



The American Legion Mohawk Post #308

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2/23/2017

From: George Nonamaker, Commander, Post 308, Tulsa, OK

To: American Legion Post Commanders in the Tulsa, Oklahoma Area.

FYI: Post 308 has the volunteer services of a Public Information Officer, Craig Treiber.

One of our PIO's duties is to attend the Tulsa Mayor's Monthly Veterans Advisory Council. This is a group of service agencies, small to larger entities as well as individuals who have a focus on helping area veterans and their families. At the first meeting of 2017, about ninety folks attended; representing about 45 or 50 different veteran aid organizations.

This group is under the supervision of Sandra (Sandy) Oxford, Office Manager of the Tulsa Veterans Center in the Eastgate Complex, 14002 East 21st Street, Suite 200, Tulsa, OK 74134. Phone 918-628-2760. Her e-mail is Sandra.oxford@va.gov.

-This group meets at the VFW facility, 1109 6th Street on the third Thursday of each month, with the group coming to order at 2 PM. For those interested, the VFW kitchen has a lunch available for \$6.00, starting at 1 PM.

The range of available help, aid, education, training and more is very significant to and for Tulsa area veterans and their families. However, there has not been any way to share what is available from this group's participants without each Post sending a representative to this meeting.

I have asked our Mohawk Post 308 PIO to keep attending these meetings AND to prepare a written synopsis of the main presentations which could benefit members of all the Tulsa County American Legion Posts. He will be doing this monthly so all Tulsa County Post Commanders may share this information with their membership as they may see fit.

Mr. Treiber, PIO, will prepare a draft memo for our Post 308 management review and approval. A final, informative note can then be sent by e-mail by our PIO to the various Post Commanders. In this way, valuable veteran information will get to each Post for helping the members of that post.

Should you have any thoughts or comments on this concept, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

George Nonamaker
Commander, Mohawk Post 308
Tulsa, OK

CC: Craig Treiber, PIO, Sandra Oxford, VA Eastgate Center

Attachment: Tulsa Mayors Meeting Advisory #1 and #2

Important Note:

1. Using "Post Locater," I have created a data base of American Legion Posts within 50 miles of Tulsa.
2. Using available spreadsheets, there are 34 Legion Posts within the target area.
3. Of the 34 Posts, I have a contact e-mail for 29 Posts.
4. This leaves 15 Posts with no e-mail currently known by me.
5. I will address this initial project over view to the known e-mail addresses.
6. I will endeavor to contact the remaining Posts in the near future to bring this contact list to as close as having the e-mail address of all 34 Posts as is reasonably possible.

If your Post has a new or different e-mail address or contact, please send your changes to me at clt13@aol.com, or to me, Craig Treiber at Mohawkpost308@gmail.com. Please put "Mayors Council" in the subject line.

Veteran's Advisory Council Meeting, January 19, 2017, Advisory #1. New items and any changes from Meeting #2, February 16, have been incorporated or added as noted. The recent meeting was very fast paced to permit all to speak so several new items went by faster than I could write. I assume I will catch any missed in the next meeting.

General Resources

Should you have any questions on the following or on any specific veteran's issue, you may call Sandy at the Eastgate VA office at 918-628-2760. She or one of her

assistants can help you or point you to a specific person or entity to address your question or get the aid you or your veteran may need.

A second general resource is the Coffee Bunker located at 6365 East 41st Street just west of Sheridan. The contact number there is 918-637-3878. Over 16,000 reported guests visited this location in 2016 with over 25,000 expected in 2017. Their contact is www.coffeebunker.org.

On VA disability issues, the DAV (Disabled American Veterans,) Tuesday through Thursday, is an excellent source of help dealing with anything from preparing VA disability submissions through the rest of the process. They are at 3131 East Pine St., Tulsa, OK 74110, phone 918-834-4643.

Congressman Jim Bridenstine's office is a solid resource on legislative issues, Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM. Telephone number: 918-935-3222, FAX 918-925-2716.

Presentations and or Introductions were made by the following. There is no ranking or relative importance assigned to these notes.

The VA Office noted the recent Holiday Period had been a very hectic time with many vets and their families requesting information or financial assistance. Sandy noted that especially the Blue Star Mothers group of Broken Arrow and the Coffee Bunker as well as individual volunteers had stepped up to the bar to help those in need. Kudos were given to all that helped our needy vets and families get through the Holiday month of December.

