

WEST POINT MILITARY RETIREE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD

04 JUNE 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman COL (Ret) Basil Apostle at 10:00, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance. In his opening comments, the Chairman noted that the first home game for Army football, will be held 10 September 2016.

COMMAND BRIEF - Mr. Thomas Cowan gave the command briefing, noting that graduation had been completed, and the Warrior games and concert schedules were starting.

Id requirements have been changed. Between 0800 and 1800, any visitor, non-escorted with no military ID, must report to the Visitors center, to get a temporary badge, good for one year. There will be background check, that takes about 5 minutes, and digital signs will be posted, giving directions to the Visitors center. Special events rules will be relaxed somewhat, but security will be increased in other areas to provide necessary protection.

There was no guest speaker, but the Command Sergeant Major was in attendance, and he commented on the Soldier for Life project. The Chief of Staff is emphasizing the Soldier for Life, through the retirees. A marketing program is being developed, to bring kids and retirees together at recruiting stations and high schools. At best, this will be an uphill effort, but it will be done, one recruiting station and one high school at a time.

AGENCY REPORTS:

KACH - COL Rebecca Douglas reported that the obstetrics section is still open and there will not be a dermatologist available until mid August. They are also working on bringing in endocrinology services in as soon as possible.

Two more years of construction are expected at the hospital location. The Colonel announced that Kach is number one in the Army (A-MED) for visitor satisfaction, with a 98.8% score.

COMMISSARY and AAFES - Had no representation or reports due to staffing issues.

ACS - Ms. Amy Weyhrauch was proud to announce that she has been with the Army Emergency Relief Program for 10 years. This nonprofit charitable organization, working with ACS (Army Community Services) takes care of the needs for both active and retired Army personnel, their eligible family members and survivors. Amy continued her comments, reporting that the Fund has given over \$26,000 this year to eligible soldiers. This money was used to get personnel to funerals, emergency travel for medical reasons, and it includes family members. Depending on the nature of the emergency, these disbursements are in the form of grants, or loans, and all loans are interest free. The cadets are eligible for grants only.

RSO UPDATE - Mrs. Gail Reynolds said that there were 680 people that attended the RAD this year. Of that number, 271 retirees were there. Many compliments were received, particularly about the food at the cadet luncheon.

Next year's RAD will be held on April 29th, 2017. Ideas and suggestions are requested for the 2017 event. COL Apostle suggested that raffles, gifts, and travel prizes could be run through the ACS for next year's RAD. Those programs will be researched.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER - LTC (Ret) Joseph C. Lopez discussed potential problems with DFAS. He distributed information, with directions and phone numbers for retirees to call if any issues with pay are encountered.

There were no reports from the medical/dental, commissary/AAFES, VA benefits, or the SJA Liaisons.

VOLUNTEER LIAISON - MAJ (Ret) Laurence Czajkowski mentioned that he was personally donating \$100 to the STARS for Troops program. He

further commented that TriCare is not authorizing payment for certain drugs. He asked Council members to keep track of TriCare prescriptions declined, so a survey can be forwarded to the proper agency.

Finally, he reported that the New Haven Fisher House will be breaking ground this year.

SPACE A TRAVEL - The Space A rep stated that volunteers are needed to staff the office at Stewart. It was also suggested to call McGuire for the best in multiple flights to more destinations. Stewart currently has flights to Ramstein Germany, Syracuse New York and California.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Apostle at 11:44 am.

The next meeting will be held in Building 622 on 17 September 2016 at 10:00 hours.

**Respectfully submitted,
SSG (Ret) Dennis J. Doyle
Secretary**