

MONGRC Quarterly Meeting 27 January 2024

The meeting was held in JFHQ MO Patriot Center Conference Room. The following Retirees were in attendance.

Alan Garrison (VTC)

John Argent

Gaila Sullivan

Donal Firebaugh (VTC)

Will Johnson

Jim Dunn (VTC)

Bob Julius

Gary Gilmore (VTC)

Tom Morris

John Lewis (RSO)

Breck Ferguson

Stella Druml (RSO)

David Simons

Todd Henderson (RSO)

Bill Leeper

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Alan Garrison (Parliamentarian). Alan explained the excused absence of Randy Rodenberg and the Secretary took roll call.

Roll Call – Quorum

The Secretary, Gaila Sullivan, took a roll call and 12 Council members were in attendance. A quorum was established with 8 members in person and 4 members via Teams (VTC – Electronically). Chair (Rodenderg) and Co-Chair (McQueen) had excused absences during roll call. There was a reminder, for everyone to mute their phone when not speaking, this will help the four members that were the TEAMS (VTC) hear all the conversations Reminder, for everyone to mute their phone when not speaking,

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The September Meeting Minutes were reviewed; two grammatical errors were corrected to Southeast Regional report. Motion to approve minutes as written/distributed/corrected was made by Will Johnson and second was made by Bob Julius. **Motion Passed**

New Member

There was an introduction of new members. Tom Bamvakais was nominated for the East Region. Motion made by Bob Julius and seconded by Will Johnson. **Motion Passed** There was discussion regarding the clarification of the Air Guard available positions on the Retiree Council at the Air Guard Bases. The East Region nominated Dave Simons to the Council as an East (RSA). Motion made by John Argent and seconded by Tom Bamvakais. **Motion Passed**

MONGRC Charter

There was discussion regarding the MONGRC Charter Training. The current slides need to be updated to reflect the new Charter/SOP changes. This item was tabled for future discussion.

Legislative Update

A report on the MONGA Legislative update was given. The current legislation relating to the Missouri National Guard was SB 734 (Omnibus), SB 103 (Geospatial Council membership), HB 2166 (Tuition Assistance Tuition VS, Fees) which has companion bills SB 1322 and a SJR 58 (Joint Resolution) feel free to search and track these items on your own at the following weblink: www.House.mo.gov

MONGA Update

Will Blaylock (MONGA Executive Director) is now a registered Lobbyist and they have released their part time lobbyist due to budget constraints. The State association challenge is to grow Membership and they are on the move. Please attend the Meet and Greets that are being hosted across the state. You'll find them posted at weblink: www.mongaonline.com

The MONGA Annual Conference will be held April 11-13 2024- Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia Missouri. The Retiree Conference breakout will be held in the Parliament room of the hotel at 2:00 P.M. on Friday April 12th. The Honorable Governor Michael Parsons has been invited to Speak at the Annual Conference Banquet on Saturday evening. The Scholarship Award winners will receive complimentary tickets for the Banquet. A Thank you extended to Executive Director by Al Garrison, stating that the Retiree Council wants to walk with the Association, working toward increasing membership.

Committee Reports

The 2025 Statewide RAD was Tabled. Freshman Tour Update, Will Johnson reports he is working through RSO with TAG for our participation and will have an update in October.

New Business

There was a discussion of a MONGRC Yearly Planning Schedule/Calendar. Will Johnson proposed establishing a joint planning calendar that would include all our MONGRC activities i.e.: RADs, Quarterly Meetings and Regional activities. Al Garrison recommended that we use a tool such as Google Shared Calendar and that each member be given access for input to the calendar. We discussed Google Workspace Calendar and another APP's. Chaplain Gilmore was very vocal in supporting any effort that increases our collaboration and online information sharing. It was agreed that it would be Council members only to have access. Motion was made to use Google Workspace Calendar and Will Johnson volunteered to set it up prior to our April Meeting. A motion was made by Will Johnson and seconded by Tom Bamvakais. **Motion Passed**

The Missouri Benefits and Reference Guide booklets were provided by Will Johnson. There were two separate guides on military/veteran benefits

RSO Report

1. "My FSS" (Air Force portal) continued to have technical issues. The Retirement packets are still backlogged from October 2023.
2. The MONGA Conference will be held at Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, Missouri.
3. SPC Wright is now the designated person working the DEERS site at the CPE Girardeau Office.
4. Updates from the Family Warrior and Support staff:
 - a. CW2 Tyler King (FWS Senior Human Resources Officer) Transferring to Recruiting and Retention in March 2024
 - b. 1SG Pauline (Celeste) Laird has returned from mobilization and returned to the FWS NCOIC position held prior to the mobilization.
 - c. SFC Gessee Steck was ADOS in the FWS NCOIC while 1SG was away and will return to her Title 5 role in Family Program position.
5. RSO certificate Course prerequisite is now to be certified every year. Initial recertification course for John Lewis and Todd Henderson were to be done 12-16 February, but was cancelled. A new date has not yet been set. TBD
6. One on one meetings with retiree's and /or annuitants (if needed) for dire situations that are strenuous on the respective retiree or spouse

Upcoming Events

- Open House at the Vets Center - 16 February, Columbia, MO
- Final Formation Event - 2 March, Danner Hall, Ft. Leonard Wood
- MONGA Conference - 12-13 April
- Upcoming leave for the Retirement Services Office:
 - Todd out of office last week of March 2024
 - Stella out 5 Feb, 12Feb, and 19 April
 - John out last week of March, last week in May and first week of June

Thank you to John and Todd from Dave Simons for assistance with a retiree's paperwork.

