

Veterans Alliance Coalition Meeting – October 18, 2017

Issue: Veterans going around to VFW and American Legion HOP to collect money. I.e. screen Veterans before giving them benefits.

James Dukes – DAV29 Commander : (254)258-3109

Verify individual is a veteran, i.e. DD214, retirement ID card and a document or bill with the veteran's name on it. Harker Heights area. Reminder to call and check in with other VFW's in area to see if they have picked up benefits from surrounding VFW's and are trying to work the system.

Mac – President of "wreath riders" – American Legion 573

Fort Hood area. Within the American Legion there are a ton of different sectors raising money ("Sons of" etc.), all non-profit. Don't mind giving money away, just want to get it to the right people. A lot of people attempt to take advantage of the system, especially around the holidays. During this time you also see a lot of real need, between battered women's shelters, food shelters, etc. However, there are a ton of different resources out there when you think of churches and other donation organizations. American Legion is based on military doctrine, the structure includes a Chaplin, service officers, "chain of command" within the executive board. System for donations now primarily is veterans submitting a list of needs and then the Legion goes out and purchases items.

- If you know someone is struggling there are always events
- The Legion is open to everyone (veteran affiliated) that needs help (open forum)
- All their funds come from community based fundraising events / Walmart raffles

Belton has a RUOK – for veterans who want to live at home alone (elderly). This Belton Police Department program calls and checks on them while they are at home.

Bring Everyone in the Zone – If you have any like-new donations (ex. Wheelchair) that you have no use for, they will take it.

Tony Smith –

(254) 394-2091

- was a Chaplin
- Commander of DAV chapter 74 (Coopers Cove, Hamilton, Lampasas)
- Veterans Service officer for multiple counties
- Serves all needs : just needs veteran ID card

- Can give 100 dollars immediately but any more needs to go to chapter
- If looking for help with bills, it is very extensive. Need three months of bank statements, helps Veteran's with budget programs.
- Any anxiety, ptsd, msd, depression that Veteran may need help with, supports
- Tony has a lot of resources (anything from dog training to financial planning/help)
- (254) 394-2091

Upcoming Events

- Peer basic training: veterans who want to be mentors (pre-training) October 24 from 8:30-16:00
- 7 Vietnam Veterans Award Ceremony: Prayer breakfast, Exchange club, November 6th 7 AM, 20 dollars a ticket
- Open house, family friendly event, October 28th St. Joseph's Church in Killeen 10 AM-Noon
- American Legion, November 11, Walmart in Coopers Cove and Gatesville, donations for Poppies
- Last weekend in October, Ft. Hood veteran appreciation event. Retirees at club hood, Saturday October 28th breakfast and honors ceremony. BBQ and event (retired veterans can go to Ft. Hood and all Saturday receive medical services, no dress code, through dinner at 16:00)
- Job fair: Workforce and job classes (resume help) 9-11 AM, November 1, 3 and 6th
- Homeless stand down : 10:00-15:00 at National Guard armory, any homeless person can get meal and sleeping bag
- 28 October "make a difference day" plenty of community action plans
- 2 November – Bell county VTC graduation at 15:30