

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 10 April 2008 meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1200 hours in III Corps Conference Room #2, Bldg 1001.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present:

LTG (Ret) Palmer, Chairman	CSM (Ret) Minosky, Co-Chairman
MG (Ret) Meyer, Assoc. Member	COL (Ret) Somera, Member
COL (Ret) Portmann, Member	COL (Ret) Gauer, Member
COL (Ret) Oliver, Assoc. Member	LTC (Ret) Woodward, Member
CW3 (Ret) Hanger, Member	SCPO (Ret) Lubasky, Member
CSM (Ret) Kitterman, Member	SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member
1SG (Ret) Fisher, Member	
SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member	Mrs. Shirley Greathouse, (Widow) Member

b. Members Absent:

1SG (Ret) Miller, Member
MSG (Ret) Wood, Member

3. The Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed the council members to the meeting. He also welcomed guest: MAJ (Ret) Rich Lucas, Family Readiness Group Leader, CRDAMC.

Topics of discussion for this meeting:

- How the Retiree Council Committees were doing; is there the right number of people per committee and were all topics covered by a committee that needed to be covered.
 - There was discussion that the council may need to have an additional Committee for Benefits some time in the future.
- There was also discussion on who would be a good speaker for the Retiree Appreciation Day. It was decided that we would like to have someone from the VA Hospital speak if possible to talk about how the VA hospital system works and what it can do for retirees. LTG (Ret) Palmer said he would work with Ms. Waller on contacting someone. COL (Ret) Oliver said he knew the director at the VA Hospital in Temple and that he would contact them and tell them of our interest as well.
- Discussion on Nominations for Distinguished Retiree for 2008.
- Retiree Appreciation Day this year is scheduled for 24 & 25 Oct.
- CSM (Ret) Minosky asked that each committee chair drop him a note as their meetings were approaching. He would like to make at least one meeting for each committee to get a feel for each topic area.

4. The following Committee Chairpersons reported:

- a. Special Issues Committee: CSM (Ret) Frank Minosky said he thought they had a good number on their committee. He said that his committee would cover any special issues that come up throughout the year.

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- The first issue they will cover will be gathering nominations for Retiree of the Year for Annual Retiree Appreciation Day. He reminded council members that they need to start the nomination process soon. Ms. Waller will send out the criteria for nominations and anyone who has a nomination for this year should get the paperwork from Ms. Waller as soon as possible. Nominations should be turned in to Ms. Waller or CSM (Ret) Minosky as soon as completed.
- Next year this committee will work on gathering issues for the CSA council. CSM (Ret) Minosky was scheduled to fly to Washington DC on Saturday the 19th of April for this year's meeting. They are discussing 34 issues this year. He will discuss highlights of the issues and what was decided on each issue at our next meeting. He will share information he receives as he gets it.

b. AAFES Committee: COL (Ret) Somera said that he has talked to the manger at AAFES but right now they are not holding meetings. He will continue to check with him.

c. Health Care Advisory Council Committee: COL (Ret) Jos Portmann said he thought they had a good number on their committee. The meetings are held monthly and he has forwarded a synopsis of the notes to everyone on the Retiree Council as he receives them.

- COL (Ret) Portmann talked about Shingles shots and how there was conflicting information in the retirement community on how to get your Shingles shot without having to pay for it. Ms. Waller is going to talk to the Medical Support Personnel and see if there is a possibility of having them have the shot available during Retiree Appreciation Day along with the flu shots.

d. Family Advisory Committee: COL (Ret) Ralph Gauer said that he attended a meeting on the 29th of January. The main focus of this committee is to Localize and Personalize the Army Family Plan and to figure out what this plan means to our community.

- COL (Ret) Gauer said that he thought it would be a wise decision to have one more person to work this committee with him to ensure all meetings could be attended. SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley volunteered to work with him on this committee since she had attended AFAP in the past.

e. Volunteer Services Committee: LTC (Ret) Woodward said he was doing fine with just himself on his committee and he had some informational flyers he passed out on volunteering opportunities in the area. Information provided:

- Fort Hood Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference Dates 14-16 Oct. 08.
POC phone number 254-287-2327.
- Military Spouse (Active & Retired) Appreciation Day is 9 May 2008.
Call Lane Volunteer Center at 254-287-2327 if interested.
- FISHH Families of Injured Soldiers with Helping Hands is looking for volunteers.
POC is 288-8139 or email: Fishhgroup@embarqmail.com
- Cove House is also looking for volunteers.
If you are interested call Cynthia Livingston at 547-4673.

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f. Commissary Update: CW3 (Ret) George Hanger said he had the right number of people on his committee and discussed the following highlights:

- He visits any where from 6 to 8 Commissaries per quarter.
- Case lot sales do well.
- The Commissaries have been seeing record sales lately with the downturn in the economy. Fort Belvoir always leads the sales numbers.
- Both Commissaries now have scanner but are having issues making them work.
- Clear Creek Commissary is working on having a Breakfast for this year Retiree Appreciation Day.

Before closing the meeting the following issues were discussed:

- LTG (Ret) Palmer said that there were a number of Council Members whose terms were scheduled to expire this year. He asked that they consider staying on and that they would extend their terms if he did not hear from them within a week of this meeting.
- May 1st is National Day of Prayer. There will be a ceremony at Killeen City Hall at noon on the 1st of May and MG (Ret) Meyer will speak. He invited everyone to attend.
- 1SG (Ret) Fisher announced a ceremony that will take place on May 25th for Fallen Hero Plaques. Please contact him if you are interested in attending.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 14:15 and council members assembled on the steps of III Corps Headquarters for a group picture.


LTG (Ret) DAVE PALMER
Chairman
Ch. Ret Svc
29 Apr 08

Approved/Disapproved


PAUL E. FUNK II
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff