



June 11, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

Minutes of the June 2018 Bi-monthly membership meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees' Association (MMRA)

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday, June 5 at 1700 In the Gray Room of the Consolidated Open Mess, presiding officers Paul Sayles, President, and Toby Fanelli, Vice-President. Other officers were Joseph Roginski, Secretary, and Dave Barton, Treasurer, and 14 general members. .
2. Joseph Roginski read the minutes of the April meeting which were accepted and approved by the membership.
3. Dave Barton gave the financial report for the period covering 1 April 2018 to 1 June 2018. Beginning cash was \$7,865.41. Income: dues \$40, interest .65; donations \$55.00, total income of \$95.65. Expenses: April meeting \$130.05, Current funds: Widows Fund \$2,654.45, General Fund \$5,173.56, total as of 5 June 2017 - \$7,828.01. Financial report was accepted and approved by the membership.
4. OLD Business:
 - a. Japan day- Their committee had requested a donation for their event for expenses. We passed the hat and contributed \$35.00. (Closed).
 - b. Joe Roginski reported on the status of disposal of Chief "T"'s estate and house. He reported that he is still waiting bids for the tear-down of the house and once those expenses are resolved, the estate can be distributed to the beneficiaries accordingly. (Open)
 - c. VFW- Dave Barton reported that there was a good turn-out for their town hall meeting. They offered a special discount for life membership at the meeting and several did sign up. The question of opening a post in Misawa still depends on if they can establish and maintain an active member base of ten to fifteen persons to operate the post and a general membership of thirty or more to support the post. The post at Yokosuka has a much broader active member base which makes their post viable, but they do not know yet if they can get that kind of continuity at Misawa to maintain a post. (Open)
 - d. Vehicle stickers- Dave Barton reported that you can show your vehicle tax receipt or bill to get your sticker. You can get the sticker or the square base pass, and you can do that at the off-base Pass and ID Section or the office in building 653. (Closed)
5. New Business:
 - a. The Air Force Ball Committee solicited us for a donation. It was brought up that our constitution does not allow for this kind of donation. A motion was made and passed to not donate to the Air Force Ball. (Closed)
 - b. Deceased member- Paul Sayles reported on the passing of CPO Benjamin Christensen (USN, Ret), and his memorial service will be at the Base Chapel on June 9th at 1300. Dave Barton said he will forward

that info to the membership on Wednesday. Kevin Boskett stated that CPO Christensen was a very active volunteer on the base and he will be missed. (Closed)

- c. Paul Sayles recently received a call to the RAO from the hospital comptroller, who said there was a retired patient visiting from the 'States who needed care and the MTF referred to person to the Misawa City Hospital for treatment, but the retiree "skipped" without paying the bill. Paul investigated and found actually that the member had TRICARE and overseas traveler's insurance as required, but the Misawa City Hospital would not accept any insurance, would not accept a credit card, and demanded full payment. He assumed the member will handle the problem through her insurance company. Paul noted that the Misawa City Hospital has been acting very unreasonable to referrals from base and recommended that if at all possible other hospitals be used, and that all visitors still obtain adequate insurance to travel overseas. (Closed)
- d. Kevin Boskett noted that dental appointments will be even harder to get due to this being the PCS season, but emergency appointments and sick call are still possible. Dave Barton noted that there is no shortage of dentists in town. (Closed)
- e. A member asked if TRICARE covers dental expenses overseas. Joe Roginski said that as far as he knows the member has to be in a TRICARE dental care program to file a claim stateside or overseas. Paul Sayles said he will check to make sure that is the case. (Open)
- f. A member said he heard that the base post office will assign retirees post office boxes on a space available basis. Dave Barton said he has not heard that and that the post office has more than enough boxes due to recent reductions. Joe Roginski said that the US-Japan SOFA has long been interpreted that retirees cannot have a box unless they are under the SOFA. Dave Barton said he will follow up on this rumor. (Open)

Note: Base hospital translator services-This item was listed as open in the last minutes, but Dave Barton had followed up the day after the meeting to find that the hospital will provide translators for all TRICARE eligible patients, and this item should have been changed to "closed" when the April meeting minutes were posted.

6. There being no further business, it was moved and approved to close the meeting, which closed at 1745. The next bi-monthly meeting will be at 1700 on 7 August 2018 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

(Signed)

JOSEPH ROGINSKI
Secretary, MMRA