



June 5, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

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

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday, June 2nd 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 11 general members.
2. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the April 2020 meeting which were accepted and approved by the membership.
3. Old Business:
COVID-19
Hospital - Kevin Bosket reported that the hospital had reverted to normal schedule. He also reported that patients who have appointments at off-base hospitals in restricted areas are able to go to these appointments but to go directly, no side business or shopping. Dave Barton asked if translators are available and Kevin said that retirees should contact patient referrals for any translator assistance, and that it would be helpful to call as far in advance as you can. He would also ask retirees to provide feedback on how off-base referrals are working for them. He is working on an information sheet for patients for off-base referrals which should be very useful for both patients and the office. He said that while the hospital has returned to its regular schedule, the dental section is still very short of staff and also has to deal with PPE shortages for the Covid-19 issue, and accordingly, is still seeing only active duty and emergency patients.
Joe Roginski reported that the Shinkansen schedule is back to normal.
Alan Holocek reported that the air show was cancelled.
Ray Eberhardt asked when things were going to be back to normal on base and Dave Barton said the best source for those questions would be the Town Hall meetings which are on TV and Facebook.
Joe Roginski commented that the American Embassy in Tokyo puts out a newsletter with the most current virus and travel information and situations throughout the country. One can go to the embassy's American Citizens' Services (ACS) site and sign up for the newsletter.
(Secretary-All information on the Covid-19 actions will continue in this category until the crisis is declared over.) (Open)
4. New Business
 - a. A member reported that the IRS is not processing tax returns as he had not received his refund after filing in February. Another member reported that the IRS is only processing stimulus checks and the new deadline of July 15 may be extended even more. Another member commented that probably IRS staff are teleworking and only processing on-line returns as members who filed on-line have received their refunds. (Closed).
 - b. Ray Eberhardt reported that bears have been sighted near the North Area and Japanese beach area and the city is broadcasting warnings. (Closed)

- c. Dave Barton reported that the Retiree Appreciation Day has been scheduled for 12 September, but he is not sure if it will go as planned, and it depends on how the other upcoming events in that time frame are handled. (Open)
 - d. Ray Eberhardt suggested that the MMRA set up a scholarship program for graduating high school students. It was commented that this might require a change in the constitution. General feeling was for the suggestion and it was moved that the suggestion be set aside until the Covid-19 crisis subsides. (Open)
5. Financial Report- Dave Barton read the financial report for the period April 2020 to present-beginning balance \$8,728.90, income from dues of \$120, dividends 0.72, total income of \$120.72. Expenses: April meeting \$121.75. Balances: widows fund \$4,261.62, General fund \$4,466.75, ending balance: \$8,728.37. 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 1730. The next bi-monthly meeting will be at 1700 on 4 August 2020 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

Joseph Roginski
Secretary, MMRA