

Minutes of  
Missouri National Guard Retiree Council  
7 July 2018

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1200 on 7 July 2018 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
Jack Argent	Donal Firebaugh
Todd Henderson	Gaila Sullivan
Gary Boyd	Jim Dunn
Audie Pruitt	David Simons
Tony Cosentino	Don Koonce

Randy Rosenberg

Debra Havens, Retirement Services Officer

Todd called the meeting to order at 1150.

Todd led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony Cosentino offered invocation.

Roll call of members present and 6 regions were represented. The northeast region was absent. Audie stated there were enough MONGRC members present for a quorum.

Todd 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.

Debra introduced Randy Rosenberg to the Council members. He presented a short bio and described some of the activities he is involved with in his area. He is from the Northwest Region and retired with 24 years in the Missouri Guard. He stated he wasn't familiar with the Council and its activities, but was interested in things that benefit Guard retirees. The Council members described some of the past activities, goals and future of the Council. Gaila made a motion to accept Randy as a Council member representing the Northwest Region and Donal seconded the motion. Todd called for a vote and the members unanimously voted to seat Randy as a member of the MONGRC representing the Northwest Region.

Guest Speaker. Don Koonce reported Tony Bamvakais and Dennis Sanbothe recently retired from their positions, leaving 2 open positions. Steve Lynch is the new Chair for the Missouri Veteran's Commission. Don has accepted the position as Military Executive for Legislative Issues for Gen. Danner. He briefed the members on the past Missouri legislative session and bills affecting military retirees. He referenced SB 573 as a "Mule Bill" because numerous House bills were attached to it. Bills he briefly discussed are: HB 1257, HB 1290, HB 1368, HB 1369, HB 1462, HB 1469, HB 1492, HB 1503, HB 1504, HB 1552, HB 1568, HB 1742, HB 2037, HB 2193, HB 2339, HB 2466, SB 573, SB 767, SB 812, SB 864 and SB 984. Several of these bills were passed, but some of those not passed will probably be addressed during the next legislative session. Don also reported Gary Boyd was elected as chair of the MONGA Retiree Caucus during the April Conference. HB 1469 addressed renaming the State Militia Force to State Defense Force to align with federal issues regarding standardizing each states militia forces. There are actions by Missouri to reinvigorate/re-activate the force. Don will be presenting additional information and documents on these actions during the next council meeting.

Council retired for a 15 minute break at 1300.

Jim Dunn presented a check for \$1304.00 to COL. Gary Gilmore from the 203<sup>rd</sup> Retiree Association. The funds are designated to be used for chapel activities. The funds were originally collected for constructing a chapel at Camp Crowder, but there are no immediate plans for that construction to go forward.

Gary Boyd reported Don Koonce was re-elected to be the Retiree Caucus Chair during the 2018 MONGA Conference held in April at Springfield, MO. Don stated the 2019 MONGA Conference will be held April 12-13, 2019 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Kansas City.

Region Reports. West. Gary reported MCC will be donating 42 acres to TAG and MOARNG on July 2018 after an environmental study has been completed. The MCC has asked TAG to complete 5 steps to, at which time the MCC will permanently disband.

Northwest. Gaila reported the 139<sup>th</sup> returned from deployment July 4 and 5. The area retiree chapter will hold their meeting on July 11 and an air show at Rosecrans Field will held on July 25 and 26.

Southwest. The 203<sup>rd</sup> held their 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter meeting with a picnic on June 1. Elections of new officers will be held during their November meeting. The 935<sup>th</sup> was deployed about a month ago. The CVMA has been busy escorting deceased soldiers. The 203<sup>rd</sup> has been working with several organizations such as Compass Quest, Joining Community Forces, American Legion Post 13, and VFW's on multiple upcoming projects. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran's Expo will be held Friday September 14 in Joplin's Memorial Hall, and a Veteran's Day Parade will be held on Saturday November 10. They reported 5 deaths of past 203<sup>rd</sup> members recently.

Central. Todd reported the new VA bus keeps having break downs. It is equipped with satellite radio, telephone, and internet capabilities. On July 12 it will be in Sedalia at the Missouri State Fair supporting the fairs Military Appreciation Day. There will be Yellow Ribbon ceremony for the 131<sup>st</sup> Bomb Wing next weekend, another in St. Louis on July 21<sup>st</sup> in Hannibal on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

East. A breakfast for the 70<sup>th</sup> Troop Command will be held August 5<sup>th</sup>. The 20+ Club will be conducting a picnic on September 16 in Building 61 at Jefferson Barracks. David Simons discussed the numerous building remodels and re-assignments in the Jefferson Barracks complex. The RAO at Jefferson Barracks is undergoing some changes. They are now presenting some briefings to units about retirement and benefits. The Council members briefly discussed the out processing of Air Guard personnel and what can be done to assist them in this process.

Southeast. Donal reported the 140<sup>th</sup> held a member meeting at Jackson recently. Their guest speaker was from the VA and spoke about veteran's homes. He stated the CSM Leman Asher passed recently. He stated the region does not have any interest in conducting a RAD at this time. He is actively seeking to recruit another MONGRC member.

RSO Report. Debra reported the '40 mile rule' is being eliminated but it will take a year to become effective. Also, the 'care giver support' program will be going away. She stated she has 2 new bosses and is in the process of re-doing some administrative things because of this. Ft Leonard Wood RAD will be Saturday September 8. The FY budget for 2019 included \$22,000.00 for spousal travel only and has several restrictions about how the funds are to be spent. She inquired about what plans the Council had for scheduling RAD' in future, particularly the cycle of alternating state and regional RAD's. The Council members discussed the pros and cons of continuing to alternate each year between state wide and regional RAD's that has been in place. The members were unable to formulate a new approach to the issue and tabled it for future discussion.

Don Koonce invited all Council members to the annual ESGR banquet to be held at the Capital Plaza on August 10. And he briefly discussed funding, head count and deployments of the Missouri Guard.

The next meeting will be held at 1200 on 13 October 2018 at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Patriot Center conference room, Jefferson City.

Tony offered benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 1505.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary