

Minutes of
Missouri National Guard Retiree Council
6 April 2019

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1200 on 6 April 2019 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	Bob Julius
Donal Firebaugh	Harold Loethen
Todd Henderson	Gaila Sullivan
Randy Rodenberg	Gary Boyd
Jim Dunn	Mark Bartley
Don Koonce	

John Lewis, Retirement Services Administrative Assistant

MAJ. Seth Nelson, Family Warrior Support Chief

Gary called the meeting to order at 1200.

Todd led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Lewis offered invocation.

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

Gary called for the Secretary's report. The members reviewed copies of the minutes from the 6 April 2019 MONGRC meeting. No discussion about the report and the minutes were approved as presented.

Region Reports. West. Gary reminded Council members of the Retiree's Caucus and other meetings during the MONGA Conference that are important to all retiree's. He stated there appears to be no interest in hosting a RAD in the Region during 2019. The MCC is still planning to donate 42 acres of their property to TAG. Work to complete this is still in progress. The MCC will also have 5 of their members sit on an advisory board to TAG after the transfer is completed.

Northwest. Gaila reported the 139th is not under water at the present time, but several members have been affected by the flood waters. She stated the Chapter will soon be hosting a conference for those

who will be retiring in the near future. John Lewis conducted a meeting on 3 March for the Chapter members. Randy on the travels of his flag, including some trips OCONUS. He also stated the Air Guard will be joining the Army Guard side in some endeavors. He stated a new naval vessel, the USS Kansas City, is scheduled to be christened in 2019. The region is discussing the possibility of hosting a RAD in 2019. The Chapter is also working with the VA in their area to provide some furniture, TV's and other related items to provide better amenities for veterans when they visit the VA facility.

Southwest. Mark discussed the outreach efforts to veterans of several organizations in southwest Missouri, such as the American Legion posts, local VFW posts and CVMA groups. Jim reported the 203rd Association hosted the annual Adjutant General Rifle match in March at Camp Crowder, will host the MAC V rifle match in August at Camp Crowder, members voted to conduct a RAD on Oct. 18 at the Joplin National Guard Armory, financing the refurbishing of a WW II totem pole to be placed in their History Room and the new Joplin VA Clinic is now open. Jim reported that 2019 is the 100 year anniversary of Joplin American Legion Post 13. Plans are being finalized on activities to celebrate this significant milestone. The southwest Missouri American Legion Posts have jointly chartered an American Legion Motorcycle Riders Chapter. On Memorial Day the Joplin Post will be hosting and conducting, in conjunction with the Joplin High School JROTC, an interment ceremony for cremains of unclaimed veterans found in local mortuaries.

Central. Todd reported he briefed the Columbia Army Reserve unit about retirement pay, retirement points and other benefits, before their deployment. He reported changes, distance and/or travel time, have been made to VA rules about travel to an urgent care facility. VA will pay for the visits, but individual must be enrolled in the VA Care Program to be eligible. 3 visits per year allowed before co-pay fees kick in. This change will become effective 6 June 2019. The Columbia VA Hospital will be hosting a car show September 28. No fee will be charged for entries, and he encouraged Council members to spread the word about this show. He also reported there is a free monthly breakfast at Truman's Bar and Grill in Columbia for all veterans. His office will be hosting a Veteran's Benefits Resource Fair in Columbia May 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will also be hosting another Veteran's Benefits Resource Fair in Salem on April 26.

Council retired for a 15 minute break at 1300.

East. Dave reported the 35th MP Brigade is now in place and operational in Jefferson Barracks building 24. They will be reaching out to the staff to introduce themselves as they get settled in their new surroundings. Bob reported the 131st FW chapter had to cancel their March meeting due to weather. He also reported they regularly support a Jefferson Barracks food pantry. And he stated there are talks at the state and national level on how to better utilize the Jefferson Barracks site for staffing, security and employment opportunities.

Southeast. Donal reported the 1140th will be holding a meeting in late April or early May at Cape Girardeau. He stated some health issues have slowed him down some recently—something we can all relate to. He is involved with local opioid and suicide prevention efforts. His local courthouse recently

hosted a Viet Nam Veteran's Homecoming ceremony, and Perryville will conduct a ceremony to dedicate a replica of the Viet Nam Wall on May 18.

Don reported the Annual National Guard report is coming out soon. State Guard headcount continues to be steady, and in some areas is growing. Don updated the Council on activities about the Missouri State Defense Force (MSDF). A muster will be held during the April Missouri National Guard Association Conference in Kansas City next weekend. The Missouri State Defense Force (MSDF) continues to receive high level focus. It hopes to have 300 + members within 2 years. Its immediate focus is to get LNO training completed for members who will interface with county level emergency management personnel. Don requests Council members e-mail him their suggestions for guidelines for MSDF membership. He reported the national funding requested for the MSDF was almost 100%. Plans for the AT period June 3-7 are being finalized and the AT locations are tentatively set for Ft. Leonard Wood, Jefferson City and Maryville. Funds have been appropriated to support these activities. Don reminded Council member's registration for the MONGA Conference is available online.

RSO Report. John reported an ID card system is currently being evaluated for 6 months at Maryville. If there is not sufficient volume to justify that location, another site will be selected and evaluated. He stated an individual in the 1107th AVCRAD is now qualified to submit retirement packets. Heather Dollins, at Joplin, is scheduled to retire in less than 1 year. He distributed handouts for 2019 TRICARE cost and fees, and a Missouri National Guard retirement brochure. He also reminded Council members HRC is still slow in processing retirement packets.

New Business. Gary discussed the current MONGRC map and the idea of changing the map to align with SEMA/Highway Patrol Troops. He asked that members research the SEMA/Highway Patrol Troops maps and be ready to discuss changing MONGRC map at the 13 July meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 1200 on 13 July 2019 at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Patriot Center conference room, Jefferson City.

John offered benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1500.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary