



MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

February 5, 2015

FROM: Misawa Military Retirees Association

SUBJECT: Minutes MMRA

1. The bi-monthly meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees Association (MMRA) was held on 3 February 2015 at 1700 hours in the Club Tohoku.

2. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the 4 December 2014 meeting at the request of Paul Sayles, and which were accepted and approved by the attending members.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. New Phone system – Joe Roginski said he talked to Mr. Watts of Allied Telesis to have the menu portion that directs callers who want to get the menu in Japanese to push a certain number to be in Japanese instead of English. The phone system seems to be working with the new menu that gives options to call the 226 numbers or to have the operator connect, and with Services and the Exchange having published their own downloadable phone books. Also, most of the staff agencies and units on base have a direct dial (77-xxxx number). There are some issues with the voice quality of the menu but Mr. Watts assured me it should soon be fixed. Joe also said he published calling instructions in Japanese for the widows receiving the RAO newsletter, and he recommended this item be closed, which the attending members agreed. (CLOSED)
- b. Disposal of Doug Lyon's Ashes – Joe received a call from the nursing home where Dog Lyon's wife lives and the case worker asked the status of the disposal process. Joe then tried to contact Steve Day, who was to make the arrangements, to find that he had left Misawa, probably to the Yokota area. We attempted to contact him to no avail, and Joe told the case worker. The case worker called back and said that they could not wait any longer due to Mrs. Lyon's advancing dementia and made arrangements to have the ashes interred at a local temple. (CLOSED)

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Joe Roginski reported that 'Tony' Watkins of the RAO staff was still an outpatient and responding well to treatment. Dave Barton reported that he arranged to have the vice commander, Col Hansen visit Tony's home and Col Hansen, Dave and Joe Roginski visited in late January. Col Hansen thanked Tony for his years of service and presented him a plaque from the Wing with the Wing coin embedded. Joe reminded everyone that Tony would like visitors, but to please call first as Tony's schedule involves hospital and rehabilitation appointments. (OPEN)
- b. Per the constitution, the membership held the bi-annual election of officers. All members attending seemed satisfied with the status quo and as each position was opened for nominations, the incumbents were one by one unanimously nominated, seconded, and approved. For another term, Paul Sayles remains president, "T" Tinnirella remains vice-president, Joe Roginski remains secretary and Dave Barton was nominated and approved to be the new treasurer to replace Tony Watkins. (CLOSED)
- c. Joe Roginski announced that he was at Dr. Clark's office (Wing Historian) to do some research and Dr. Clark said that the digitizing project was coming along well but he would like to see it finished or at least being strongly

supported because of his impending PCS. Joe asked for more volunteers to go to Dr. Clark's office to assist in the process. (CLOSED)

- d. Dave Barton announced that there were still MMRA hats and RAO coins available for sale as well as POW/MIA 'dog tag' key chains. He also said he had T-shirts from the "2012 Run for Heroes" event to give away. Joe Roginski also said he has some jackets and shirts for grabs left over from the move of the Heritage Hall at the MSOC on the 'Hill'. (CLOSED)
- e. Edward Pearson suggested that photos of the retirees be taken and displayed in the RAO as individuals or as groups with names on the display. He felt that this would have historical value and reminders of those who have passed. Dave Barton responded that this was going to be done at the Commander's Breakfast at the Retiree Appreciation Day but we missed it this last time and will make sure to do it at the next RAD. Cecil Hahn suggested the photos be put on the RAO/MMRA web site. Dave Barton said he or Joe will send e-mails soliciting photos from the retirees within our area of responsibility. (OPEN)
- f. Dave Barton announced that there is still no set date for the 2015 Retiree Appreciation Day because the annual Exchange's "Still Serving" celebration was not on the Exchange annual event calendar and that he talked with the manager who will research the date so we can set our next RAD event date. (OPEN)
- g. Ray Torp announced that on February 17th there was going to be a book signing by a Navy Captain Wright, who published a book called "Adak", a story of survival in the 1978 ditching of a Navy P3 in the Arctic Sea, and the international forces that assisted in the rescue and recovery of the surviving crew. On the same day, the 17th, there will also be a lecture on the incident at the Richard Bong Theater Training Facility at 1330 and all are invited. It could be that the book signing will be in the same venue. (CLOSED)

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Barton read the financial report, but before it could be accepted, Joe Roginski pointed out that there was a discrepancy in the beginning cash. Dave promised that he would research this, since he had just taken the books, but the ending cash was correct. Accepting that Dave would provide a recounting by the next meeting, the attending membership accepted and approved the financial report. (Secretary's note: I talked with Dave before publishing these minutes and he said he researched back several months and found the discrepancy.-JJR)

- 7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1800. The president announced that the next meeting will be on 7 April 2015 at 1700 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

///Signed///

Joseph Roginski, MSgt (Ret), USAF
Secretary, MMRA
Director, Retiree Activities Office
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