



April 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

Minutes of the April 2020 Bi-monthly membership meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees' Association (MMRA)

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday, April 7th at 1700 In the Gray Room of the Tohoku Enlisted Club, with presiding officers: President-Paul Sayles, Vice President-Toby Fanelli, Secretary-Joseph Roginski, and Treasurer, Dave Barton, and 8 general members.
2. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the February 2020 meeting which were accepted and approved by the membership.
3. Old Business:
COVID-19 - There was only one open item from the last meeting, the discussion about the COVID-19 pandemic. Dave Barton announced that various facilities were changing their operating hours, recapping the Medical Group and pharmacy hours. He also announced that the bank and credit union were changing their hours to 0900-1300 effective Monday. Alan Holocek commented that Japan had tightened the entry and exit limitations and that entry from a pandemic level 3 country had been virtually blocked. (United States is now a level 3 country.) Paul Sayles said that although the country is closed to entry from the US, that there were special allowances for persons under the SOFA. Ray Eberhardt noted that many of the citizen services at the American Embassy have been curtailed, and that passport renewal services had been suspended except for emergency renewal. It was generally agreed that changes are coming day by day and we will keep the membership informed as best as we can as they happen.

Most of the meeting time was devoted to members sharing information about limitations, changes and cancellations. Members commented that Prime Minister Abe announced a state of emergency for seven prefectures (the Tokyo-Osaka metropolitan areas), that the city of Hachinohe and the Shimoda Aeon Mall are off limits to all SOFA persons, that take outs instead of eating out is recommended, that persons who have appointments at off-base hospitals, especially Hachinohe, should contact the patient referral office for guidance, that all MWR trips have been cancelled, and the American Day and Japan day events have been postponed to October. Joe Roginski commented that we retirees should look out for each other, checking up on each other and that if anyone is ill, make sure that they get help. Joe also commented that the quarterly newsletter will come out tomorrow, Wednesday, and it has a long detailed article on how to protect oneself against the COVID-19 virus. (Open)

4. New Business
Alan Holocek asked about vehicle stickers this year at road tax time. Dave Barton responded that the process will be the same as last year but most likely a different layout for social distancing, and that the round sticker or the one-year square sticker from Pass and ID will be available. (Closed)
5. Financial Report- Dave Barton read the financial report for the period February 2020 to present-beginning balance \$8,274.45, income from dues of \$60, dividends 0.70, donations \$520, total income of \$580.70.

Expenses: February meeting \$126.25. Balances: widows fund \$4,261.62, General fund \$4,467.28, ending balance: \$8,728.90. 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 1740. The next bi-monthly meeting will be at 1700 on 2 June 2020 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

Joseph Roginski
Secretary, MMRA