April: an 11 mile out, 11 mile back RUCKSACK Walk will be put on by the Coffee Bunker and the Broken Arrow Blue Star Mothers. More info to come. They are also having a bake sale and much more that routinely helps vets, especially as deployed. Phone 918-259-9479, e-mail: babluestars@yahoo.com.

OK VA: a new Liaison, Chief of Quality and Safety, and an Acting Chief of Logistics will help the VA do a better and more timely quality veteran care operation. An office is in the VA 41st Street Childers Medical Center Tulsa location.

- New signage at 41st Street should help parking and other issues.
- Larry Jordan, (USAF) Veteran Service Officer, 918-628-2566
- Keli Ingrsham (USAF) Veteran Service Representative, 918-628-2579
- Cody Wyatt, VA NE OK, Claims and Benefits Programs Administrator, 918-348-4901

A new website, www.vets.gov is available to find veteran care.

- This is to compliment www.myhealthivet.gov where vets can go to deal with medical issues, records, renew and/or track prescription renewals and more.
- www.unitedveteranscare.com is another new source for volunteer info, where to get medical appliances such as wheelchairs etc.

The 2017 Tulsa Veteran's Stand Down will be September 16th. The focal point will be the First United Methodist Church at 1115 South Boulder.

New Mayor GT Bynum had his Deputy Chief of Staff, Amy Brown, attend our meeting to learn and hear how the Mayor can help area veterans and their families.

A January 13, 2017 VA memo has described the diseases fostered by the contaminated water in, at and under Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 to December 31, 1987.

A Nobesity Revolution 2 K walk will kick off at the VFW on 6th Street with registration starting at 8 AM with the actual walk at 10 AM. An "After" Party will be from 11 AM to 1 PM.

There will be a Veterans Employment Group job fair January 25th at Eastgate Workforce Center, 14002 E. 21st Street, Suite 1030. This will be from 9 to 11 AM.

The Cherokee Nation has a National Grant to help displaced vets with new training as well as some funding during the training periods and help finding new work at the end of the training. In addition to the vet getting fully paid, no charge training, an employer hiring the individual can get up to 75% wage refunds for up to 6 months.

-Contact Cherokee Nation Career Services, Tulsa, 918-574-2749. There are other offices in NE OK. This is NOT a Native American Preference Program.

Tulsatech.edu has many courses and avenues available for vets. www.tulsatech.edu or 918-828-5000. Tuition and other help may be available at up to no charge basis for the duration of the selected course.

Goodwill, Tulsaworks, has multiple programs to help vets get back into the workplace. Contact Parrish McDaris, MA, Tulsaworks Coordinator, 2800 Southwest Blvd, 918-584-7291, www.goodwilltulsa.org.

Sandy reviewed the VA Form for Vets to claim for travel reimbursement F10-3542, and Form 10325, to state your advance medical disclosure permissions through TRIWEST et al. A form was discussed where a vet can pre-state his/her wishes for end of life issues such as burial in a VA National Cemetery etc. Get VA Form # 40-10007

Vets needing legal assistance may contact www.legalaidok.org or calling 888-534-5243 to discuss qualifying for free civil legal assistance.

Vets looking to become homeowners may contact Kari McVey at Chinowth and Cohen at 918-894-8448 to discuss issues and items of importance to vets.

Volunteers of America discussed efforts to care for homeless vets in terms of training, paychecks, outreach, work tools and clothing assistance and more. Try

www.voaok.org, 918-307-3046, 918-307-3049, 918-307-3035 will reach ex-service personnel as Employment Consultants, Veteran Outreach Liaison etc.

RAPHA Caregivers can help vets get and or provide living assistance for in home vet care. Care cost is dependent upon the situation and ability to pay. Phone 918-629-9003 in Tulsa for further information.

Also, Roserock Healthcare honors vets for their service and has much info available concerning veteran's care and hospice issues. www.roserockhealthcare.com, 918-236-4866.

New Horizons Computer Learning Centers noted they can help with new resumes, interview planning, using LinkedIn and more. Further info is available through Rochelle Capps, Rochelle.capps@nhwd.com, phone 405-516-4000 ext. 2761.

