

Minutes of
Missouri National Guard Retiree Council
7 January 2017

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1155 on 7 January 2017 in the Patriot Center at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Jefferson City with the following retirees and other interested parties in attendance.

Bill Leeper	Dave Riley
Bob Julius	Donal Firebaugh
Harold Loethen	Bruce Pearre
Gary Boyd	Jim Dunn
Audie Pruitt	David Simons

Don Koonce

Debra Havens, Retirement Services Officer

Jim David, SMSgt (Ret), 131 BW Retiree Activities Office

Bob called the meeting to order at 1155. Roll call of members present and 5 regions were represented. The northeast and northwest regions were absent. Gary Boyd stated there were enough MONGRC members present for a quorum, including Cecil Connett's proxy.

Bob led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance and Bruce Pearre offered the invocation.

Bob called for the Secretary's report. The members reviewed copies of the minutes from the last MONGRC meeting. No discussion about the report and the minutes were approved as presented. A discussion about the Council minutes followed. The Council decided it would be good relations to forward the published minutes to TAG, State CSM and to the Military Executive, Office of the Adjutant General at a minimum. Also to e-mail the minutes to all Council members prior to each scheduled meeting.

Bob presented a short bio and introduced Jim David from the 131 BW Retiree Activity Office. Jim briefly presented an overview of the services and assistance his group provides for veterans of all branches. The office is located inside the O'Fallon city hall and their hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. M-F. The office is staffed with 12 volunteers, including a VSO, and provided assistance to 365 clients in 2016. He stated that aid and assistance is a big part of their workload to clients. Many of the clients have little or no family to help them. Jim stated his office still hasn't received training on the new retirement system yet.

During discussions about the new retirement system, Debra stated she was not aware of a calculator available anywhere for gray are retirees. She says the DOD rule as of now is a soldier with less than 4320 points and 12 years of service will be required to receive training, then sign into DFAS using their CAC card to select a retirement choice decision. The training window is currently set for 1 January 2017 thru 31 December 2017. The window for the retirement choice decision is currently set for 1 January 2018 thru 31 December 2018. The type, format and length of training for reserve components have yet to be defined and finalized. Debra says there is a YouTube video about blended retirements available and she will send the link to all Council members.

Old Business. Jim Dunn presented recommended changes to the By Laws and SOP to the Council members. The proposed changes were made to address the lack of quorums during Council meetings. After discussion Gary Boyd made a motion to accept the proposed changes as presented, Bill Leeper seconded. Motion was passed by a vote of the Council members. Jim Dunn will update the required documents and present the Council members with copies at the 1 April 2017 meeting.

East Region. The RAD has been set for 25 March 2017 in building 24 at Jefferson Barracks, St Louis, MO. A guest speaker has not been selected yet, caterer is secured and door prizes are a work in progress. They have acquired the air side 'area 5' mailing list and it has been forwarded to RSO to be integrated into the State database. RSO will provide assistance with roster and mailing invitations. TAG letter and invitation documents still in process.

West Region. The 110th unit property is in the appraisal process to determine the value of the property. There are 2 prospective buyers of the site. Gary stated the FMS site has changed access to the property making it more difficult. They are planning a September RAD at the Kansas City Armory, pending new TAG selection. Gary says Clarence Hyde will be attending meetings again in the future due to job status changes. And they are still actively looking for a 3rd Council representative for the region.

Southwest Region. The Retirement Decision briefing was presented to 7 units of the 203rd at their Christmas dinners. Families were present at 6 of the briefings and over 800 families were in attendance. The 203rd chapter in cooperation with the HSC and FSC FRG chapters will be providing food for the 2017 TAG match competitors at Camp Crowder during March. A RAD will is tentatively set for early October, to be held at Camp Crowder building 803. The 203rd's annual Dining Out will be held Saturday January 5, 2017 in the Student Center on the Missouri Southern State University campus. The annual Cabin Fever Rummage Sale will be held at the Joplin Armory on Saturday February 25, 2017 beginning at 7:00 a.m. This is the chapter's primary fund raising event. Jim Dunn reported on a 203rd retiree who encountered a delay in getting retired pay started.

Central Region. Bruce Pearre stated they will not be conducting a RAD in 20167 because of the RAD conducted in 2016 in conjunction with the Missouri National Guard Association Conference in Osage Beach. They feel back to back RAD's will not be necessary at this time.

Southeast Region. Donal stated they are still considering a 2017 RAD. He will be consulting with Matt Jenkins about the interest and need of conducting a RAD.

Council retired for a 15 minute break at 1330.

RSO Report. The RSO staff is working on the East Region RAD. The TAG invitation letter and registration documents are set for publishing NLT 31 January 2017. The database shows 2075 invitations to be mailed for the region. They are preparing 200 gift bags for the attendees. The state database continues to be a work in progress.

New Business. Debra will create an e-mail distribution list to send the MONGRC minutes to Council members and selected individuals on the hill. (See notes in above paragraph). It was noted that a representative from the hill will be too busy at times to attend all MONGRC Council meetings, but will be able to keep informed of Council activities via minutes. An invitation to attend all Council meetings needs to be sent to the designated individuals on the hill prior to each scheduled meeting. Harold Loethen reported he is now a VSO in the Central Region area. He stated he encounters numerous individuals from the Jefferson City and Columbia are filing VA claims that are unable to provide the proper documentation-- i.e., DD214, orders, LOD, etc. He shared a personal experience where it took over 2 years to correct a problem where VA, TRICARE for life, Medicare and Social Security were involved. He advised Council members to be aware that supporting documentation is required when filing claims.

Bruce offered benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 1430.

The next meeting will be held at 1200 on 1 April 2017 at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Patriot Center conference room, Jefferson City.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary