

Minutes of
Missouri National Guard Retiree Council

1 April 2017

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1200 on 1 April 2017 in the Patriot Center at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Jefferson City with the following retirees and other interested parties in attendance.

Randy Westveer

Bill Leeper

Dave Riley

Bob Julius

Matt Jenkins (via VTC)

Harold Loethen

Gary Boyd

Jim Dunn

Audie Pruitt

David Simons

Debra Havens, Retirement Services Officer

CSM Will Pierce, State Command Sergeant Major

Kristie Cross, Survivors Outreach Services

LTC John Martin, Chief Family and Warrior Support

Bob called the meeting to order at 1200. Roll call of members present and 6 regions were represented. The northwest region was absent. Gary Boyd stated there were enough MONGRC members present for a quorum, including Bruce Pearre's proxy.

Bob led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Bob introduced CSM Will Pierce to the Council. CSM Pierce extended his thanks and appreciation to all the members for volunteering their time and service to the Council. He stated he is very busy with annual briefings. He asked the members what he could do to help support the council. The members offered several suggestions, and discussed how they would help the Council be more successful. Suggestions include getting help for: getting retirement and SBP information out to all soldiers nearing 20 years of service, posting a MONGRC map in every armory so soldiers can contact a local retiree to answer questions, financing for regional RAD's, lack of input and feedback from the Air Guard in providing lists of retiring soldiers—which prevents their names added to the state database—that will possible cause those soldiers to have issues submitting their retirement packets successfully and getting

time to present pre-retirement and SBP briefings to soldiers and their spouses before they qualify for retirement. CSM Pierce stated the Final Formation Program includes some of the necessary information about retirement. He inquired what the Council's presentations included and requested a copy of it be sent to him to review. Randy stated some soldiers returning home from deployment are not signing up for free 5 year VA medical benefits and they need to know about the program.

Bob introduced Kristie Cross from Survivors Outreach Services. Kristie briefly described the services they provide to survivors and their families. She provided a handout package related to the SOS programs. Kristie stated there are 3 SOS Coordinator's across the state and they are willing to travel to meeting to speak. They service all branches of the military including reserve and active components.

Debra introduced LTC John Martin, which is her new boss. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for the work MONGRC does. He briefly described his vision of new ideas to improve the services offered to the Missouri Guard soldiers. He is hoping to visit units during their AT period in 2017. He also discussed how the RSP program would be a great audience to present the retirement and SBP briefings. The RSP is for new recruits who drill off weekend until they return from BCT and AIT.

Council retired for a 15 minute break at 1320.

Old Business. Jim Dunn presented hard copies of the By-Laws and SOP, which were amended on 5 January 2017, to the members for their records.

West Region. Gary Boyd stated the RAD is tentatively scheduled for September 30 at the Kansas City Armory—which was the only date available in September at the armory. He is working with Jim Lumpkin, President of the Kansas City chapter. The 110th Engineers have a reunion scheduled on September 23 at noon in the Kansas City Armory. There is a committee meeting set for April 8 and they who will be inviting all the past members of the 110th to attend the reunion. The MCC also has a meeting set for April 8 to discuss the property appraisal for 33 acres. They just recently discovered an additional 6 acres owned by the MCC and that will need to be appraised also. The 33 acre appraisal was disappointing in value, partially due to limited access to the property because of the adjacent MONG property. They are still looking at a scholarship endowment to dispose of the funds received from the sale of the property. They feel the MCC will eventually be dissolved, and the endowment fund will be handed over to an outside agency for administration. Finally disposition of all the funds received has not been determined.

Southwest. The annual 203rd Association rummage sale was held on February 25 at the Joplin Armory. Approximately \$1500.00 was added to the treasury. The Association's 1st quarter meeting was held at Camp Crowder on Wednesday March 1. Attendance was low, possibly due to a weekday. Plans are in progress to use a rotation among local armories on off drill weekends for the quarterly meetings. They also provided meals for the competitors at the TAG Match March 24-26 at Camp Crowder. Slightly over \$600.00 was generated for their treasury. A regional match is tentatively scheduled at Crowder in August, and the Association has been invited to provide meals for the competitors during that event. The 2017 RAD is tentatively scheduled for September 30 in building 803 at Camp Crowder. They will work with Gary Boyd to resolve conflict between the West and Southwest RAD date.

Central. No RAD is planned, but Debra is planning to setup a table at the American Legion meeting in April.

East. Their RAD was held on March 25 at Jefferson Barracks with approximately 300 in attendance. Space was tight due to the number of attendees but it went very well. They used the same caterer as last RAD, and drawings for door prizes was conducted during lunch to simplify and speed up the program. Gen. Tracy Bequette was the guest speaker for the event. They had a local Boy Scout troop to assist with cleanup following the RAD, which was a tremendous help. Some of the learning points were: soliciting for door prizes is time and labor intensive, distributing handouts and AAR forms during registration prevents disruptions during presentations later in the day, ended up \$76.00 in the hole but a donation from Area 5 MONGA retirees will resolve that. Their caterer, who is pro-military, volunteered to hold the meal cost the same for the next 5 years if they continue to conduct RAD's.

Northeast. Randy Westveer is going to tentatively plan a RAD in August at a local water park. He will be contacting a caterer for the meal and hopes to get the 128th FA retiree chapter and some active soldiers involved with the event. He will have more information and details during the July meeting.

Southeast. The SEMO retiree meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 7. Matt stated they will be discussing the interest in conducting a RAD this year during the meeting.

RSO Report. Debra reports she is required to submit many reports to the hill, which is taking more of her time. The check from River Regions Credit Union for the Foundation account has been received, signed by Gary Boyd and given to Jim Dunn to be deposited into the 203rd Houn Dawg Retiree's Association account for safe keeping. The Association has agreed to provide separate account for the funds and will provide statements to the MONGRC as needed. Debra provided information about a link to the Council members where they can self educate about the retirement system being implemented in the future. Soldiers will be required to complete the retirement training course by 30 December 2017 and place their completed training certificate into the new training tracking system (DTMS). She still is waiting for data from the Air Guard for input into the state database containing the names of all National Guard retirees.

Manuals. Following a discussion about the manuals each Council member has, it was decided to suspend updating and maintaining them until further notice. Most of the information contained in the manuals is available online at multiple websites and links.

New Business. Officer Nominations. Bob Julius and Jim Dunn explained the By Law requirements to nominate and elect officers. Bob expressed his wish to step down as Chair and not would accept another nomination to that office. After some discussion by Council members and a call for nominations by Bob, Jim Dunn stated he is willing to remain as Secretary, Gary Boyd stated he is willing to accept a Co-Chair office and Audie Pruitt is willing to accept the Parliamentarian office. No other names were submitted and no one else volunteered for an office. Bob stated he will poll all Council members for a volunteer or nomination for the 2nd Co-Chair position prior to the July meeting so that a full slate of officers are presented for election.

TAG Briefing. Jim Dunn informed the Council Gen. Danner is receptive to a briefing about the MONGRC activities for the past year. The Council feels this is good practice to keep TAG informed of our organization. It was agreed that Bob Julius, Debra Havens and Jim Dunn—at a minimum—will prepare a brief to be presented to Gen. Danner before the end of May. The brief will be presented during a week day when Gen. Danner's calendar is more flexible. Results of the briefing will be reported back to the entire Council membership.

MONGA Conference. Debra stated is her plan to again set up a table at the MONGA Conference scheduled for April 20 thru 23, 2017 at Lake of the Ozarks. She will man the table on Friday and have John Lewis man it on Saturday—she has a prior commitment for Saturday. Gary Boyd stated he will attend the Conference and will assist manning the table between attending some of the caucus meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1455.

The next meeting will be held at 1200 on 8 July 2017 at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Patriot Center conference room, Jefferson City.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary