



December 20, 2021

## MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

Minutes of the December 2021 Bi-monthly membership meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees' Association (MMRA)

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1700 In the Gray Room of the Consolidated Open Mess, presiding officers: President-Paul Sayles; Secretary-Joseph Roginski; Treasurer-Dave Barton, and 17 general members. Vice-President Toby Fanelli was in hospital.
2. Mark Bissell, commissary manager, visited to introduce his new assistant manager, Tina (no last name given), and go over the holiday hours for the commissary this month. He announced that the commissary will be open for the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, both Mondays when the commissary is usually closed,, and the hours for both days will be 1100 to 1900. He said they will be open Christmas Eve, the 24<sup>th</sup>, but will open at 0900 and close at 1600. On Christmas Day, 25<sup>th</sup>, and New Years Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>, the commissary will be closed. He also discussed the reasons for shipping delays of groceries and produce, saying that because of shipping delays he has to order a lot farther in advance and grocery items can take as long as 8 weeks. Fresh produce is flown and usually arrives within 10 days of ordering. Mark announced a new arrival, a new grocery manager, Mr. Brickly (sic).
3. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the October 2021 meeting, which were accepted and approved.
4. OLD Business:
  - a. COVID-19 – Paul Sayles reminded all to check the bulletins from the RAO to keep current. Dave Barton reported that he had just sent out an e-mail with information that he got from the embassy on new procedures concerning the changing situations and included some numbers a person could call the Japanese government English services where you could get the most current information on travel, current procedures for leaving and entering the country most efficiently. He said currently the restrictions are complicated and tedious so avoid unnecessary travel in and out of the country for the time being. Ray Eberhardt asked a question about long a period is needed to require a booster. Paul said current period is six months. Lee Martin said its walk-in service but Tuesday and Friday for Moderna and Monday and Thursday for the Phizer booster. Paul said only Moderna and Phizer for booster. This item will remain open until the pandemic crisis is declared over. (Open)
  - b. Hospital referrals, translator support, etc. – Paul Sayles reported that he talked to the referrals office last week and they admitted that they had over-reacted on the changes. Medically certified translators are not required to accompany patients to procedures at local hospitals. The medical transcriptions of test results and treatments will be done at the hospital. So if you have an appointment and the hospital cannot provide a translator, you can find your own and there is no requirement that the translator be medically certified. Translators will be provided on an availability basis. Paul said that everything is back to as it was before the changes to the referral support were announced. (Closed)

5. New Business from the previous meeting

- a. Toby Fanelli – Paul Sayles commented by asking why Toby’s situation is still an open item, and some members responded that they would like to be updated on Toby’s status. Joe Roginski commented that Toby is now in the Rogen Oirase long-term rehabilitation facility in Shimoda and visiting is available. Lee Martin commented that visits are limited to 10 minutes and strictly timed. Lee said he has a phone number to call if anyone wants to make an appointment to visit Toby. The visiting hour is between 1400 and 1500 for 10 minutes. Joe and Lee recently took Toby to an MRI appointment at Hachinohe City Hospital and the doctor told Joe that the surgery was successful and they had fully restored blood flow to the area of the brain that was affected but the damage had been done which determines how much, and how quickly he can recover. Lee said his right side is still paralyzed, speech is slightly better, but he has difficulty speaking full sentences. Lee said Toby understands everything is fully aware of his surroundings. Lee provided the number 0178-56-4888 for the Rogen Oirase long-term care facility for anyone who wants to make an appointment for a visit. Additional comments on Toby’s condition, treatment, processes, etc. have not been included in these minutes. (Open)
- b. Cecil Hahn – Bill Tuttle commented that he has been working with Cecil’s wife for retired pay claim, social security change of deposit, OPM retirement, etc. Joe Roginski commented that he is still working to get Cecil’s stocks transferred to his brother as designated in the will. (Closed)
- c. Bill Tuttle commented that he is learning more and more about what happens when a military member passes away and leaves behind a Japanese spouse and what we have to do and he has almost completed an information package that will be sent out to the members. It will include a sample will worksheet that can be filled out by hand before being formalized and which includes a link so you can go on-line to do the worksheet and then make an appointment with the base legal office. They will sit with you and formalize it into a current will. The package will include another worksheet that you can fill out for electronic accounts, like Facebook and Twitter, but also for other electronic accounts like banks, brokerages, etc. and your spouse does not have passwords or knowhow to get into these accounts, this can be stored securely at home or in the RAO. Paul added that if the will has beneficiaries in the United States, then the will has to be probated in the U.S. usually in the state of residence of the deceased or the beneficiary. He said we can store your will securely in the RAO. Joe Roginski added that if you leave a copy of your will in the RAO (or elsewhere) to include a list of names, addresses and contact information of persons you would want to be notified in the case of your death. (Open)
- d. Paul Sayles said that at the last meeting we had asked if anyone would like to be considered to replace Toby as vice-president but he had no nominations as yet. Gary Grishaver raised his hand and volunteered. A motion was made and passed to accept Gary Grishaver as the acting MMRA vice president. (Closed)

6. New Business

- a. Paul said he presented a certificate of appreciation to the Enlisted Spouses Club, but there will no longer be a separate enlisted and officer spouses club as they have now merged into a joint spouses club. Dave Barton said the presentations to each club will be in the next newsletter with captions and photos. Future assistance to our RAD will be from one source instead of two. (Closed)
- b. Paul said he had a request from TOPA, which wants to know if anyone uses an off-base dentist. Please let him know after the meeting. (Closed)
- c. Paul said the Red Feather Community Chest drive kicks off in January, but our next MMRA meeting is in February, so he would like to ‘pass the hat’ for any donations to support this program. The community chest supports those in need, persons in hospitals and nursing homes, and even now, Toby is benefitting from assistance from the community chest. A member asked if the MMRA could donate to this fund, and Ray Ebarhardt said that it has to be in our constitution which right now does not allow

donations to a non-retiree related activity. Dave Barton said we can consider a constitution change at another meeting. (Open)

7. Financial Report – Dave Barton read the financial report. He reported: Beginning balance of \$8,959.66. Dues income \$100.00, There was a widows donation of \$20. Account dividends \$0.15 for total income of \$120.15. The club bill for October was \$137.64. The MMRA donated \$25 to the Cookie Capers activity. Total expenses was \$162.64. Widow's fund balance was \$5,024.62, General Fund \$3,892.55. Ending balance \$8,917.17. A motion passed to accept the report. (Closed)
8. A motion to adjourn passed and the meeting closed at 1745. The next bi-monthly meeting will be at 1700 on 1 February 2022 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

*(signed)*

JOSEPH ROGINSKI  
Secretary, MMRA