

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes Fort Drum Retiree Council (FDRC) 20-22 April 2023

1. Attendance record for the meeting:

| Council Member | 20 APR 23 | 21 APR 23 | 22 APR 23 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| MG Robert Kasulke M.D., USA Retired | Excused/Pres | Excused/Pres | Present |
| CSM Frank Puidokas, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| COL Charles Frost, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| COL Milledge Smith, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| LTC Buford-Frost, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| MAJ Nina Saeli, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| CPT Jeffery Saeli, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| CSM Henry Curtis, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| CSM Maurice Mitchell, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| SGM John McCollough, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| MSG David Pearson, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| MSG Terry Finley, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |
| Ms. Brenda Pennels, Surviving Spouse | Present | Present | Excused |
| Mr. Richard Vinet, Canadian Liaison | Excused | Excused | Excused |
| Past Council Member/Emeritus | | | |
| | | | |
| Retirement Services Office | | | |
| Sunny Mitchell, CSM, USA Retired | Present | Present | Present |

2. The meeting began at 1100, 20 April 2023. MG Kasulke joined mid-afternoon due to participation in another event in San Antonio, Texas. On 21 April 2023, MG Kasulke had a morning obligation in Watertown, NY.

3. Meeting Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, 19 April 2023 (Travel - Maine, New Hampshire, and Buffalo members).

Thursday, 20 April 2023 (Clark Hall, Room B2-14)

0800 – 1100 Travel time for remaining New York members.

1100 – 1110 Meet and greet DHR/New MPD Chief

1110 – 1300 FDRC working lunch (Clark Hall, MPD Conference Room B2-14)

1300 – 1400 Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Kelly Bice (Building 11042)

1400 – 1600 True Colors Team Building Exercise (EAP) Christine Robinson

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Thursday, 20 April 2023 (Clark Hall, Room B2-14) continued

1600 – 1630 Hotel Check In

1630 – 1700 Volunteer of the Year Support at The Peaks

1700 – 1800 Volunteer of the Year Social at The Peaks

1800 – 1930 Volunteer of the Year Ceremony at The Peaks

Friday, 21 April 2023 (Room C2-22, Clark Hall)

0800- 0830 Spring Meeting Overview (Review of schedule/RSO notes, workgroup assignments- mission and end state)

0830-1200 Committee Break Out/Workgroup Breakouts:

- RAD Planning (Events/Agenda) - CSM Mitchell, and CSM Curtis

- Communications (Postcard/Newsletter) - MAJ Saeli, LTC Buford-Frost, and

MSG Finley

- CSA Issues (Identification/Initial Research/Development) - COL Smith, Ms.

Pennels, and CSM Puidokas

- Charter/Bylaws review/update – CPT Saeli, COL Frost and SGM McCollough

1200 – 1300 Lunch – On your own (most went to PX Food Court)

1300 – 1315 Council picture (Clark Hall Staircase)

1315 – 1345 Election of Officer Co-Chair and Secretary

1345 – 1430 Council Charter Review/Discussion

1430 – 1500 Post Card/Newsletter Discussion

1500 – 1530 CSA Issues Review/Discussion

1530 – 1600 RAD Planning Discussion

1600 – 1700 Release for Personal Time

1700 – 1730 Travel to Council Social - Zero Dock, Carthage, New York

1730 – UTC Council Social - Zero Dock, Carthage, NY (www.zerodockstreet.com)

Saturday, 22 April 2023 - The Ramada, 21000 NYS Rt 3, Watertown, NY 13601

0800 – 1000 Clear Path for Vets Retirement Breakfast (Ramada, Watertown, NY)

1000 – 1200 Travel AAR, zero balance vouchers/hotel receipt turned into Sunny

1200 – UTC Travel to Home Station (Check in with Sunny upon arrival home)

Monday, 24 April 2023 - Final AAR comments due

Email AAR – all members should submit three sustains and three improves to Enlisted Co-Chair by COB 24 April 2023.

