



FORT KNOX RETIREE COUNCIL

16 October 2021

The Fort Knox Retiree Council was called to order at 0900 hours, Saturday, 16 October 2021 in the Garrison Headquarters, Conference Room by BG (Ret) Charles D. Estes, Chair, who presided.

The attendance for the Retiree Council meeting was as follows:

Voting members present:

Charles D. Estes, BG (Ret), USA, Chair
Rodney J. Newell, CSM (Ret), USA, Vice-Chair
Jolene Culpeper, 1SG (Ret), USA, Acting Secretary
Jackie A. Ash, CSM (Ret), USA
Franklin T. Brady, CSM (Ret), USA
Douglas E. Frecker, CW3 (Ret), USA
Kevin F. Gregory, COL (Ret), USA
Eliseo T. Lopez, CW2 (Ret), USA
Donavan J. Mahuron, MSG (Ret), USA
Michael Pesko, Jr., MAJ (Ret), USA

Non-voting members present:

Thomas C. Cunningham, LTC (Ret) USA
Glenda Nicol, MSG (Ret), USA
Sherman Nicol, SGM (Ret), USA
David Shearer, CW4 (Ret), USA

Voting members absent:

Betsy Brocklehurst, MSgt (Ret) USAF
Belinda Gaither-Schmitt, SFC (Ret), USA, Secretary
Darren W. Hargrove, SGM (Ret), USA

Non-voting members absent:

Harold Denson, 1SG (Ret), USA
Thomas A. Goff, CW5 (Ret), USA
William Lamont, LTC (Ret), USA

Irvin Lyons, Jr., SGM (Ret), USA
Michael P. Peck, COL (Ret), USA
Georgie Sharp, CPL (Ret), USMC
Richard C. Ward, MAJ (Ret), USA
Mrs. Cathy Williamson, Volunteer

Garrison Command Team:

Kevin Corbin, DHR/AG

Non-voting council advisory members present:

Ms. Christy Zeitz

BG (Ret) Estes welcomed everyone to the Retiree Council meeting and led the attendees into The Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening comments:

BG (Ret) Estes welcomed the Garrison Command Team and the Retiree Council members. He also introduced Mr. Mike Martin (The Patton Museum Foundation) who updated the council of the changes and provided The Patton Saber newsletter. He stated that the entrance from 31W is now open and indicated that sponsorship and donations are welcome due to lack of DoD funding.

State reports:

Ohio:

CW3 (Ret) Frecker informed the council of a safe shelter the VSOs are helping to find for homeless veterans.

The OH NG is no longer assisting with the food banks; it is now run by the local communities.

He is coordinating an Ohio RAD.

MSgt (Ret) Brocklehurst is replacing CPO (Ret) Gasser.

LTC (Ret) Cunningham is continuing efforts in providing equipment. He currently has 100 power chairs on hand. He also has wheelchairs and chair elevators for those in need. He has 50 lift chairs on hand, the program needs funding. Contact him if anyone needs the equipment.

Hunting for Heroes event is scheduled for 11-14 November in Jackson County for 20 veterans, application suspense is 1 November.

A fishing event is being coordinated. Check Facebook for more information.

LTC (Ret) Cunningham indicated that retirees have issues with retired pay, he was informed to provide Ms. Zeitz contact information.

West Virginia:

COL (Ret) Gregory is coordinating a VW RAD for 2 April 22. 1 April will be a social event sponsored by the VFW.

House and Senate are not in session.

COVID is still rated "high risk".

Air National Guard is supporting the local hospitals.

The WV Charter was signed.

Mr. Mark Overberg (Army G1 RSO) is working with the state council and VA Director for Reservist. He will be in WV in July.

COL (Ret) Gregory informed the council that Army G1 RSO is piloting a program for retirees to assist with casualty assistance officer (CAO) duties.

The WV National Guard is conducting retirement ceremonies.

Nursing Home issues are now under control.

Indiana:

MSG (Ret) Mahuran provided updates on Grimes Air Force Base.

New VA Council – Mary Shaw.

Working on the website to indicate updates.

Job Fair was held at Lucas Field in Indianapolis.

Illinois:

CSM (Ret) Brady provided information on the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. The staff is working with IDT on an issue with the traffic flow interfering with the cemetery entrance.

Wreaths Over America is an organization that provides wreaths for all military graves.

The 85th Division will hold a meeting on 4 November.

CW2 (Ret) Lopez informed the council that COL (Ret) Peck is working with MOAA in North Chicago, they provided \$1,000.00 donation for the Veterans Closet. DVA is working on a grant for funding a land expansion.

Veterans Suicide watch is a concern, working on changing the mentality.

Rolling Thunder motorcycle organization is preparing for a ride for Medal of Honor recipients.

Kentucky:

MAJ (Ret) Pesko informed the council that Mr. Brett Guthrie is focusing on suicide prevention.

KY legislation is not in session.

He attended the Exchange/Commissary Advisory meeting on Friday, 5 Oct 21 and said that holiday items are now available due to the shipment shortage.

The Exchange "Pick-Up" service is not being utilized.

A coin laundry service will be placed in the Exchange area.

RSO comments:

Ms. Christy Zeitz informed the council that 239 retirees and Family members were in attendance for RAD event. The ID Card section provided service for 35 patrons and 34 Flu shots were administered. Surveys from 16 attendees were received, indicating mostly positive reviews. BG Estes provided input on the RAD event. In answer to why event was held at Sadowski Center – Sadowski was selected due to COVID conditions/restrictions; the only other choice was not to conduct the event. Sadowski was a better venue for the flow of traffic. Next year, conditions permitting, the flu shots should also be located there.

Ms. Zeitz will capture council recommendations and specific details in the AAR.

Ms. Zeitz indicated the CofS Retiree Council issues are due in November. BG Estes informed the council to provide issue(s) promptly.

DHR/AG:

Mr. Kevin Corbin informed the council that the RAD event final determination was not made until 6 October. He provided recommendations based on the location and funding for the 2022 event. If the event takes place in Sadowski, add more chairs, and cater food.

Mr. Corbin provided information on the Fort Knox cemetery. The Casualty Assistance Office maintains the property and assists Wreaths Across America program staff with displaying the wreaths. Flyers are available to obtain information for donations.

The Suicide Prevention Program is within Mr. Corbin's realm, he takes the topic seriously. If anyone needs training materials, they are available. Garrison Update site provides a lot of information, Ms. Zeitz can provide additional information on obtaining the site.

Funding is not available for the January meeting. Ms. Zeitz will send meeting dates document as soon as possible.

BG (Ret) Estes adjourned the meeting at 1025 hours, on Friday 16 October 2021.

/s/ Jolene Culpepper
JOLENE CULPEPPER
1SG (RET), USA
Acting Secretary, Retiree Council

/s/ Charles D. Estes
CHARLES D. ESTES
BG (Ret), USA
Chair, Retiree Council