

# Northern Alaska Military Retiree Council

December 6, 2018; 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Last Frontier Community Activity Center

## ***Welcome***

## ***Pledge of Allegiance***

## ***Call to Order***

## ***Introductions***

***Chairman:*** Walter E. Crary, VVA VSO

***Vice-Chairman:*** Daniel Blashill, Retiree and BACH Representative

***Recorder:*** Janice Westlind, Retiree and USO Pathfinder Site Manager

***RSO:*** Steven Schack, Retiree and Soldier For Life Retirement Services Officer

**Subject:** Minutes of Meeting, Northern Alaska Military Retiree Council (Oct 4, 2018)

Approval of previous meeting's minutes: {allow members to review, vote on}

## **Attendees:**

1. Walter Crary, retiree, Commander of American Legion Post 11, Vietnam Veterans of America Veterans Service Officer, Local Ch 2 Disabled American Veterans Treasurer and Secretary, Past Commander, Commander of DAV Dept AK, Chairman of Retiree Council.
2. Daniel Blashill, retiree and Bassett Army Community Hospital Human Resources, Vice Chair Retiree Council
3. Steven Schack, retiree, Soldier for Life RSO
4. Janice Westlind, USO Pathfinder, and retired AK Army National Guard
5. Virginia Yeaton, AF Sergeants Assoc, EAFB
6. Kayleigh Hardcastle, BACH
7. Angie Crary, AAFES Operations Supervisor
8. Rick Young, WAXIE Inc. representative
9. CSM Juan Cornett, Garrison Command Sergeant Major
10. David Perkins, retiree, former Garrison CSM
11. Mike Durbin, AAFES Manager

**Schack:** It's time to nominate new co-chairs. May need to move action to next meeting. Also, the CSA (Chief of Staff of the Army) Retired Soldier Council is looking for input, does anyone have issues or suggestions to send up?

**Crary W:** There are some proposals: currently 100% disabled can fly on Space-A – there's a proposal to expand this to include 50% and higher. There is also a proposal to change commissary policy for all veterans to be allowed to shop. Also, all retirees should get full benefits (many Guard/Reserve do not).

**Perkins:** There should be a discussion on what happens to pension benefits when the soldier member passes away.

**Schack:** Need date for next year's RAD.

**Perkins:** More people came when we had a gun raffle.

**Durbin:** AAFES has fewer items for giveaways, and it's not always possible to do it at the individual store level.

**Hardcastle:** Avoid May-July because of PCS season, plus it's hard for BACH to provide staffing at that time. Avoid Sept because of hunting season.

**Blashill:** How about Oct, when flu vaccine will be available?

**Hardcastle:** Mid-Oct would work; active duty and hospital staff need to be immunized first.

**Perkins:** The lunch at the DFAC had poor attendance.

**Yeaton:** We should try to assemble memorabilia/photos for display, more vehicles or older vehicles. The Wedgewood Resort may have some.

**Westlind:** The historical office on post may be able to help with that, too.

**Blashill:** Suggested rotating the location of the RAD, maybe try Clear, Eielson, Greely.

**Hardcastle:** Health fairs in those locations had a low turnout in the past.

**Durbin:** Should the date coincide with Stand Down or spaced later?

**Blashill:** Not all attendees are retirees.

**Crary W:** The next Stand Down will be held at Lathrop HS on 3 Aug due to the Civic Center in Pioneer Park being remodeled.

#### **Other Business:**

**Westlind:** Discussed upcoming USO workshops.

**Perkins:** Spoke about veteran suicide rates; young soldiers are double the average rates, with large differences in different states.

**Durbin**: Outlined upcoming holiday events at AAFES, fire prevention week, upcoming sales and rebate cards. Unit organizations can set up a table at the Px for gift wrapping, put in requests through Cindy Bloom in Bldg 1555.

**Yeaton**: Doing a drive for Christmas gift packs for veterans, need health care items.

**Hardcastle**: Spoke about flu season, immunization clinics, no nasal vaccines will be available. Most new staff personnel have arrived: 2 new internal medicine, 1 family practice. Also spoke about Tricare Standard and Tricare Select: make changes by 1 January!

**Cornett**: Please send out a press release about Tricare changes. Spoke about Arctic Anvil, NTC, soldiers return in March.

Meeting adjourned 6:57 pm. Next meeting is Thursday, Dec 6 at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center, all approved.