Morton Comprehensive Health Services discussed Caregiver education and information. Call 918-295-6154.

It was noted that THREE area schools had attained MILITARY FRIENDLY status: Community Care College, Cleary Sage College and Oklahoma Technical College have all achieved this honor. These three are in the TOP TEN Military Friendly Colleges Nationwide. Check out www.communityhighered.org for further info.

-These Oklahoma schools have now been recently awarded top 10 status in the US for being veteran's spouse friendly.

The Oklahoma National Guard had a presentation on helping deployed and returning vets and families find employment and other issues. 918-228-5571.

The Vietnam Veterans of Tulsa helps needy vets do therapeutic horseback riding and more. This takes place each Wednesday at the Tulsa Boys Home.

The 138 Fighter Wing had over 300 at their Christmas Party and handed out over 21 food baskets to needy families.

The Tulsa Air Guard has a family assistance group to help member military families who have help gaps with other vets assistance, including Holiday needs and issues.

Female vets can call 918-810-6703 for info and help with female vet issues.

G.I. Wishes can find "a pet for a vet," a home for a deploying vets pet, and more call 918-640-5574. They are also looking for emergency vet caregivers to help in unplanned deployments etc.

Vets can call Oklahoma Vets Employment Service as a help source: 918-224-9430.

Vets and their families can get Ball Gowns at \$25 to \$100 for a military ball or dining out or prom. NE OK and Tulsa area call 918-833-7732.

Charitable Solutions, in addition to non-vet fundraising, has raised funds for the Claremore VA and the Coffee Bunker (918-6976-9113.) This group also does various vet retraining such as insurance adjuster at various levels etc.

The OK DAV will be holding a statewide vets only job fair in Tulsa from 11 to 3 on April 13. Details on location to come as available. Normal employer show up is about 50 companies with up to 330 vets getting hired. JOBS.DAV.ORG may be visited for further information.

FYI: VA Muskogee has upped claims processing by 24% to help pay vets bills in a more timely manner.

Kimberly Clark has a hiring specialist to assist vets in joining this company.

A Missing Man table ceremony will take place in Broken Arrow at the Military History Museum on March 17, in the 6 to 7 PM window.

April 29th is the Medal Of Honor Day. Ceremonies will take place April 29th at Veteran's Park at Floral Haven Cemetery.

The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary is selling a large cookbook of local and other recipes to help support funding for youth attending the Boys Club and the Girls Club. The book costs \$25.00.

LegalShield came to their first meeting. This firm can help vets with legal issues.

At the February 22, 2017 Meeting, Sandy sadly reported we have lost a 44 year old lady vet and a 25 year old male marine recently. Suicide among female veterans returning to civilian life but not having any ties or involvement with support personnel and/or services is in excess of 95%. This is just plain shocking. Please, if you see, know or run into any vet having trouble coping with either civilian life or the transition back to civilian life, please pass on the following veterans crisis line 1-800-273-8255, press 1. Folks there can help those in quandary or at odds with themselves or their world to cope to see another day, week, month or more. Guys and gals, you were our brothers and sisters. Please draw on us in your time of need. Locally, you can also call the VA at Eastland for help or to share your issues with: call 918-628-2760.

In closing, there were several other folks who just introduced themselves or presented 'quickie' observations. I have tried to capture and incorporate such as well as new support suppliers etc. at following Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council Meetings.

Should you have any comments or observations, please forward same by e-mail to:

Mohawkpost308@gmail.com to my attention.

Respectfully,

Craig Treiber, PIO Mohawk Post 308, Tulsa

To American Legion Posts

#1, 10, 15, 17, 20, 36, 101, 105, 110, 126, 131, 142, 153, 161, 226, 227, 308, 403, 1800.

In Limbo, American Legion Posts with unknown e-mail addresses:

#2, 60, 95, 98, 103, 108, 128, 141, 182, 196, 237, 240, 241, 334, 337.

A copy has been requested by:

Sandra Oxford, VA

Jim Holman, President, All Veterans Association

Pete Luitwieler, Warrior Partnership of Eastern Oklahoma

Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 589, Mitch Reed, Commander

Tulsa DAV

Post 577, VFW

Coffee Bunker, Tulsa

