

Minutes of  
Missouri National Guard Retiree Council

13 October 2018

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1155 on 13 October 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	Jack Argent
Bob Julius	Todd Henderson
Randy Rodenberg	Jim Dunn
Cecil Connett	Audie Pruitt
Tony Cosentino	Don Koonce

Mark Bartley

John Lewis, Retirement Services Administrative Assistant

CPT John Quinn, State Public Affairs Officer

Todd called the meeting to order at 1155.

Todd led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony Cosentino offered invocation.

Roll call of members present and 5 regions were represented. The southeast and northeast regions were 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. A grammatical error was noted in the minutes and the minutes were not approved. Jim Dunn will correct the error and present the minutes for approval at the January 2019 meeting.

John Lewis introduced CPT Quinn to the Council. He discussed how the use of social media is a valuable asset, used properly, for the PAO. He suggested setting up a media page for the MONGRC to utilize to distribute and promote the activities and programs of the Council. He offered to assist John in researching other states uses of social media, and what expectations the Council could realize from use of more social media exposure. He can be reached at [john.t.quinn.mil@mail.mil](mailto:john.t.quinn.mil@mail.mil). He also stated Facebook is the most popular form of social media and there are no charges associated with using Facebook. Bob Julius suggested a study be done to see if this would be useful and beneficial for the Council. Todd stated he will work with CPT Quinn and others to design and setup a Facebook page. He will report back to the Council at the January meeting.

Audie Pruitt introduced Mark Bartley to the Council members. Mark presented a short biography. Mark recently retired from MOARNG and is interested in getting involved with retiree activities.

Old Business. Don Koonce asked Todd about new veteran's homes for Missouri. Todd stated no new homes are scheduled right now but a new 45 bed facility is scheduled to open in early 2019. Cameron is scheduled to receive more beds in the future. The contract has been signed but completion may be about 2 years out. Don reports the legislature is considering a bill to change the name of the state militia to Missouri State Defense Force. They are looking at the statutes and other states laws on how to best implement the changes. A new Muster for the Force is tentatively set for December 8, 2019 during the Annual National Guard Birthday celebration at Tan Tar. The Force will have 'functions' instead of 'ranks', and departments such as 'LNO, cyber security, etc.' and will at time have full time staffing, and a budget line item. Don reports HB1503 included provisions for small business loans, including agricultural, to veterans up to \$300,000.00. Mentors are being sought to assist with this program. The federal government has allocated \$255 million to establish broadband networks to rural Missouri. Cecil reported the FLW Retiree Council is seeking retirees to serve as members to the council. He also stated the 35<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade is considering establishing a retiree chapter, utilizing local retired volunteers to assist with the endeavor. The 110<sup>th</sup> MCC land transfer should be completed by the next Council meeting.

Council retired for a 15 minute break at 1305.

Region Reports. East. Bill Leeper reported the 70<sup>th</sup> Troop Command will be relocating to Lebanon soon. Jefferson Barracks is standing up a new 35<sup>th</sup> MP Brigade and needs the space at JB. These changes should be completed in early 2019. RAO continues to work out of Jefferson Barracks. FEDVIP is encountering issues because some retirees do not have computer access and is delaying enrollments. The new rates have now been posted but enrollment must be completed in the open window to become effective 1 January 2019.

Central. Todd reports the Yellow Ribbon program is active and conducting events. A spousal support group will be starting January 2019. There has been good response to the Veteran mobile truck visits and 3 trucks will be in Branson November 4 thru 11, 2018.

Northwest. Randy Rodenberg reports he has contacted all the units in his region about establishing a retiree chapter but has not received any responses yet. He discussed the getting some duty orders out to distribution list that contains Council member's names and phone numbers, and have each Council member carry a copy.

Southwest. Audie reported the 203<sup>rd</sup> will conduct a member quarterly meeting on November 3. New officers will be elected during the meeting. The We Care Fund recently assisted 2 soldiers who needed some financial help. Some of the 203<sup>rd</sup> members recently assisted the Joplin American Legion Post conduct its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran's Expo. Over 1400 veterans attended the event. The Legion Post will also be helping conduct the Joplin Veteran's Day parade on Saturday November 10. Jim Dunn discussed the time constraints and limitations placed on Kathy Lucero during the Joplin Veterans Expo. A request was submitted, and approved, for her to attend the all day event, but she was limited to 2 hours total

time at the event. She is 1 of the top 3 vendors at that event and 2 hours is totally inadequate for her provide services to attendees. The event hours were 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

RSO Report. John distributed new TRICARE retired reserve rates. He informed the Council of new RSO office hours i.e. 4—10 hour days Tuesday thru Friday effective immediately. He reported Debra attended the September FLW RAD but few Guardsmen attended the event. There is currently \$10,900.00 available for spouse travel pay and changes to the guidelines are forthcoming on how to expend the funds. There is a Final Formation scheduled for Kansas City on November 3. Due to funding the RSO office no longer has an enlisted administrative assistant. John stated Military One Source will fully support soldiers for 1 year after discharge.

Audie informed the Council of his intention to resign from MONGRC and will be submitting a letter of resignation soon. He feels he is over extended in organizations he is involved with and wishes to cut back on some of his commitments. He made a motion that Mark Bartley be seated on the Council as a representative from the Southwest Region to replace himself. Motion was seconded and the Council voted to accept Mark onto the MONGRC.

The next meeting will be held at 1200 on 5 January 2019 at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Patriot Center conference room, Jefferson City.

Tony offered benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1445.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary