



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Joint Executive Council for Veterans Organizations

16 January 2019

Update presented by
Brig Gen (Ret) Benjamin F. Adams, III
Commissioner



Agenda

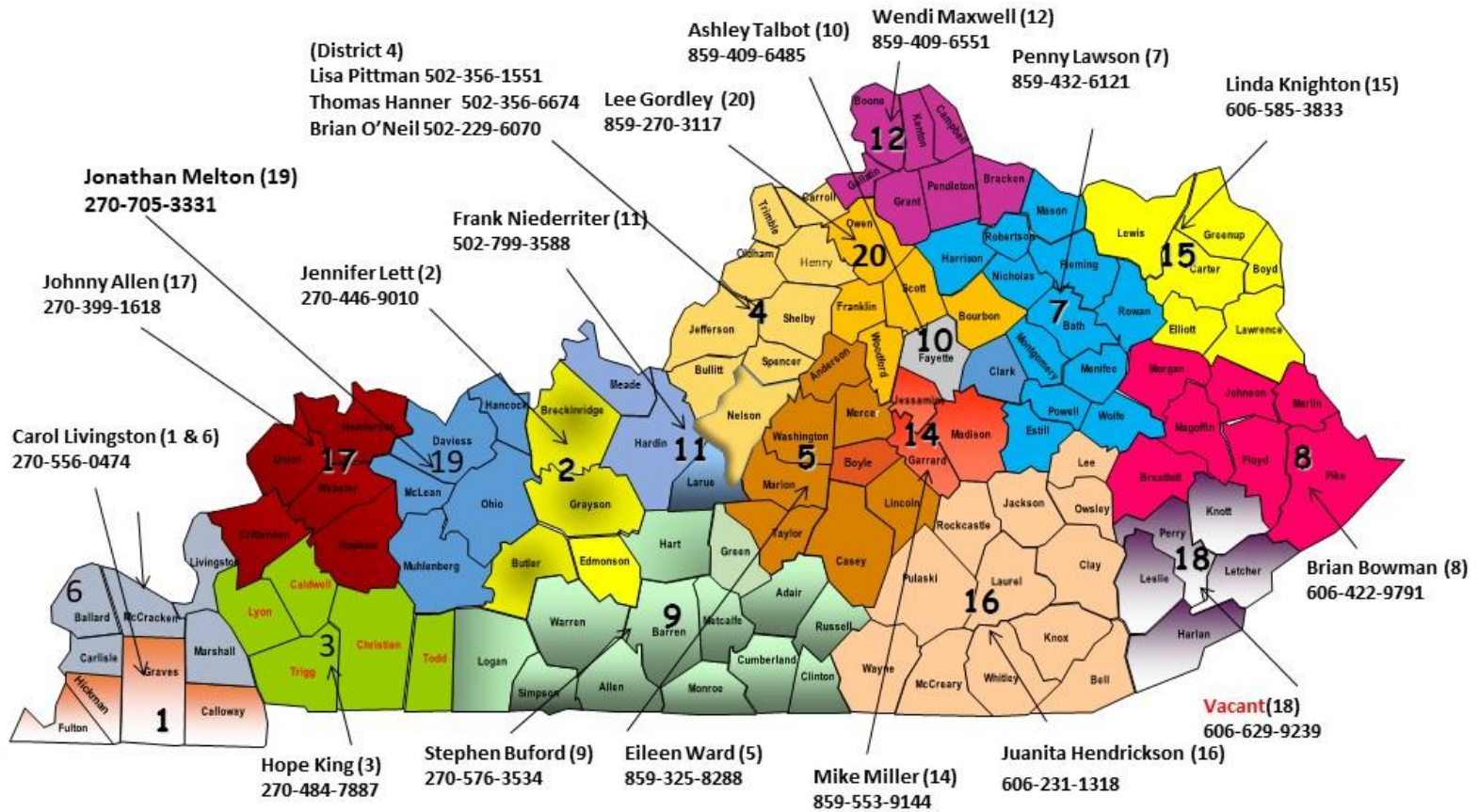


- Veterans Benefits Branch/Field Operations
- State Veteran Centers (Nursing Homes)
- State Veteran Cemeteries
- Homeless Veterans Program
- Women Veterans Program
- KyVETS
- Veterans Program Trust Fund
- Legislative Update
- Events & News



Benefits Branch

20 Field Representatives in 19 Districts





Veteran Centers



Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, Wilmore, KY
151/285 Beds 53%



Western Kentucky Veterans Center, Hanson, KY
87/156 Beds 56%



Radcliff Veterans Center, Radcliff KY
48/120 for 40 %



Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center, Hazard, KY
106/120 Beds 88%



Veterans Cemeteries

As of 31 Dec 2018



Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West



Opened March 1, 2004

Interments:

Veterans	3,092
Dependents	<u>1,133</u>
Total	4,225

Cremated 1,223

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central



Opened June 1, 2007

Interments:

Veterans	4,904
Dependents	<u>1,199</u>
Total	6,103

Cremated 1,830

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North



Opened August 22, 2008

Interments:

Veterans	1,385
Dependents	<u>305</u>
Total	1,690

Cremated 655



Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East



Opened October 1, 2010

Interments:

Veterans	814
Dependents	<u>175</u>
Total	989

Cremated 292

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East



Opened May 1, 2018

Interments:

Veterans	19
Dependents	<u>3</u>
Total	22

Cremated 7

Total : 13,029



Homeless Veterans Program



- Continuing to work with Operation Victory on renovation of a house in Louisville for a homeless veteran. Dedication tentatively set for 14 Feb 19.
- Will begin renovation of the next Operation Victory home in April.
- Accepting applications from homeless veterans for the next 4 homes through Operation Victory.
- The Affordable Housing program in Cincinnati has approved a grant for Operation Victory in the amount of \$125,000 for the purchase and renovation of the homes.
- Continuing to provide financial assistance for veterans to prevent homelessness or help them become housed.



Homeless Veterans Program

Financial Assistance



FY 2018 (1 Jul 17-30 Jun 18)

Total assistance paid out	\$74,162.61
Avg. per veteran	\$219.00
Veterans assisted with Housing	208
Veterans assisted with Utilities	<u>130</u>
Total veterans assisted	338

FY 2019 (1 Jul 18 to Present)

Total assistance paid out	\$29,741.81
Avg. per veteran	\$234.00
Veterans assisted with housing	56
Veterans assisted with Utilities	<u>71</u>
Total veterans assisted	127



Women Veterans Program



- Monthly newsletter
- Provided resources to 9 women veterans seeking mental health treatment
- New email address
women.veterans@ky.gov
- Operation Victory house dedication
 - Date: Feb 14th (tentatively)
 - Location: Louisville, KY
- Women Veterans UNITE 2019 conference.
 - Date: August 10th (tentatively)
 - Location: Louisville, KY



Employment Support Program



KyVets Veteran Services:

- Resume review and update
- Referral to employers
- Referral to other resources
- Education & Training
- KireKy website & App (<https://login.bfacmobile.com/m/hireky>)



KyVets Employer Services:

- Education on why hiring veterans is good business
- Matching veterans skills and experience to employer needs
- Free advertisement of positions
- Top talent referrals
- HireKy website & App (<https://login.bfacmobile.com/m/hireky>)



New email address: KyVets@ky.gov



Veterans Program Trust Fund



12 December 2018 Meeting

- 15 Grant Applicants
- 14 Grants Approved
- 1 Grant Deferred

Total Obligated \$281,020.05

Next Meeting 12 March 2019

- Limited to 10 Grant Applicants



Legislative Update



- Property Tax Exemption for Veteran Service Organizations
 - HB 153 filed, but language is not suitable
 - Working with Rep. Tim Moore to add section 46 to KRS 14A.1-070
- Fee Free License Plate for 100% Disabled Veterans
 - Provided Rep. Moore how to amend current statute
- Exempt 100% of a Veteran's Military Pension from State Income Tax
 - Rep. Blanton's bill (HB 15) excludes \$41,110 and is retroactive to 1 January 2018
 - Rep. Moore's bill (HB 66) exempts 100% of a Military Pension, but not until 2021
 - Requires more contacts to roll back the current law to the \$41,110 level of exemption and restore the \$10,000
- Tuition Waiver for Nursing Students
 - Established a Nurse Pipeline Working Group with CPE
 - Focusing now on "tuition forgiveness" versus tuition waiver
- Clarify the Veterans Preference Law to Include Veteran Spouses
 - Requires more contact with legislators
- Amend Current State and Local Rescue Law to Include Green Alerts
 - Monitoring Senate Bill 55. Currently sufficient without amendments.



Events & News

(January/February)



- 17 Jan 19: Governor's Advisory Board meeting, Frankfort, KY
- 17 Jan 19: VRUCK Meeting, Lexington, KY
- 24 Jan 19: New Robley Rex VAMC Director Stephen Black Open House, Louisville, KY
- 25 Jan 19: Lexington VAMC Director Emma Metcalf Retirement, Lexington, KY
- 31 Jan 19: Jeff Acob Retirement, Frankfort, KY.
- 6 Feb 19: JECVO Meeting, Frankfort, KY
- 7 Feb 19: Installation Ceremony for New VARO Director Karen Gooden, Louisville, KY
- 21 Feb 19: VRUCK Meeting, Lexington, KY
- 24-27 Feb 19: NASVDA 2019 Winter Conference, Alexandria, VA



Questions?