

**Fort Jackson Retiree Council
Meeting Minutes
4 May 23**

Rank	Member Name	May 23
COL (ret)	Jeffrey Sanderson (Chair)	P
COL (ret)	Joseph S. McLamb (Sec)	P
CAPT (ret)	Paul Flondarina	P
COL (ret)	John G. Gergulis	A
COL (ret)	Carl W. Horn	A
COL (ret)	William A. Whatley	A
COL (ret)	Steve Vitali	P
COL (ret)	Thomas A. Robillard	A
LTC (ret)	John R. Marcucci*(V/Ch)	P
LTC (ret)	Tom McAndrews	P
LTC (ret)	James Ross Snell	P
CW4 (ret)	Constantine S. Green	P
CSM (ret)	Russel Anderson*	A
CSM (ret)	Michael L. Armstead	P
CSM (ret)	Jesse J. DeBerry	A
CSM (ret)	Melvin Everson	A
CSM (ret)	Carl M. Lopez	P
CSM (ret)	Dan Wrightsman	A
MSGT (ret)	Robert W. Barkalow, Jr.	P
MCPO (ret)	Jim Null	P
SGM (ret)	Robert B. Price*	A
SGM (ret)	Joyce S. Roberts	P
TSGT (ret)	George Geriner	A
Mrs.	Donnell Baker	A
Mrs.	Pamela Wallace	A
MSGT (ret)	Jessica Creech	P
Mr.	Paul Creech	P
Ms.	Shannon Morgan	A
SMSGT (ret)	Denise Askin	A
MAJ (ret)	Joseph N. Colombo	P

Time: 1800

Location: Post Conference Room, Post Headquarters, Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Council Membership Attendance. "P" denotes present at the meeting, in person or through remote participation. "A" denotes absent from the meeting.

Others in Attendance.

COL Ben Cartwright, Moncrief Army Health Center

COL Ryan Hanson, Garrison Commander

Ms. Regina Harlan, Retirement Services Officer

CSM (ret) Lewis Kellam, Directorate of Human Resources

Lisa Ray, Commissary

Wanda Redd, Army Emergency Relief

Ray Smith, Fort Jackson Department of Emergency Services

RoseAnn Turner, Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

Pam Vallely, Army-Air Force Exchanges Services

1. **Opening.** The Chairman convened the meeting at 1800 with an opening prayer.

2. **Opening Remarks.** The Chairman provided opening remarks.

a. He requested that all members of the Council participate in the Retiree Appreciation Day events whenever possible, with special emphasis on the graduation ceremony on 18 May 23 and the Retiree Expo on 20 May 23.

b. He asked all members of the Council to serve as ambassadors for Fort Jackson during all events, meeting and greeting all attending retirees.

c. He also asked all members to listen to retirees in attendance and bring issues and ideas back to the Council.

d. He asked those with Council golf shirts to wear them during the Retiree Expo to help participating retirees in identifying Council members.

3. **Minutes.** The Council approved the minutes of the 9 March, 2023, meeting.

4. **Garrison Update.** Colonel Hanson provided the following updates.

a. Change of Command. Colonel Hanson will turn command of the garrison over to LTC Tim Hickman on 15 Jun 23. LTC Hanson will be moving on the US Southern Command.

b. Naming Conventions.

- In accordance with guidance from the Department of Defense, Fort Jackson is the process of changing the names of streets and other landmarks on post that are currently named in honor of Confederates.
- The plan is to replace existing names with the names of historic battles and units rather than individuals.
- Fort Jackson expects to complete the transition process by 1 Jan 24.

c. Exercises.

- The installation recently completed a rehearsal in preparation for hurricane season, which begins on 1 Jun 23.
- The installation is planning an active shooting exercise, although the precise date had not been determined. The exercise will occur at a DODEA school but will not involve any students or faculty.

d. Education.

- Fort Jackson has been selected as the Army's sole location for a pilot program that allows the children of military families residing off-post to attend on-post schools.
- The installation is examining the potential for bringing a charter school on to the installation, but this effort is only exploratory at the moment.

e. Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Facilities. Fort Jackson has received \$1.3 million in federal funds to upgrade aging MWR facilities.

f. Request. Colonel Hanson asked for feedback on the installation's campaign to re-open the post and reestablish connections with the local community, specifically in identifying the installation facilities and activities the retiree community finds most valuable.

5. **Army Emergency Relief (AER).** Wanda Redd provided the following on AER:

- AER serves both active duty military and retirees.
- AER serves retirees from all military serves, not just the Army.
- AER is most effective when used as a preventative measure. Connect people to AER at the beginning of trouble, rather than waiting until the need is urgent.
- Retirees can contribute to AER by allotment by visiting the AER office in Room 108, Building 9810 on Lee Road or by visiting the website at <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/donate/>.

6. **Retirement Services Officer Update.** Regina Harlan led a discussion on final coordination for the Retiree Appreciation Days.

a. Graduation.

- Retirees are asked to assemble at the security check point on the north side of Hilton Field (near the Andrew Jackson monument) not later than 0830.
- Fifteen Council members expressed intent to participate.

b. Golf Classic.

- A Council member agreed to be interviewed concerning the Golf Classic, and the Chair asked Regina to request that Mike Molosso provide the opening comments at the event itself.
- Currently, only ten teams have registered. The event can support up to 32 teams.

c. Expo.

- 30 vendors and 2 food trucks have confirmed their participation.
- BG Kelly is scheduled to attend.
- Twelve Council members expressed intent to participate.

7. Agency Reports.

a. Moncrief Army Health Clinic. COL Cartwright provided the following updates.

1) The Clinic will have both health screening and a demonstration of the pharmacy system at the Expo on 20 May 23. The pharmacy system is largely automated and designed to both 1) reduce the time spent by a patient waiting at the pharmacy, and 2) reduce the number of prescriptions filled but never drawn by the patient.

2) A glitch in the Clinic phone bank system results in the loss of some voice mails left by patients and wait times for calls to the Clinic can be excessive (especially when the Clinic first opens each day). To minimize your wait time, call at mid-morning or mid-afternoon.

3) Several Council members expressed growing frustration with the Clinic:

- One member highlighted that signs at the entrance to the Clinic and in the pharmacy are not correct, resulting in confusion among patrons and frustration among the Clinic staff who must verbally correct the instructions.
- Several members expressed frustration with the pharmacy system, an area that had drawn praise in the last year. Specific complaints included:
 - Long wait times for a phone connection.
 - Failure of the Clinic to respond to messages left on voice mail.
 - Incorrect or unhelpful guidance from staff who do not appear to know the current condition of the phone system.
 - Repeated changes to the pharmacy system.

b. Commissary. Lisa Ray reported the Commissary is conducting a case lot sale, 4-6 May 23.

c. Army and Air Force Exchange Services. Pam Vallely provided the following updates.

1) On 10 May 23, the Main Exchange will host a book signing for LTG (retired) Robert Foley, author of *Standing Tall: Leadership Lessons in the Life of a Soldier*.

2) The Exchange will soon announce a partnership with Home Depot for large home appliance sales.

d. Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation. Rose Turner provided the following updates.

1) The NCO Club will offer a brunch buffet for Mothers' Day. Reservations are required and can be made at 803-751-3933. Details are at <https://jackson.armymwr.com/calendar/event/mothers-day/5990481/79405>.

2) The Golf Course has a new pro, Mark Easley, who will be on the grounds beginning in June.

3) Plans to open the Golf Course to the public have been delayed until the conditions of the grounds can be improved.

4) The Water Park will be open to the public when it opens for Memorial Day weekend. Discounted season passes can be purchased before Memorial Day weekend at Knight Pool on 6 May (1100-1400) and 12-19 May (1300-1600). Details are at <https://jackson.armymwr.com/programs/palmetto-falls-water-park>.

4) Weston Lake will host an open house and Recycling Regatta during the afternoon of 20 May 23. Details are at <https://jackson.armymwr.com/programs/weston-lake>.

5) Fort Jackson will celebrate Independence Day on 1 Jul 23. Details are at <https://jackson.armymwr.com/calendar/event/independence-day-celebration/5932824/78043>.

6) See the MWR website (<https://jackson.armymwr.com/>) for additional information on all MWR activities. You can contact Rose Ann directly at rose.a.turner.naf@army.mil.

8. **Unfinished Business.** LTC (retired) Marcucci offered to make a group order of Council coins at a cost of \$4.40 per coin. Council members requested a total of 200 coins.

9. **New Business.** The Council considered the following items of new business.

a. South Carolina Military License Plates. Several Council members called for an invitation to the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV) to explain the rather complicated processes for obtaining the various military license plates. The Chair agreed to invite the SCDMV Director to the next meeting.

b. Fisher House. Donnell Baker reported construction of the House is complete and final preparations for opening are underway. First occupancy is expected within the next month. Total cost of the facility is now at \$9 million, and those wishing to make a donation can do so through the Friends of the Fisher House at <https://www.fisherhousecolumbiasc.org/donate/>.

c) Council Leaders. The Chair reminded the Council that both the current Chair and current secretary will step down at the end of 2023, and asked everyone to consider serving as a replacement. He reiterated his belief that term limits for leaders are important to the long-term health of the Council.

10. **Closing Comments**. The Chairman thanked all for attending and reminded everyone to pay attention to their own mental health as well as that of other retirees. Suicide among military retirees remains high.

11. **Adjournment**. The meeting adjourned at 1911.

12. **Next scheduled meeting**: 6 Jul 23, 1800, Post Headquarters.


J.R. SANDERSON
Colonel, US Army Retired
Chairman