4. Introduction: Ms. Lorilyn Starr, Acting Military Personnel Division (MPD) Chief, greeted the council and welcomed us to Fort Drum. Sunny Mitchell provided an overview of the agenda. Sunny stated that the RSO office will be moving to another area of the building and is planning a grand opening at the RAD. The council briefly discussed a few objectives for the IPR; discussion on voting, membership terms, determining what's included in the Charter versus Bylaws. The council conducted a working lunch. At 1245, the council moved to Building 11042 for the afternoon session.

5. Army Family Action Plan: Kelly Bice (AFTB/AFAP Program Manager, Family

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Resource Center) provided a briefing to council members on the Army Family Action Plan. She discussed the AFAP process for issue submission has it has similarities to our CSA issue submission. Based on experience, Kelly provided recommendations for issue submission:

Title - Provide a full and concise Title

Scope – No more than three sentences, stating the Issue, Impact, and Reason

Recommendation – Provided one recommendation.

6. True Colors Team Building Exercise: Christine Robinson (Employee Assistance Program (EAP)Coordinator). Christine Robinson led the council through a team building exercise where council members learned about our own personality types (system according to Orange, Green, Blue, and Gold colors). Council members took a test and results of traits of each personality type were discussed. This was an outstanding and extremely interesting learning experience for council members.

7. Volunteer of the Year awards Ceremony: Starting at 1630, Council members provided support at the introduction table at the Peaks (formerly the Commons) aiding in seating of attendees, participated in the social, and consumed provided finger food. A Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony took place with many awardees from the Fort Drum community.

8. Friday's introduction at Clark Hall: Friday's session began at 0800 hours. A review of the previous day activities took place. Sunny stated he had received good feedback about the council attending the Volunteer of the Year Awards ceremony from the previous evening. It was agreed that if possible, the council should tie in with this event next year.

9. Council Coins: Frank stated that he will check with the vendor concerning placing an order for the newly designed council Black and Gold coin. He said there was a count of 30 old coins remaining. Frank requested a count of new coins that are needed by everyone so that he can go ahead and place an order with the vendor. The objective being to have the new coins at the September RAD. It was mentioned that the vendor normally keeps the die for three years.

10. Committee Break-out Session: During the morning, council members joined their committees for break-out sessions. Council members had lunch on their own.

11. Afternoon Session. Upon resuming at 1300, council members met in the stairway for the group photograph.

12. Elections. Frank led the discussion on elections and asked Chuck to provide an overview of the charter and previous history of elections. The charter states that election of Officer Co-Chair and Enlisted Co-chair occurs at the Spring meeting on alternating years to provide continuity between incoming and outgoing officers. It was stated that an election of the Enlisted Co-chair occurred last year in 2022. According to January

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2022 council meeting minutes, MG Kasulke was re-elected as Officer Co-chair to provide continuity for the upcoming transition of Enlisted Co-chair. Council members agreed that an election for the Officer Co-chair should be conducted during this Spring meeting. Frank administered the election. Annette nominated Chuck for Officer Co-chair. Terry nominated Bob for Officer Co-chair. Dave nominated Smitty for Officer Co-chair. All three nominees accepted nomination. The call for nominations was closed, an election was held by secret written ballot. Terry assisted with collecting ballots and counting the votes. The votes are as follows:

Kasulke (Bob) – 3

Frost (Chuck) – 6 - Elected as incoming Officer Co-Chair

Smith (Smitty) - 4

13. A question was asked when the elected Officer Co-Chair would take the position. The consensus of the group was that it would be after Garrison and Senior Post Commander gives approval.

14. Chuck requested that he step down as Secretary. Members agreed. Brenda nominated Jeff for Secretary. Jeff declined based on involvement with other activities. Annette nominated Dave. Dave declined. Brenda nominated Annette. Annette declined. Henry nominated Brenda. Brenda was willing to accept. Chuck voiced concern that Brenda has a full plate and asked Mitch if he was interested. Mitch accepted. A voice vote was taken, and it was unanimous that Mitch be elected as secretary and Brenda volunteered to help him if he was absent.

15. Committee reports:

a. Charter. Jeff gave an update on suggested changes to the charter. It was mentioned that the regulation states that all of the councils' procedures need to be covered by the charter. Substantial changes were three additions for membership requirements. Mitch made a motion to accept changes to the charter as presented to the council, seconded by Frank. The council voted unanimously to accept these revisions to the charter.

b. Submission of the biographical summary to application requirements was proposed. Nina made a motion to accept this addition, seconded by Henry. The council voted unanimously to accept this change.

c. Addition of announcement of vacancies was another proposal for the charter. John made a motion to accept, seconded by Mitch. The council voted unanimously to accept this change.

d. Gray area retirees are eligible as associate members. Associate members have no vote and are not eligible for leadership positions. Annette made a motion to accept, seconded by Nina. The council voted unanimously to accept.

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e. Leadership elections and vacancies. John made a motion to accept, seconded by Frank. The council voted unanimously to accept this change.

f. Member removals (Resignations). Chuck made a motion to accept, seconded by John. The council voted unanimously to accept.

1) Sub-councils. Discussion involved including reference to the Watervliet MOU. Mitch made a motion to accept, seconded by Henry. The council voted unanimously to accept.

2) Newsletter/Postcard: The group had revised the postcard and presented two COA. A vote was taken: COA 1 – 2 // COA 2 – 10 – Approved by majority vote

3) Newsletter: Proposal to publish in October every year. Send out by email using the list that Sunny obtains, plus placing on the Fort Drum RSO website. There will be a template. No vote taken.

16. CSA Issues:

a. Prescription drug pricing for Tricare for Life beneficiaries. There are actually less expensive options through some online resources.

b. CRSC offset. Discussion to expand to include retirees for length of service, who are not included in the current bill being proposed. Council consensus is to support the issue as written in current proposed legislation.

c. Oppose efforts to increase copays or out of pocket costs for Tricare for Life, currently included in CBO recommendations. Council consensus is to support the issue as currently written.

17. RAD Committee update: The RAD committee had conducted an AAR and discussed the possibility of having just one registration point since most people had signed up at Clark Hall, and it took time to get registration information over to the PX. There was not enough support provided for RAD setup and Sunny had to contact assignees to get the support needed. An information sheet might be helpful, so Council members know the activities going on and to pass on to RAD attendees.

18. Canadian Liaison. No update at this time.

19. Saturday Retiree Breakfast.

a. A Clear Path overview brief for Veterans was provided by Lance Stendfelt and CEO Chris Flaherty.

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b. Sunny talked about some upcoming activities:

3 May – US Armed Forces Breakfast, Hilton at 0730 hrs \$30 per/person

8 June – River Fest. Tickets at MWR. \$18 Boat Tour, BBQ, etc.

21 June Mountain Fest

c. TFL/Medicare/Social Security information briefing was given by Ms. Melissa Strader.

Tricare doesn't offer Long Term Care

Discussion of what role Medicare A & B provides

Tricare plus Medicare = Tricare for Life

All medical benefits were clear.

d. Military Veterans attending the Breakfast spoke about their organization's roles and plans:

July & Aug Retiree off site Breakfast

Department of Veteran's Services shared information.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) – If you need a ride to the VA they have two vehicles available daily. Seven van drivers and Lewis county Vans are sitting.

Walk, Hike or Run Group meets every Saturday morning with some snacks.

Veteran Center had a representative present

Wounded Warrior Daryl Sapoff said they have an event on 13 May (drive your vehicle or motorcycles are welcomed)

20. Adjournment: The council adjourned after conclusion of the retiree breakfast and presentations. Council members were released for travel to home station.



FRANK V. PUIDOKAS
CSM, U.S. Army Retired
Enlisted Co-Chairman



ROBERT J. KASULKE, M.D.
MG, U.S. Army, Retired
Officer Co-Chairman

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Date: 2023.05.22 18:05:46 -04'00'
JAMES J. ZACCHINO, JR.
Colonel, LG
Garrison Commander