

Minutes of
Missouri National Guard Retiree Council

2 April 2016

The meeting of the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council began at 1140 on 2 April 2016 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

Bob Julius

Harold Loethen

Gary Boyd

Jim Dunn

Tony Cosentino

Audie Pruitt

Don Koonce

Debra Havens, Retirement Services Officer

John Lewis, RSO Administrative Assistant

LTC Chris Mickan, Chief Family and Warrior Support

Bob called the meeting to order at 1140. Roll call of members present and 4 regions were represented. The northeast, southeast and northwest regions were absent. Gary Boyd stated there were not enough MONGRC members present for a quorum.

Bob led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance and Tony Cosentino offered the invocation.

Bob 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 introduced LTC Mickan to the Council. He presented a short biography of his career and jobs he has been involved in. He assured the Council of his support for the MONGRC and its goals. Unfortunately he had to leave due to prior commitments.

Jim Dunn introduced Audie Pruitt to the Council. He presented a short biography of his career and stated he recently retired as CWO4 shop chief at the Camp Crowder maintenance shop. He is also an active member of the 203rd Houn Dawgs Association.

RSO Report/2016 RAD. Debra reported 152 people have pre-registered for the RAD. She presented the RAD agenda, and the locations Council members will need to be stationed to direct attendees to Windgate Hall. A bus is available to transport attendees from the Big Surf Water Park lot to Tan-Tar-A Resort. The bus will run from 10 a.m. thru 1 p.m. for transporting guests to the resort, and from 4 p.m thru 6:30 p.m. for transporting guests back to their vehicles at the Water Park. Council members will

meet Saturday at 10 a.m. at the resort to disperse to their respective locations. Kyle Dunn will assist John Lewis at the RAD registration table Saturday.

Don Koonce announced his intention to fully retire from his civilian job in approximately 6 weeks. He also stated that after retirement his plans are to work on a 'we the people' project to get the private world to work on things to help youth and America.

Old Business-Regional Updates. West region reported a vote will be cast at 1 P.M. April 23 about the property disposition. They anticipate this process to be completed by year end. There are approximately 40 qualified voting members who will be casting ballots.

East region recently co-hosted, with the FRG, a breakfast for the 70th Troop Command. They have also moved into a new building at JB for the 20+ Club.

Southwest region the 203rd Association has partnered with the local Compass Quest organization in V.I. A. Together and 4-22 events, which support and raise funds for all local veterans and homeless veterans. They will also partner in a family day for the FSC of the 203rd on September 11. The 203rd Dining In was held in Kansas City on Jan. 9 and the Engineer Ball was on Feb. 20. Members of the 203rd Association presented the Retirement Decision Briefings to the soldiers and spouses of Joplin FSC, Carthage, HSC and Pierce City units during their holiday family luncheons. The annual Cabin Fever Rummage Sale was held at the Joplin Armory Feb. 27 netting the 203rd Association app. \$2100.00 for their treasury. The Association partnered with the FSC FRG in providing meals for roughly 140 competitors and staff during the annual TAG match held at Camp Crowder March 18-20, generating \$600.00 profit that was split between the FRG and Association treasuries. Several members of the 203rd Association participated in a work day in early November clearing brush at the front of the Pierce City Armory that was severely obstructing the view of the Armory and old tank displayed in front of the property. A member's quarterly breakfast meeting was held at Camp Crowder on Wednesday March 9. The Association has disbursed 3 payments from their We Care Fund so far this calendar year. They will also be participating in the 203rd's beltline during their AT on July 16-19 advising soldiers of the benefits they can receive by completing 20 qualified years of service in the Missouri National Guard.

Bob Julius presented a resignation letter from Jim Bradley, and discussed the selection of a replacement with the Council members. Jim cited many other unexpected obligations that required his attention as the reason for resigning, and felt he was unable to give of his time that the MONGRC deserved.

Tony Cosentino discussed his association with the Bethesda Assisted Living facility. The group is working on setting up a means for veterans to record their military careers and experiences on DVD's> they are also going to have some veterans speak at local high schools about their military experiences.

Council retired for a 15 minute break at 1300.

New Business. The Council discussed having the regions again conduct area AD's in 2017. Gary Boyd stated the west has logistical and manpower issues currently. Southwest can host a RAD if Council

decides that is the plan for 2017. Bob briefly discussed the east and southeast abilities and manpower to conduct RAD's. It was decided to discuss the issue in the near future.

Council Re-Focus. Bob talked about the lack of participation and attendance by some regions in MONGRC meetings and activities, and how the Council may be losing focus of the MONGRC goals and missions. The Retirement Decision power point presentation is good but the Air Guard info is missing from the current version and needs to be added to the presentation. There was a general discussion of how effective the Council is statewide, and the lack of top command emphasis in the pursuit to get Retirement Decision briefings presentations into the Armories. The Council feels it would be very helpful for top command emphasis to allow the presentations in all armories, which would help the Council gain recognition, notoriety and respectability. Don Koonce discussed ESGR and AMRE drills as a means to access armories and schedule briefings. There was more discussion on using the VTC capabilities to create videos, using Council members stationed at local armories during the VTC transmissions to augment and answer questions from the audience in person.

Tony Cosentino offered benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 1425.

The next meeting will be held at 1200 on 9 July 2016 at the Ike Skelton Training Site, Patriot Center conference room, Jefferson City.

Prepared by:

Jim Dunn, Secretary