

Minutes of
Missouri National Guard Retiree Council

5 January 2019

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1200 on 5 January 2019 in the Patriot Center at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Jefferson City with the following retirees and other interested parties in attendance.

Dave Riley	Jack Argent
Bob Julius	David Simons
Donal Firebaugh (via VTC)	Todd Henderson
Gaila Sullivan	Randy Rodenberg
Gary Boyd	Jim Dunn
Mark Bartley	Tony Cosentino

Don Koonce

Debra Havens, Retirement Services Officer

MAJ. Seth Nelson, Family Warrior Support Chief

Gary called the meeting to order at 1200.

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. Jim 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 7 July 2018 and 13 October 2018 MONGRC meeting. Jim pointed out the grammatical error and clarification corrections on the 7 July 2018 minutes. No discussion about the report and the minutes were approved as presented. Members then reviewed copies of the 13 October 2018 minutes. No discussion about the report and the minutes were approved as presented.

Todd called on Don Koonce to update the Council members on the Missouri State Defense Force. Don distributed a handout on the 'Missouri First' program that is being implemented by Eric Schmitt, Missouri State Treasurer. This program has money available to Soldiers, retired military and other qualified individuals for small business/agricultural loans up to \$300,000.00. The loan repayment rate is 30%+ below that of a normal loan rate. Details are available at www.MOFIRST.mo.gov. He then shared

a presentation about the new Missouri State Defense Force. The presentation covered the legislative acts to form the SDF, eligibility, proposed organization, training, uniforms, command control, responsibilities and other facets of the Force. A muster was conducted during the December National Guard Birthday Ball in December 2018. Several new members were sworn into the Force. Another muster is scheduled during the MONGA Conference set for 12-13 April in Kansas City.

Debra introduced MAJ. Seth Nelson to the Council. He is the new Family Warrior Support Chief. MAJ. Nelson spoke briefly of his job and the programs he is responsible for. He emphasized to Council members that he will always be available to discuss and address any issues Council members bring to him. He did state he is very busy at times but will always make time for our members.

Council retired for a 15 minute break at 1305.

Old Business. Gary discussed the idea of conducting RAD's in conjunction with MONGA Conference's. The Council discussed but has not decided on a cycle of scheduling state wide and regional RAD's. Todd reported that he, and his son's, research into creating a Facebook page for the Council would cost money. Also, each post to the page would result in charges. All organizations who are 501C3 qualified are exempt from charges. Debra stated she has been posting the Council meeting minutes to the www.moguard.com/retirement-services/ website. She also has created a Missouri National Guard Retirement Services Office page on Facebook using her personal account. The Council discussed alternate ways to distribute MONGRC information utilizing and/or piggy backing other websites or Facebook pages that would not incur financial charges.

Region Reports. West. Gary reported the MCC land transfer to the Missouri National Guard is not completed yet. TAG has assured to the MCC the land will be used appropriately following the transfer. The next MCC meeting is scheduled for 6 April. There is discussion about using some of the land for a federal government regional operations center.

Northwest. Gaila reported a quarterly meeting was held in December and approximately 90 people attended. She is working to create and open better communications between local chapters and St. Joe. Randy is attempting to acquire lists of retiree's in the region but some of the units are slow in providing that information. He also has possession of an American flag he wants to travel around the state in 2019 and have photographs of veterans with their hands on it.

Southwest. Mark suggested the Council might be able to find ways to spread information to more veteran's utilizing multiple outside organizations. He also suggested the Council name might be better suited if it incorporated 'Veteran' in it somehow. A general discussion on the ability to acquire retiree addresses from DFAS to better reach out to them. The HIPPA laws are very restrictive about disclosing this data. He also suggested contacting Steve Lynch, Chair of the Missouri Veteran's Commission, to be a guest speaker at a future Council meeting. Jim reported the 203rd held a quarterly member meeting in November, and the next one is set for March 8. They will also be hosting the TAG Match on 22-24, 2019 at Camp Crowder. The new VA Clinic in Joplin is not opened yet but expect that NLT March 2019. The 2019 Veteran's Day parade had almost 80 entries and was held Saturday 10 November in Joplin.

Central. Todd reported he has secured a backup meeting site in the event we are unable to meet at the Patriot Center at ISTS. The VA Clinic in Columbia is available as a meeting place if the need ever arises. He stated the RV Veteran's outreach truck is operational and it covers 38 counties in central Missouri. Another vehicle is available in the Springfield area. He will be sending out a schedule of the trucks visits by location, and he can be contacted, by phone or e-mail, to request a visit by the truck.

East. The 70th Troop Command move to Lebanon has been completed. That space at JB has been back filled by the newly created 35th MP Brigade. They will be contacting the Brigade to open communications between them as the Brigade gets settled into their new facilities. A 20+ meeting will held in March, and a meeting with the FRG's is set for January.

Southeast. Donal reported a quarterly meeting was held recently at Cape Girardeau.

Jim Dunn reported 2 resignation letters from Council members. He read letters from Audie Pruitt and Randy Westveer to the Council. A motion to accept the resignations was made and members voted to accept the resignations. Jim pointed out that with Audie's resignation, the Parliamentarian position was vacant. A motion was made to nominate Mark Bartley as Parliamentarian and members voted to elect Mark as Council Parliamentarian.

RSO Report. Debra summarized some of the service her office provides on a regular basis. Some of what they provide are: prepare 186 MD troop retirement packets, 135 retiree applications, 320+ retiree briefings, 20+ paper annuitants, 1800 retirement certificates, receive 30 calls daily about retiree issues and questions. As of December the BRS (Blended Retirement System) had 627 opted into the BRS, which is app. 7% of the soldiers. The office is operating under new work hours—Tuesday thru Friday 7 a.m. till 5 p.m. She asked Council members to let her know if they plan to host a RAD so she can plan to attend.

The next meeting will be held at 1200 on 6 April 2019 at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Patriot Center conference room, Jefferson City.

Tony offered benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1500.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary