

Minutes of

Missouri National Guard Retiree Council

5 October 2019

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1145 on 5 October 2019 in the Patriot Center at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Jefferson City with the following retirees and other interested parties in attendance.

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| Donal Firebaugh | Todd Henderson |
| Gaila Sullivan (Via VTC) | Randy Rodenberg |
| Gary Boyd | Jim Dunn |
| Cecil Connett | Mark Bartley |

Don Koonce

Debra Havens, Retirement Services Officer

Todd called the meeting to order at 1145.

Todd led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Donal Firebaugh offered invocation.

Roll call of members present and 5 regions were represented. The northeast and east regions were absent. Mark 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 13 July 2019 MONGRC meeting. No discussion about the report and the minutes were approved as presented.

Legislative Update. Don Koonce discussed plans the State is taking to make Missouri the best 'military retiree friendly' state in the United States. The legislature is reviewing items such as state income tax, property tax and other issues to promote the concept. The legislature has also enacted a law authorizing Veteran Treatment Courts in all counties of Missouri (HB547). Another law passed in 2018, but not funded until this session, authorized \$300,000 to fund public activities near military installations. The 'Missouri Works' bill reorganized the Economic Security Agency and Workforce Development to better serve Missouri citizens. The Missouri State Defense Force (MSDF) will conduct an AT 9-12 October to draft a list of items to submit for legislative actions. Rep. Bill Kidd, MSDF member, has created a House Caucus to support the MSDF. The sum of actions is to support efforts to make Missouri the best military retiree friendly state in the US. Gary inquired about the new TAG and his support for MONGRC and MSDF. Don suggested the Council request a briefing to TAG in early 2020.

Old Business. The Council discussed some issues regarding quorums, attendance, voting and membership. Jim asked Don if he would be a Council member from the Central Region. He stated there could potentially be a conflict of interest sometime in the future, but would be willing to join if unable to fill the Central regions representative positions. Don then suggested some of the current Council; and MSDF members Mark, Jim, Randy, Gary and Don; use the December MSDF muster to recruit new Council members. It was brought up that Don, as a member, could 'abstain' from Council votes if there was a conflict of interest.

Council retired for a 15 minute break at 1240.

Region Reports. West. Gary reported 110th Engineer Battalion will receive a 'Valorous Unit Award' Sunday Oct. 6, 2019 at the WWI National Memorial in Kansas City. The attendance at the west regions meetings are getting smaller due to age and attrition. There is an effort to work with full timers at the local units to recruit new members. The MCC has submitted all necessary paperwork to TAG staff to relinquish the property to TAG. Don reported the new TAG has been fully briefed on the situation, and legal/JAG are working to complete the process. This process will ensure all agreements and commitments between TAG are fulfilled satisfactorily.

Northwest. Gaila reported the 139th has broken ground for a 4th building on higher ground at Rosecrans. The city has been involved with this situation and progressing well. She also stated the American Legion National Commander recently visited a Memorial in the area.

Southwest. Mark reported newly passed national legislation that changed membership requirements for joining the American Legion. On a local level he voiced some concerns on why some veteran organizations are not more involved with their local community's activities. Doing so would enhance the public's view of the organizations. Jim reported the 203rd will conduct a member quarterly meeting Saturday Nov. 9 in Joplin following the Joplin Veteran's Day Parade. The 203rd also provided meals in August for the MAC V Regional weapons match at Camp Crowder. The Joplin American Legion hosted the 3rd Annual Veteran's Expo Thursday Sept. 12 at Joplin' Memorial Hall. The event was attended by approximately 1000 veterans this year. The Legion is also sponsoring the Joplin Veteran's Day Parade Saturday Nov. 9 beginning at 1000 a.m. The 203rd will also conduct Retiree Appreciation Day for the Southwest Region Saturday Oct. 12 at the Joplin National Guard Armory. RSO and the Association has been working together to make this another successful event. Jim made a motion to use reserve MONGRC RAD funds, now held by the 203rd Association treasury, to fund any deficient monies to the 203rd Association. Council members approved the motion.

Central. Todd reported on a MOU between NGB and VA that outlines a program for the VA to provide support services to Guardsmen at local armories during drill weekends. It has been determined some soldiers will not voice mental issues to their command chain because of getting 'red flagged' by their units. The MOU will allow the soldiers to seek mental health help through the VA without unit involvement. Todd stated his job may not require him to work every drill weekend in support of the new program. He will remain on the MONGRC but will step back to the MONGRC co-chair. He also reported the VA support trucks are scheduled to be in Branson during the week their Veteran's Day celebrations.

Southeast. Donal reported the Viet Nam Wall Memorial was recently dedicated. An area retirees meeting was held 2 weeks ago, but he was unable to attend due to other commitments. He stated Matt Jenkins will soon be retiring and able to spend more time with MONGRC activities.

RSO Report. Debra reported new MONGRC ID badges will be issued. The 70th PAO office will take member pictures on the hill immediately following this meeting. She reports things are starting to settle down following TAG changes.

Donal offered benediction.

Debra did not know date of January 2020 drill and will notify Council members of next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 1350.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary