



August 9, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

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

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday August 6th at 1700 In the Gray Room of the Tohoku Enlisted Club, with presiding officers President-Paul Sayles, Secretary-Joseph Roginski, and Treasurer-Dave Barton, and 14 general members.
2. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the June 2019 meeting which were accepted and approved by the membership.
3. OLD Business:
 - a. Joe Roginski reported on the status of disposal of Chief "T"'s estate. Joe reported that the lawyer is still reviewing the financial records for final distribution of funds of the estate. (Open)
 - b. 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. This item was open from the last meeting. Joe Roginski went to the Misawa City Hall and asked if there was the same arrangement with their 'Nenkin' (Social Security) system. The city hall staff said that in Japan in most cases only the person who paid into the system can collect this pension. Indeed, the staff at city hall expressed amazement and considerable jealousy as regards the American system. (Closed)
 - c. Retiree appreciation Day. Dave Barton reported that the date has been set for September 14th, avoiding conflict with the Air Force Ball and the Navy Ball, and will be in the Club Mutsu ballroom and the Exchange foyer as in past years; breakfast from 0800-0930 and the cake cutting and drawing from 1000-1200. Breakfast will be sponsored by the Misawa Enlisted and Officers Spouses Clubs, and the Commissary, Exchange, Military Auto Sales, and other vendors. Dave announced that all the invitations had been sent out and that both the FW CC and CV will be attending, the Medical Group and our providers Dr Taves and Dr Trefflich will also be attending. He emphasized that the RSVPs from the retiree community has been slow and urged everyone to respond attending or not attending and if bringing a guest, so he can firm up the seating arrangements. (Open)
 - d. 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 visit Misawa this June and will be taking appointments on the 24th (Closed)
4. New Business:

There was no new business for this meeting. We did have an open discussion and the following points were made:

 - a. A member asked about the new shingles vaccine and wanted to know if it was safe to get vaccinated again after being vaccinated with the old vaccine. Dave Barton replied that it is safe and even

recommended to take the new vaccine. Al Holocek reported that when he went to get the new vaccine, the immunization staff had to ask his provider for permission to administer the vaccine.

- b. Ray Eberhardt reported that he spent nearly five months in a Japanese hospital and emphasized that getting the Japanese health insurance is a must, lauding both the top-notch care he received and the low out of pocket cost. Several members brought up the low cost of the Japanese National Health Insurance program and also the long-term care programs. Another member emphasized that persons here under the SOFA were not eligible for Japanese government health insurance.
 - c. Paul Sayles announced that the Misawa Air show will be on Sunday, September 8th and the commissary will be closed and open the next day, Monday. He announced that there will be road and gate closures and details will be forthcoming. Paul also announced that Baskin Robbins and Dunkin Donuts hours have changed to 0900-1900.
 - d. Joe Roginski announced that Dave Barton had applied to be on the PACAF Retiree Council in anticipation of the retirement of Emmet Heidemann in late 2020, and if selected, considering Dave's skills and experience, would be a perfect representative for PACAF region retirees.
 - e. Joe Roginski also announced that he and Dave Barton visited the new leadership of the support group and the dental squadron, and that Dave made a good point of the need for more dental support for Misawa retirees.
5. Dave Barton read the financial report for the period June through July. He reported beginning balance \$8,215.04, dues income of \$140, dividends of 0.69, RAD breakfast donation from Officers Spouses Club of \$496.68, for total income of \$637.67, and expenses of June club bill \$153.25. Dave reported the current standing balances of Widow's Fund \$4,308.45, and General Fund \$4,390.71, ending balance of \$8,699.16. 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 8 October 2019 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

Joseph Roginski
Secretary, MMRA