



June 10, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

Minutes of the April 2019 Bi-monthly membership meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees' Association (MMRA)

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday June 4th at 1700 In the Gray Room of the Consolidated Open Mess, with presiding officers President-Paul Sayles, Vice President-Toby Fanelli, Joseph Roginski, Secretary and Treasurer-Dave Barton, and 22 general members.
2. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the April 2019 meeting which was accepted and approved by the membership.
3. OLD Business:
 - a. Joe Roginski reported on the status of disposal of Chief "T"'s estate. He reported that the will had been probated and the funds in the Navy Federal account will be distributed according to the will after the final accounting of expenses is approved by the executor. Joe reported that the lawyer is still reviewing the financial records for final distribution of funds of the estate. (Open)
 - b. Dave Barton and Joe Roginski reported that there were no problems with retirees getting the base sticker or the vehicle pass, whichever is preferred. For this year at least there are no issues and we will have to see what happens next year after any Pass and ID staff changes. (closed)
 - c. Paul Sayles asked if this year we were going to give a donation to the people collecting the vehicle (road) tax as we have done in past years. Dave Barton responded that this is a regular thing and that if they still would like a donation, they will get one from us. Dave Barton reported that we gave the tax collection volunteers a \$50 donation. (Closed)
 - d. Dave Barton and Joe Roginski reported that we were having problems sending e-mails from the office to addresses like Yahoo, Hotmail, AOL, etc. Dave said he was working with Comms on this but it looks like it will be an ongoing problem and if it is not resolved, we may have to start sending e-mail from our home computers. Dave Barton reported that the Comms people apparently have fixed the problem as we are no longer having issues with e-mails to commercial e-mail sites. (Closed)
 - e. Bill Tuttle said that Japanese social security payments can go to American spouses of Japanese spouses who are receiving Japanese social security payments, just as it is done in America. Joe Roginski said he will investigate and get back to the membership. Joe responded that he didn't have time to investigate this issue but will this week. (Open)
 - f. Joe Roginski reminded the membership that this year's air show will be on September 8th which enables us to begin work on the schedule for our Misawa AB Retiree Appreciation Day. Dave Barton said he will begin work on the schedule ASAP. Dave Barton reported that the date for the Retiree Appreciation Day has been set for September 14th, working around the schedules for the Air Show, Navy and Air Force Balls. Dave reported that letters to all the units and sponsors of the event have gone out. The format will be like previous RAD events. Kevin Bosket added that as of right now they are hoping to have flu shots available at the event. Dave will give a progress report at the next meeting.(Open)
 - g. Paul Sayles said the new VA Representative was supposed to come to this month's meeting but something prevented her from attending and he will try to get her to the next meeting. Dave Barton

announced that the VA Representative will be visit Misawa this June and will be taking appointments on the 24th (Closed)

4. New Business:

- a. Kevin Bosket reported that there are a lot of PCSs in the Med Group and there may be less appointments available, and possibly a little harder to get an appointment. He expects the situation to be resolved by the end of July. (Closed)
- b. Dave Barton reported that the new shingles vaccine is still available for retirees and it is given in two sessions. He also said that it can be taken even if you had received the older version of the shingles vaccine. This one is supposed to be more effective. (Closed)
- c. Michael Atkinson reported that we can get the Japan Railways senior discount card by applying at the View Plaza office in the JR station, and these cards can get you senior discounts as much as 30% off your ticket. He also reported that it was fairly easy to get a Japanese driver's license as long as you have a valid stateside licence and can prove that you have driven using it for a specified period. (Closed)
- d. Paul Sayles reported that the Enlisted Bi-Lateral Dining Out committee had asked for a donation. Paul also said that in the past we have not donated because of the way our constitution reads. Paul offered to "pass the hat" so we could collect any funds as unofficial donation. (Paul passed the hat and we collected about \$50 for that committee.) (Closed)
- e. Paul Sayles announced that there is a used stamp drive for the VA to collect stamps for use in therapy and rehab in VA facilities. They are especially looking for foreign stamps. Paul said he would set up a collection box at the office or anyone could bring stamps to the next meeting. (Closed)
- f. Paul Sayles announced that American Day will be on the 22nd and 23rd of June and to expect gate closures and schedule changes. He will put info on the traffic changes as he gets it. (Closed)
- g. Dave Barton reported on the passing of James Cunniff, Senior Chief (Ret), USN, and the progress he has been making in getting the required documents together for his survivors. Joe Roginski reported on the passing of Chie Horibe, widow of Godwin Horibe, TSgt (Ret), USAF. Godwin was one of the Japanese Americans put in internment at the beginning of WWII. He joined the 442nd Infantry Regiment, one of the most decorated units in the war. This again emphasized the importance of keeping ones records, such as insurance, will, and other documents up to date to save your survivors a lot of hassle when the inevitable finally happens. We remind everyone that the RAO has a secure cabinet where any retiree can store a sealed folder with a will and other important papers. (Closed)
- h. We introduced new retired members- Todd Willis, Chief, USN; Todd Murphy, CMSgt, USAF; Tenequa Styles-Glenn, CMSgt, USAF; Martin McKay, MSgt, USAF; and Brett Knepley, USAF. (*I apologize if I did not get everyone's rank or service correct.*) (Closed)

5. Dave Barton read the financial report for the period April through June. He reported beginning balance \$8,386.35, dues income of \$20, dividends of 0.69, for total income of \$20.69, and expenses of April club bill \$142.00, donation \$50 for total expenses of \$192.00. Dave reported the current standing balances of \$4,308.45 Widow's Fund, and \$3,906.59 General Fund, ending balance of \$8,215.04. The financial report was accepted and approved by the membership present.

6. There being no further business, it was moved and approved to close the meeting, which closed at 1745. The next bi-monthly meeting will be at 1700 on 6 August 2019 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

Joseph Roginski
Secretary, MMRA