



The American Legion Mohawk Post #308

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Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council October Meeting (10/19/2017)

The meeting was called to order by the VA 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. When an entity does not provide a hand out or flyer, and then speaks quietly or indistinctly, this writer will usually miss their message.
4. Any information of value to participants that is gleaned from other sources may be included herein.

CORRECTION: The correct donation information to donate for the construction of the Gold Star Monument is to make checks payable to:

All Veterans Association, Inc.
(Gold Star Monument)

Mail to:

All Veterans Association, Inc.
4815 S. Harvard STE 138
Tulsa, OK 74135

Any Questions? Call Jim Holman, 918-747-5554

The VA has an ongoing agreement with Walgreen Drug Stores (over 8,000 nationwide) for Vets to get free flu shots at Walgreens. A VA picture ID is supposedly needed. Use Group ID "VAFLU." Be aware, there are two strength doses of flu vaccine, the regular dose and a stronger dose for those over 65 and/or with medical issues. Ask the resident pharmacy folks which one is appropriate in your case.

The Veteran's Day Parade will be in Friday, November 10th so school kids can attend. American Legion Post 308 will have a veterans food event after the parade at their Garnett and East Admiral Place facility. The last Parade meeting will be November 8th at 11 AM at VFW Post 577.

The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges, at 11th and Utica, (815 S. Utica, 918-584-8607) has started to help with vets physical fitness and rehabiliatee. Vickie Holler, noted that and work before Veteran's Day can be free for all activities and sports. After this date, a \$20 per month fee will be charged for facility use. However, this fee can be dropped to \$10 depending on need.

- A complementary week for vets will be November 6-10. .

- If unsure of your disability, they serve diabetes, strokes, chronic pain, MS, amputees, spinal cord and back injuries and more.

- Vets must show a valid VA ID or DD214.

The VA Regional Office in Muskogee noted many activities and open house events will be held during Veteran's Month in November. On November 8th there will be a webcast, on November 11th, ceremonies will be held at Ft. Gibson.

- It was noted over 47,000 disability claims had been processed YTD: a record! However, about 2,400 applications are pending. The phone center has processed over 3 million calls YTD.

- Also noted was that USA JOBS had many job openings, including call center operators in Muskogee.

- The new Bartlesville VA Center will open later this year.

The Oklahoma Employment Security Group noted another job fair

On Thursday, October 26th at the Eastgate Metroplex, 14002 E. 21st Street. Bring your resume! It opens at 9 AM for Vets and will be open from 10 AM to 2 PM for the general public.

- Over 88 employers will be there looking to hire vets before the 2nd week of November, if possible.

The American Veteran's Motorcycle Club will have a 2018 billiards tourney, and their Riverwalk Rally will be June 16th next year.

The Community Food Banks of Eastern Oklahoma noted about 24% of their vets need some sort of help or support, especially with food.

PAM Rehabilitation Hospital of Tulsa is celebrating its grand opening on Tuesday, November 7th from 4-7 PM. This is located at 10020 East 91st Street. Events include cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, music and more. RSVP to Jamie Mckee Evans at 918-940-8803.

Veterans in BA may take a 2017 BA survey on line which deals, in part, on the proposed BA Veterans Building. This on line survey is located at BASurvey.com.

The BA military museum received a signed picture of the new USS Tulsa, signed by the visiting crewmen.

A trailer for food and other donations will be in BA November 10 and 11th before being driven to Houston to help recent hurricane victims. The Military Museum will have location information.

A Barnett Quad 400 Crossbow with scope is the prize of a raffle to support vets. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Call Gin at 918-645-7087 or Scott at 918-694-2727 for tickets or further information. You do not need to be present to win!

Goodwill was again in attendance. They noted they have many classes and resources to help vets. They are on Southwest Boulevard in their large building at about 2800 SW Blvd.

Tulsa Tech again noted they are available with many free courses for vets that are not counted as use of GI Bill benefits. These classes are available to vets within 15 years of their separation from service.

The Andy Coleman for Congress group had a speaker noting Andy's campaign for US Congress, Oklahoma 1. He is a Republican candidate.

The Veteran's Day Parade will have many gather at the VFW for a breakfast starting at 7 AM. American Legion Post 1 will have a BBQ after the parade.

Primerica, an insurance company, had Rebecca Anne Gray, Regional Vice President, was present and handed out services flyers. Her mobile is 918-200-5366, with e-mail at rebecca.gray@primerica.com.

Chinowth and Cohen Realtors associate Khari McVey noted with a flyer that with her husband, they founded at 3% Artisans of Oklahoma Foundation, a veteran nonprofit that teaches vets new skills. She is also involved with Oklahoma Veterans Project helping homeless or at risk vets and their families. They are currently working towards finding land to proceed with a veteran tiny home community. Her phone is 918-894-8448, kmcvey@CCTULSA.COM.

St. John's Hospice Program noted an ongoing and continual need for vets hospice volunteers to be with needy vets at home or in hospice situations. Their group, Ascension at home, provides care and help to end-of-life bereavement care. They have a very good flyer outlining their care and involvement. Call 918-877-4697, fax 844-726-0687, e-mail: linda.buck@ahah.net.

TU had a first time representative at the meeting. He noted that there was tuition assistance available for vets as well as job placement assistance upon graduation.

A group helps lady vets with a college recruiter representing three local colleges. This group is combined with TU. They also take part in food drives with the Coffee Bunker. Their group also sends care packages to overseas vets.

The BA Blue Star Mothers again had their office vandalized. They handed out several flyers including another bunko flyer, (It was noted bunko is for men too!) Bunko is Thursday, October 26th. Blue Star Office: 918-259-9479.

-An ongoing need for money donations was noted as it costs over \$15 to send each vet's package overseas and between 100-300 are sent every month.

The BA Blue Star Mothers presented a Charity Challenge in conjunction with the new Stoney Creek Hotel in BA. This is a detailed offering, so it is suggested those interested, contact Misty.miller@stoneycreekhoteles.com. Tickets are \$10 each, or 10 tickets get you a free night at the hotel. A single ticket gets a coupon for use at the bar or gift shop. Phone and contact numbers are available on many previous Meeting Reports.

GI Wishes needs to place a good dog who lived with a vets who has gone into the hospital. The dog is a 5 year old female German Shepard, with all shots, good with folks but a bit edge with other female dogs. Contact GIWishes.org, call 918-477-7606, or e-mail giwishesfoundation@cox.net. If not this dog, keep these folks in mind as they often have to help service men and women.

The workready OK group noted they help those unemployed for 6 or months with assistance in IT, business and finance and more. They have 1 to 2 years group funding left. Call 918-796-1246.

The Coffee Bunker noted it will move to a Lutheran Church for Christmas Holiday Food.

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs recognized Ashley Wells, Constituent Services Caseworker for Congressman Bridenstine, for her most excellent support of our veterans. They also noted a petition was available for signatures to keep Ashley local if Congressman Bridenstine gets the NASA position and relocates away from Tulsa.

Volunteers of America noted their availability to help vets find employment, do resumes and other job related activities. In some cases, financial help may be available.

Legal Services of Oklahoma noted they still provide civil help to vets.

Jim Inhoff's representative gave a report on his activities.

Senator Lankford's representative noted he was very busy in Washington, but to any vets needing help, to please contact his office for assistance.

Mitch Reed, OK Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart, noted Bixby will become a Purple Heart City on Saturday, with Collinsville and Barnstall to come.

Amy Brown of the Mayor's office was present and noted if you don't call, they can't help you!

DAV noted they needed volunteers for the upcoming 5 K Run. They noted Tulsa is the 5K national home city for this event. Multiple teams were noted as trying to out fund the others! Eagle Ops is still trying to be the largest team in the nation. -The ROTC group of young adults Dan Snow works with was challenged to raise about \$850 to cover group expenses. They blew this goal away with \$2,200 in raised funds. This group will have 22 rucks in the 5 K race.

A Veterans Appreciation Day will be held at the Sapulpa Workforce Center, 1700 S. Main Street. Contact 918-224-9430.

A survey of current veterans was received. It deals with information on support activities and groups available to current vets. The survey is attached. When completed, it may be e-mailed to: okvetscouncil@att.net Regular mail to: OK Vet Council, 6108 NW 63rd, Oklahoma City, OK 73132.

Sandy closed the meeting noting the coming Holiday Season is always a rough time for vets and her office. She noted if anyone saw, met or knew of a vet in trouble, have them call her office or the National Hotline.

November 16 was noted to be the last 2017 Meeting before 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

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