



December 12, 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

Minutes of the December 2022 Bi-monthly membership meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees' Association (MMRA)

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday, December 6th at 1700 In the Gray Room of the Consolidated Open Mess. Presiding officers: President Paul Sayles, Vice-President Gary Grishaver, Secretary-Joseph Roginski, Treasurer Dave Barton and 9 general members were in attendance.
2. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the October 2022 meeting, which were accepted and approved.
3. OLD Business:
 - a. Toby Fanelli – Joe Roginski reported that Toby's five-year residence visa was approved and that his permanent residence visa was being processed, but the full package of required documents was incomplete, pending receipt of his most recent SSA 1099. Joe Roginski commented that he has found a storage facility for Toby's personal items. Lee Martin also noted that the FSS also offers storage services and will investigate and get back to us. (Open)
 - b. COVID – Paul Sayles commented that Covid test kits are now available at each clinic at the hospital. Gary Grishaver commented that you can get 8 test kits a month and that instructions for testing and reporting are provided. (Open)
4. NEW Business
 - a. Commissary – Dave Barton commented that on 2 January 23, the commissary goes into 7-days a week operation. However, on Mondays, there will only be self-checkout available. Operating hours will be daily 9am to 7pm. Dave added that the commissary officer told him that all back-due and over-due shipments will be coming in this week. Dave also expressed dismay that the only brand of peanut butter available was Skippy and he will not be satisfied until the Jiff brand is stocked. (Quote: I want Jiff!!) (Closed)
 - b. Appreciation Day – Dave Barton reported that there was a good turnout for this event, and that all the invited leadership attended. He said he had a chance to talk to the hospital commander about dental services and was told there was consideration to open more to retirees, including designating special days in the month designated for retirees. He said more information will be available after the new year. Dave said Col. Cotton wanted to do more for the retiree population. Paul Sayles added that if these programs are set aside for retirees, they must be supported and related that there was a poor turnout for a recent special day for retirees to get cleaning and exams. Another member remarked that nobody knew about that day. Jay Green asked that as retirees under the SOFA, are they given higher priority than non-SOFA retirees? Gary Grishaver replied that all are under the TRICARE program, and that the member should go to the TRICARE office to get into TRICARE Select if not old enough for TRICARE For Life, and that right now is an open season enrollment period. (Closed)

- c. Jay Green commented that the Exchange has installed a self-checkout system and that a recent test went well and the system is now operational. It will only be for payment by credit card, no cash back, and no additional service such as product protection plans. (Closed)
 - d. Dave Barton reported that the RAO had a visit from the United States Tokyo Embassy's Sapporo Consulate, Mr. Jacob Rocca and Chief of American Citizen Services, Tokyo Embassy, Mr. Aaron Rader, where various issues of retirees living in Japan were discussed. Items from this meeting were also brought up in later meetings with base leadership and USFJ. (Open)
 - e. Bill Tuttle showed a letter to Toby Fanelli from the government of Japan that stated a stipend or gift of some kind was being given to elderly residents. (Closed)
 - f. Paul Sayles announced that the annual Red Feather Community Chest drive was kicking off and will conclude before our next meeting in February 23. He commented that this community chest supports social services which supports residents with needs such as wheelchairs and equipment, health needs, etc. and that indeed our own have benefitted from this fund. Accordingly, Paul "passed the hat" at the meeting for donations. At this time, Paul notified the secretary that he had collected 2,000 JPY and \$10 USD. At the next meeting, he will announce the final amount collected and donated. (Open)
5. Financial Report – Dave Barton read the financial report from 2 August to present: Beginning balance of \$9,542.13. Income: MMRA dues of \$80.00. Widow's fund donation of \$100.00, and account dividends of 0.15. Our total income was \$180.15. Expenses: The club bill for October was \$137.64, and the Appreciation Day breakfast \$1,260.00, and condiments for the meeting with the consulate \$31.21, for a total expense of \$1,428.85. Widow's Fund balance is \$5,550.62, General Fund \$2,842.81 for ending balance of \$8,293.43. A motion was made and passed to accept the report. (Closed)
 6. A motion to adjourn passed and the meeting closed at 1740. The next bi-monthly meeting will be at 1700 on 7 February 2023 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

(signed)

JOSEPH ROGINSKI
Secretary, MMRA