There was a report for the petty cash / Kitty funds of \$ 151.59.

Regional Reports

Southeast - Donal Firebaugh

No success in finding someone to step in/step up to become a new member for this council from his region.

Southwest - Jim Dunn, Jackie Adams, Gary Gilmore

They were hosting the Adjutant General's Rifle Match on March 2024. They are raffling an AR -15. They're planning a 20 yr. reunion on 16-17 August 2024 and are inviting past 203rd Engineer Battalion members. We are having a MAC 5 in August with meals provided.

West - Breck Ferguson, Gary Boyd, Derbo Caicedo

The ID cards for lifetime member's trial run will be first trial just to the West Region Chapter. They are still working on Recruiting at upcoming Hockey game in the KC area.

Central - Will Johnson, Sharon Perry

Will Johnson is continuing to work on updates for the MONG RC Charter. Will is attempting to get information on small retiree groups that are meeting in the Central Region to collect a list and contacts for each group.

East - Bob Julis, Dave Simons, Tom Bamvakais

Bob Julius reported that the 20 + Club had a change in officers with the recent death of their president Dave Reily. Bob Julius was elected president. Tom Bamvakais will take Bob's place as vice president. The passing of Dave Reily left a significant void within the 20+ Club. Dave had significant contributions as the president of the American Legion Post 162 and his management of the American Legion Post military honors rifle team. His commitment to service even during his health challenges, including a kidney and liver transplant, exemplifies his dedication and resilience. There was a recent development that has influenced the 20+ Club. The ownership of Building 96 is to transition to the Jefferson Barracks Heritage Foundation (JBHF). Building 96 is a significant venue for the club's meetings and has played a crucial role in fostering a sense of community and continuity for its members. Our club met with JBHF Board of Directors to discuss the future of the 20+ Club with the JBHF. We found out that we share common interests with the history of Jefferson Barracks. As a result, the JBHF Board of Directors has agreed to allow our club to continue using the facility for our monthly meetings. Furthermore, we are honored by the invitation of the JBHF Board to have representation as advisors to the JBHF Board. The 20+ Club are volunteers with Family Response Group (FRG for the 35th Military Police BDE at Jefferson Barracks. We had a great Christmas Party last December and we are planning activities for this year 2024. The Area V Chapter is having difficulties staying a workable organization. The after serving more the ten years serving as president the current president has decided to not run for re-election. No one has stepped up to take on the position and other positions such as bartender, head cook and serving table leader. If no one will volunteer as President by the next dinner meeting, it will be possible that the Area V Chapter will be forced suspend its operations. Dave Simons reported that the 131st BW RAO JB office has been remarkably busy working with the MONG RSO providing assistance in giving Retiree briefings and retirement papers to both Air and Army Guard members.

Northwest - Tom Morris, Randy Rodenberg, Gaila Sullivan

Tom Morris reported on plans that are underway to host an event utilizing facilities at the 139th AW. June 7, 2024. Tri Care, RSO, and VA with mobile unit have been invited to provide briefings.

Northeast - Alan Garrison, Steve McQueen, Dan Hatcher

Dan reported that Macon, and Kirksville chapters remain engaged with each other. Currently, the Hannibal unit is drilling and Steve plans to visit Mexico unit. The Marshall unit is planning a BBQ during summer timeframe.

Note: We have added an agenda item called Chaplains Update following Regional Reports

Chaplains Update

It was reported that General William Ward's wife Janice has passed. Keep in mind Dave Riley and all those families grieving.

The benediction was given in closing as the Chaplain prayed for all sick, infirmed and the many that have passed during the last year.

Next Meeting was set for April 12, 2024, 10:00 A.M. MONGA Annual Conference, vicinity of the Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, MO.

Will Blaylock, MONGA Executive Director agreed to acquire the MONG RC meeting space for the quarterly Board meeting.

Motion to Adjourn and end the meeting was made by Jim Dunn and seconded by Tom Morris.

Motion Passed

***According to Roberts Rules the Chair closes the meeting usually by calling for a motion to adjourn and then a vote. This ensures no unfinished business remains before closing. The Chair can direct adjournment, but this is wildly unpopular and does not ensure the council has been heard. It's like the Chair slamming the door on everyone.