know last year, they did a Saturday Vets Day with free fillings and extractions.

17. For seniors aged 60 and older, LIFE offers **free** IRS certified volunteers to help for those making less than \$54,000. You must schedule a phone appointment for this free service. Call LIFE Senior Services at 918-664-9000 and ask to be connected to the Tax Assistance Appointment Reservation Line.

-An online program, MyFreeTaxes, does 100% free federal and state preparation through software powered by H & R Block. This is free if you made less than \$64,000 in 2016. Check myfreetaxes.com.

18. The Medical Assistance Program ("MAP") of the State of Oklahoma has a free Medicare program flyer showing what presentative service, how often it is allowed as well as added details such as coverage etc. For example, for cardiovascular screenings, they are allowed every 5 years if no apparent symptoms, with 100% Medicare coverage.

-You can get this chart toll free at 800-763-2828 or at www.map.oid.ok.gov.

19. Kimberly Clark again had a representative at the Mayor's Meeting to state they had an employment point person at their plant to hire vets.

20. The State DAV will have a vets job fair at the Cox business center on April 13. Those who cannot attend can go to DAV.org for online job fair attendance.

21. The Mayor's office, per assistant Amy Brown, has noted they are start collection of services and servers of military care givers for vets. If you have a site or entity to contribute to this project, try sending it to hiddenheros.org.

22. The Wings of Freedom Tour comes to Tulsa Wednesday, 3/29 through 3/31. They fly in a B-17 and B-24 and a TF-51D. Flights are available. This will be at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum on the north side of the Tulsa Airport. Check with TASM for admission fees and hours and flight costs.

23. Reminder, The Chosin Few, vets from that Korea battle, meet the 3rd Saturday at the Golden Corral on 21st Street at 9:30 AM.

24. The Warrior Partnerships of Eastern Oklahoma is a community collaboration to mobilize Eastern Oklahoma as a "veteran ready region" to best address the needs of returning veterans and their families or caregivers. Main focus areas are: employment, education, mental health, housing basic needs and outreach and social opportunities for reintegration.

-This site also is a portal with many other community and veterans services available with a single mouse click.

-csctulsa.org/warrior-partnerships-eastern-ok/

(This brings you to five pages of info and services germane to our eastern Oklahoma vets and their families.)

-Their main site phone is 918-585-5551

25. Reminder: On the 2nd Tuesday of the month, service folks can informally meet at Oklahoma Joe's BBQ, W of the corner 61st and Sheridan. Joe's gives a free room to the vets, where there is no agenda but vets chat and are responsible for their own purchases.

26. The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 589.(POC is Mitch Reed, mitch@valornet.com) meets at Floral Haven Family Center on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. www.purpleheart.org.

27. Presidential Memorial Certificates. It has been determined there is no time limit to request, for example, a certificate for a deceased Vietnam soldier. A DD 214 and death certificate will be required. The certificate will be signed by the current, not past President. For additional information, call 800-455-7143.

28. The 2017 Riverwalk 4th Annual Rally by the American Veterans Motorcycle Club, Tulsa Chapter, will be on Saturday, June 24th at 6 PM at the Jenks Riverwalk. Live music will be by Dirty Erin, a Kid Zone, a 6 to 7 PM Happy Hour and a 7 to 9 PM Raffle and Silent Auction.

29. Military OneSource offers free tax preparation and consultation and electronic filing and more to eligible service and family members. Call 800-342-9647 or click on MilitaryOneSource.mil.

In closing, the next Mayor's Veterans Council Meeting will be April 20, same time, same place.

Several Added, Handy Phone Numbers Might Be:

Sandy Oxford, Eastgate Vets Center	918-628-2760
Coffee Bunker	918-637-3878
DAV (Tuesday –Thursday)	918-834-4643
VFW Post 577	918-585-9148
Amy Brown, Tulsa Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff	918-596-7484