

Minutes of  
Missouri National Guard Retiree Council  
13 July 2019

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1200 on 13 July 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 (via VTC)
Todd Henderson	Randy Rodenberg
Jim Dunn	Cecil Connett
Mark Bartley (via VTC)	Don Koonce (via VTC)

Debra Havens, Retirement Services Officer

Todd called the meeting to order at 1200.

Todd led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of members present and 4 regions were represented. The northeast, southeast and west regions were 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 **6 April 2019** MONGRC meeting. No discussion about the report and the minutes were approved as presented.

Jim reported to the Council per the Bylaws, nominations for new Council officers should have been done, and he apologized to the members for failing to notify them. And per the By Laws election of new officers is to be held during the July meeting. Members discussed the situation and determined the election needs to proceed even though the nomination step was overlooked in April. Todd asked for nominations to any of the MONGRC offices and none was made. Jim stated he had conducted a "straw poll" of sitting officers and all agreed to serve another term in their respective offices. Bob Julius made a motion to re-elect all current officers to their respective positions. Cecil 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Todd called for the vote motion passed unanimously.

Old business. Jim discussed the Councils past discussion of the MONGRC region map. It was previously discussed to possible align with the Missouri State Defense Force's (MSDF) proposed map, which aligns the MSDF to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop Commands. After discussion by the Council, it was decided to table any changes to the MONGRC region map due to lack of active participation in the current regions by interested retiree's.

Region Reports. Southwest. Mark briefly reported on the MSDF AT conducted June 3-7 at Ft. Leonard Wood and what other activities MSDF Region D has undertaken, including visiting the now vacant Lamar armory for use as a MSDF equipment site. He also stated he is now the Commander of the American Legion District 15. A new Legion Bike Riders chapter has been chartered and is active in many community activities such as parades, fund raisers. Jim reported the 203<sup>rd</sup> Retiree's Association will conduct a Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on Saturday October 12 at the Joplin National Guard Armory, and will also providing food for the MAC V Regional weapons competition at Camp Crowder August 9-11. The Association conducted its 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly members meeting on Saturday June 1. He reported the Joplin American Legion Post co-hosted a Memorial Day ceremony with Joplin ROTC cadets and Mt Hope Cemetery where the cremains of 3 unclaimed veterans were interred. The Post will also host the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Veteran's Expo Thursday September 12 at Joplin's Memorial Hall from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Central. Todd reported a new VA Mission Act effective 6 June 2019. This act allows, among other things, that a veteran, that is 30 minutes away from VA facilities, with a non-emergency can visit their nearest urgent care facility for treatment. This act allows 3 visits per year at no cost, and co-pays apply after 3 visits. It also allows a 14 prescription from urgent care for any necessary medication until VA can provide any additional medications. Todd will e-mail Council members a website that lists participating urgent care and pharmacy facilities. The requirement or VA enrollee's to go to ER's and notify VA within 24 hours still applies. He stated the VA has not received any guidance on the recently passed Blue Water Act yet. There are some restrictions to this act on who qualifies for VA benefits under this Act.

East. Dave reports a family day BBQ was held recently with the 35<sup>th</sup> MP Brigade, and good communications are active between them and the 20+ Club. Bob reported the RAO is getting several people issued CAC cards. Access to certain computer functions is still not active but they are working with Scott AFB to rectify the problems. A new Lambert Field Veteran's group is starting soon in the St. Louis area. Scott AFB now has a mess hall available to personnel with proper military ID's.

Northwest. Randy reports still working on making contact with retiree's in his region. He states that he is not getting any co-operation with full time staff at the local armories. He feels strongly that a letter of introduction from TAG, or an ID badge would be extremely helpful in getting assistance from the armory staff's.

RSO Report. Debra reports John Lewis has now been promoted to GS7 level. The Ft. Leonard RAD is scheduled for 6-7 September. Invitations to the RAD are only sent out via e-mail—no more hard copies due to cost. A military Appreciation Day will be held Sunday August 11 at the Missouri State Fair.

New Business. Don reported the 2020 Missouri National Guard Association conference will be held at the Oasis in Springfield on April 24-25. He discussed some of the expected legislative issues for next year. The current age restrictions for MSDF membership are being discussed. Changes considered are to state willing and able to serve instead of hard age restrictions. And for those who no longer want to be fully active can revert to an advisory role within MSDF. He gave an overview of the current status of the MSDF, the SOP's completion (70-80%) and review, some of the composition of MSDF staff and legislature members. He stated the member lawyers and legislature members will be conducting an in

depth review of the Missouri Statutes, and comparing them to other states statutes. The next muster will be held Saturday September 7 in the St. Louis area—location TBD. Randy inquired about the status of letter of introduction for MSDF members, and the possibility of an ID similar to MSDF's badge to be issued to MONGRC members. Don stated he would check with TAG on those items and report back to the Council.

Randy briefed the Council on LNO actions during the Ft. Leonard Wood AT. He reviewed the daily LNO activities that occurred during the June AT at Ft. Leonard Wood with the 35<sup>th</sup> Eng. BDE and 110<sup>th</sup> MEB, and the positive effect those actions had.

Don suggested that using the computer video/audio application ZOOM for future MONGRC meetings. The application has certain advantages over the voice only methods the Council uses currently.

The next meeting will be held at 1200 on 5 October 2019 at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Patriot Center conference room, Jefferson City.

The meeting adjourned at 1317.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary