



The American Legion Mohawk Post #308

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Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council Meeting: August 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Sandy Oxford at 2 PM.

Notes:

1. There is no order or ranking within this presentation.
2. Entities which have been present in the past are not always repetitively listed in each month's presentation. Please refer to past presentations for a more complete listing.
3. Those who spoke quietly or indistinctly are most likely not recorded hereinafter.

The Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff, Amy Brown, was again able to attend our meeting. She again noted the Mayor's Office is available to help with any veteran or City related problem or issue.

A date to save: Saturday, September 16th. At 11 AM, The Military History Center, 112 North Main Street, BA will hold a POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Center. A one hour ceremony will be held starting at 11 AM. The Museum will be open from 10 to 2, with free admission.

The All Veterans Association Nurse handed out a three page flyer on stroke prevention to those at their last meeting. (In reading this, I DID learn new and more detailed information. CT) A copy is provided.

It was noted that Macy's is hiring, especially vets. You can apply online at macysjobs.com. This is for multiple positions and jobs at the Consumer Fulfilment Center, 7120 East 76th St. N in Owasso. Many positions are open!

The Director for NE Oklahoma Health Systems was proud to announce that the new Idabel VA Health Center will open September 22.

- Also noted was the expansion of dental facilities in Tulsa at 51st and Yale.
- Mental Health in Tulsa at 11th Street was also to be expanded.
- A new, 140,000 ft² Tulsa VA facility is in the works to replace the 40,000 ft² Childers Center. This is up to 4 years out but is moving ahead.
- More parking for the Childers Center is in progress.

DAV Oklahoma, with Oklahoma Women's Veterans Organization, Tulsa Chapter 1212, notes an upcoming MST Workshop training chapter service officers at Northeastern State University Auditorium, 3100 E. New Orleans Street, BA on Friday, September 8 from 8:30 to 3:30. Advance registration and reservation of box lunches may be done to christinas258@gmail.com.

The Stop Loss Foundation will held a meeting August 19th at noon at the Christ Church Gym, 10901 S. Yale to overview their vets services in a consignment shop, box truck hauling, yard storage and cleanup, disaster and emergency services and more. Regular contact info was not otherwise given.

Veteran Services noted at the Childers Center, they had moved over to adjacent to the lab area.

Again, the Eagle Ops Group at Americom Technologies reminded us they are working hard to have the largest runner team ever at the November 4th DAV 5K run. Their pledge is "No Runner Left Behind." To join: <http://donate.dav.org/goto/TEAMEAGLE> OPS. E-Mail: Eagleops@americomtg.com. A team sponsorship info and donation sheet was also provided.

The Red Cross noted their need for blood is very strong this year during the summer.

-An October 7 "Sound The Alarms" day will be held to install free smoke alarms. Volunteer installers are needed. See their flyer.

Our Congressional Liaison for NE Oklahoma noted they are available to help vets in need.

The Muskogee Indian Tribal Group noted they are having a focus on suicide prevention. This will include a community walk, September 9, from LaFortune Park. Registration/check in at 3:15 PM, walk begins at 4:15. Contact Daphne Hillhouse, 918-616-9813. A ribbon was provided to be worn in September.

The Barracks in Muskogee is holding BIKELAHOMA, October 7th, 2-11 PM to raise funds for this new veteran's support facility. This will be at Hatbox Field, in Muskogee. Live music, food, military displays and more will be featured. Info: info@thepclz.com or call 918-729-5365.

VFW, Post 577 will hold a POW/MIA Recognition Day September 15, 12:00 PM at their 1109 E. 6th Street, Tulsa facility. Phone 918-585-9148 for further information.

-A luncheon will be held September 13 at their location. This buffet will be \$6.00 and focus and talk on "Glad Wags Dog Training" by a professional dog trainer.

-The Post reminded us they focus on vets support, both at their 6th street location and on location as/if may be appropriate.

GI Wishes noted their Gold Tourney was postponed to the Fall of 2018. They noted they had found a good home for the needy German Shepherd.

The BA Blue Star Mothers reminded up their gold tourney is approaching quickly. Registration was suggested to be in the near term to make certain of inclusion in this event.

- Bunco-Rama will be held Thursday, October 26th, at 6:30 PM for dinner, with bunco at 7:30. This will be at St. Anne's Parish Hall, 301 S. 9th Street, BA. The all inclusive cost will be \$12.00 per person. For information call Susan Thesenvitz, 918-808-0747.

- A golf scramble on August 28th was also noted.

Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC) provided a flyer on becoming part of their organization in Oklahoma to improve the quality of life to Oklahoma veterans and their families. An October 14 chili cook-off is planned. Contact Lonnie Bacon at Lonnie.r.bacon.ctr@mail.mil.

Volunteers of America with other support groups, is sponsoring a military vets ONLY hiring event Wednesday, September 27th, 10 AM to 2 PM, at American Legion Post 1, 1120 E. 8th Street, Tulsa. For Info call 919-348-0567.

It was reported the recent veterans and first responder bass tourney was a success. 45 boats caught 44 fish. The picnic after the fishing had over 150 in attendance. Next year's event is tentatively scheduled for April 14, 2018.

The Eastern Oklahoma VA Health Care System will hold a mental health summit August 25th from 9 AM to 4:30 PM at the Hardesty Regional Library in Tulsa, located at 8316 East 93rd Street. Registration is free but seating is limited. Contact Dr. River Smith, at 918-610-2004 or river.smith@va.gov.

The Tulsa Air National Guard reminded us of the September 16 festivities at the Tulsa Airbase for families, friends and service members celebrating the founding of the US Air Force and more. See previous minutes for contact information.

The 2nd Annual Oscar Kilo Memorial Ride was announced by the Elks Lodge, 5335 South Harvard, Tulsa. This rain or shine event will help support families of fallen soldiers. This 14 mile ride in honor of the 14 Oklahoma National Guardsmen killed during OEF 2011-2012. The ride is \$20. Registration and breakfast 8:00 AM, Kickstands up at 10:00 AM. Contact the Elks facility for more info. The Elks raise funds for vets and other needy groups.

Soldiers Wish is holding a "Shoot for a Wish" event November 4th for 4 person teams (\$500) or \$130 for individuals. 9 AM registration to 4:45 wind up. Shells, targets, lunch provided. Prizes and trophies for 1, 2, and 3rd. Raffle and auction to be held. Location Tulsa Gun Club, 8888 E. Mohawk Blvd. North, Tulsa. Tulsagunclub.com. Phone: tonyh@soldierswish.org

Tulsa Tech reminded us that vets are eligible for tuition free courses of up to a year and more within 15 years of their service.

DAV noted they will have a car show at the Coweta DAV on Main Street.

VFW Skiatook noted they had received 5 submissions for their writing contest towards funds for the winners. A card noting the five signs of mental illness was handed out. A total of \$1.25 million was noted as raised last month as veteran's awards. The VFW was noted as available to help vets with claims issues.

The Childers transitional care team was noted as available to especially care for post 911 vets.

The Kimberly Clark veterans hiring coordinator was at this meeting, as is normal.

The Eastern Oklahoma VA Medical System Transitional Care Management Program held a discussion group at the Coffee Bunker August 18th. For further info on upcoming meetings/discussion groups, call Pagette Beaty at 918-913-5893 or Kevin Michael at 918-628-2601.

Tulsa Vet Center Open House Benefit Day. To all vets and their families seeking federal, state and community veteran's resources. Come September 9th from 10 AM-3 PM. Location 14002 E. 21st Street, Tulsa, @ Eastland Mall, SE Entrance. Bring a copy of your DD214/WD5355.

-The vet center also has now available FREE guitar lessons. This will be available to vets eligible for vet services. Call 918-628-2760, www.vetcenter.va.gov.

BWD Ranch has available internships for those, especially vets, who would like to learn more about farming or who needed a light work natural environment. Internships can be as short as 30 days but 3 months are encouraged to better learn how the operation works. Call Ingrid Huffman at 918-470-2056 or Ingrid@bluewindsdancing.net for further information or to submit an application.

Warrior Partnerships of Eastern Oklahoma (WPEO) is an excellent resource for veterans here in Oklahoma. They have a website at wpeo.cstulsa.org. This includes a top notch monthly newsletter for veterans and their families, info on activities and events for member vets, resources available to vets and how to contact such locations, job fairs including US Postal jobs, Habitat for Humanity activities and schedules and much, much more.

-A contact name here is Peter Luitwieler, Community Coordinator, Community Service Council.

For those interested, Habitat For Humanity will be hold another "build" on September 30. As usual, volunteers are needed. The first 15 get a free T shirt, with Mazzio's pizza for lunch for all.

The next Mayor's Veteran's Advisory Council meeting will be Thursday, September 21st.

Aside: Sorry for the delay for this report. I was a bad person and went up to Kansas to see the eclipse. The event was awesome, as was the return traffic.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Treiber, PAO
Mohawk Post 308
American Legion
Tulsa, OK