

Minutes of
Missouri National Guard Retiree Council
6 January 2018

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1200 on 6 January 2018 in the Patriot Center at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Jefferson City with the following retirees and other interested parties in attendance.

Randy Westveer	Bill Leeper
Dave Riley	Jack Argent
Bob Julius	Matt Jenkins (via VTC)
Donal Firebaugh	Todd Henderson
Gary Boyd	Jim Dunn
Cecil Connett	Audie Pruitt
Tony Cosentino	Don Koonce

Gaila Sullivan

Debra Havens, Retirement Services Officer

Gary called the meeting to order at 1155 (Todd phoned and stated he was running late). Roll call of members present and 6 regions were represented. The northwest region was absent. Audie stated there were enough MONGRC members present for a quorum.

Gary led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony offered invocation.

Gary introduced Gaila Sullivan, from the Northwest region, and presented a short biography. He briefly explained the functions, activities, goals and purpose of the MONGRC to Gaila.

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

Debra stated she had visited with Kathy Lucero in her office briefly before the meeting convened. Kathy has been retained by Health Net, the new contractor for TRICARE west region. Kathy is excited to retain her job but DOD is imposing restricted time constraints on her activities and is concerned about it. LTC Martin feels we need to document all of requests to Kathy that are refused, or curtailed, so he can document and present to Gen. Danner, who will then pass his concerns to NGB to get DOD to remove/modify Kathy's restrictions. (Todd arrives during this time frame)

Gary proposed a motion that the Council accept Gaila Sullivan as a voting member from the Northwest region. Motion was seconded, and Council members voted unanimously to seat Gaila as an active Council member for the Northwest region.

Region Reports. West. Gary reports the MCC will conduct a meeting later in January to further discuss the disposition of the land. Current plans are to conduct a RAD, in conjunction with the Northwest region, on March 31 at the Kansas City Armory. The chapter will be meeting in February to finalize RAD plans and elect new officers.

Southwest. A quarterly member meeting was held November 18 at the Joplin armory with a catered holiday meal. The next member meeting will be a breakfast event in March. The 203rd Association will again provide support and meals for the TAG Weapons Match at Camp Crowder on March 23-25. A rifle raffle will be conducted during the match, in conjunction with the competitors and 203rd Association. The 203rd History Room was completely emptied due to a contractor repainting and sealing the floor because of its past usage as a rifle range. BG William Ward was recently recognized as outstanding alumni on the cover of the fall 2017 Missouri Southern State University Crossroads magazine. Past 203rd Battalion Commander LTC Greg Fritz will be promoted to COL at a ceremony January 7 at 1400 in the Pierce City Armory.

Central. Todd reported Columbia VA Hospital now has an RV traveling 2 days a week to surrounding areas to enroll into the VA system. The travel schedule is M – F and can be requested to visit specific locations. Todd also explained the recently implemented new VA ID card program. The Columbia VA is initiating a 2 year pilot program using 5 vans to transport needy veterans to VA facilities in selected areas.

East. The 70th Troop Command was treated to a Christmas party in December. RAO conducted a “7 December Remembrance Day” honoring WWII veterans. Another troop breakfast will be held in March or April, date TBD. A “Final Formation” event will be held sometime in February.

Northeast. Randy reported that he is off to a ‘slow start’ but has plans to improve services to the region. He requests a list of all armories within the region from Debra (she will e-mail to Randy). He wants to contact each unit within the region to schedule retirement type briefings with each unit. Jim Dunn will send his retirement and rcsbc power point presentations to Randy to use. He will also be coordinating with local FRG’s to coop with meetings, parties, etc.

Southeast. Donal reported a quarterly retiree dinner was held in the 4th quarter. They regularly conduct quarterly meetings that are well attended. A Christmas Party was also conducted for the full time soldiers in December.

Council retired for a 15 minute break at 1300.

Don Koonce reminded the Council the 2018 MONGA Conference will be held in Springfield at the Ramada Plaza on April 27-28. Don also stated Tony Bamvakais and Dennis Sandbothe have now fully retired from all Guard activities. Don stated he will now be attending all Missouri House and Senate

committee meetings concerning veteran issues because of those retirements. His ESGR activities are still focusing on working with Missouri companies to continue to bring jobs to Missouri for veterans. He is also involved with raising funds to help establish churches around bases worldwide.

RSO Report. Debra reports the West region RAD is set for March 31. She is working with the chapter on zip codes, drafting a TAG invitation letter and determining what vendors will attend. She distributed, and explained, 2 TRICARE handouts describing the incoming changes. Anyone who retires after 1 January 2018 is now required to pay monthly fees for TRICARE coverage. There are also some 90 day enrollment window restrictions, 3 month advance fee requirements and catastrophic cap changes. The application for retirement DD Form 2656 has been changed and is 9 pages long now. Debra stated there are 8588 Missouri Guard members eligible for new BRS. Individual training for all those eligible was supposed to be completed by 31 December 2017, but approximately 1030 still need to complete the required training. Soldiers who have completed 12 years of service may qualify for continuation pay if they have opted into BRS. The pay is a form of bonus under BRS guidelines. Amounts vary depending on full time and M day status of the individual soldier.

The next meeting will be held at 1200 on 7 April 2018 at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Patriot Center conference room, Jefferson City.

Tony offered benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1355.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary