

**From:** Co-Chairs, Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council  
**To:** Council Members (via E-Mail)

**Subject:** Minutes of the Friday 30 March 2012 Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Meeting

In accordance with the COMDTINST 1800.5e, Sec. 6.b. (6) the following minutes are submitted for your review and comment. Upon receipt of your comments, the minutes will be revised as recommended and will be distributed to Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Members, to the National Retiree Council and to other Coast Guard Regional Retiree Councils. They will also be posted on our WEB site for access by Retiree Council affiliated Retirees in the Washington, DC Metro area, and others.

## **MINUTES OF THE FRIDAY, 30 MARCH 2012 MEETING OF THE CAPITAL AREA COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL**

**Welcome and Introductions** – Co-Chair CAPT David Bernstein convened the council meeting at 0830 AM on Friday, 30 March 2012 in Room B718 of Coast Guard Headquarters.

### **Council Members:**

Attending:

Mrs. Susan Baicar	CAPT Stephen Goldhammer
CAPT David Bernstein	Mr. Norman Paulhus
Mrs. Lula Carpenter	RADM Ron Silva (conference call)
Mr. Paul Cojeen	CDR Bruce Russell (conference call)
YNC Pleasala “Penny” Collins	CAPT W.G. Schneeweis
LCDR David Du Pont	CDR Benjamin Stoppe
	CAPT Robert Warakomsky

### **Guests**

LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO PSSUHQ

### **Agenda**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- 1. CACG Retiree Council Recognition of the Contributions of Norm Lemley and the Council’s Expression of Sadness at his Passing**
- 2. Welcome and Introductions - LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO PSSUH**
- 3. Discuss and Approve Minutes of the 02 December 2011 Council Meeting**

### **COUNCIL PROGRAM**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1.1 Survivor and Caregivers Guide Update – Bud Schneeweis, Bruce Russell**
- 1.2 RADM Ron Silva – Recent Retiree Support Infrastructure Development Activities at CGHQ**

- 1.3 Status of Email Distribution List and Membership Outreach
- 1.4 Help Desk Utilization – (e-mail [nrhdesk@gmail.com](mailto:nrhdesk@gmail.com))
- 1.5 Update on Newsletter
- 1.6 Website Update – Paul Cojeen

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 2.1 LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO PSSU – Recent Relocation of PSSU in HQ Reorganization to establish “Base DC” – Retiree Support Items
- 2.2 Development of CG Retirees Website by CG-1 and local Council Websites
- 2.3 Input to the CCG National Retiree Council on Issues and Concerns of the CACG Retiree Council Categorized by Standing Committees – For National Council Meeting 30 April.
- 2.4 Recognition of Norm Paulhus for his work in support of the Council
- 2.5 Discussion of Need for Specific Council Member Backup for David Bernstein on Email Distribution List
- 2.6 Holiday Party Report - Discussion of Expenses of Holiday Party
- 2.7 Council Membership and Committees
- 2.8 Treasurers Report – Bob Warakomsky
- 2.9 Suggestions for New Co-Chair to follow Mike White
- 2.10 Retiree Participation in USCG Related Events/ DC Area Events Calendar
- 2.11 2012 Meeting Schedule
- 2.12 Suggestions for the Good of the Order

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

1. **Recognition of the Untimely Passing of Norman Lemley** – Co-Chair David Bernstein and the Council remembered the many contributions and friendship of Council Member, Norm Lemley. He was a dedicated member of the Council for many years and published our Newsletter. Norm was much involved in the Exxon Valdez and other Environmental tragedies, and it was Norm’s idea for a lifetime CG email address for all retirees. Norm was instrumental in bringing our current Co-Chair David Bernstein to the Council. His contributions are many and he is missed. His funeral is scheduled for 6 July at Arlington National Cemetery @ 1300. LCDR Sinclair will speak with funeral liaison, Christopher Mack, concerning Council Members following the caisson. Response is that anyone can walk and follow caisson, but there is a precedence. Family & honorary pallbearers are first. Norm’s wife, Laura, is still recovering from the injuries she received during the accident and sends thanks for the flowers, cards and support from the Council.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** - Co-Chair David Bernstein welcomed LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO PSSUHQ
3. **Discuss and approve 02 December 2011 Minutes** – The minutes were approved.

## **COUNCIL PROGRAM**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**1.1 Survivor and Caregivers Guide Update** – Bruce Russell and Bud Schneeweis reported that the Survivor/Caregivers Guide was submitted to the Coast Guard in December. Tricare Reserve and Retiree Dental is not included as CG Pay and Personnel does not handle Tricare. Bruce indicated that the Survivor/Caregivers Guide is intentionally repetitive, but there will be comments and editing before the final Guide is published. The Draft for the Guide will be presented to the National Council at the meeting in May and the National Council will proceed with determining how/by whom the Guide will be published. An important consideration is that the Guide is a unique document not now supported by the CG. So Bruce & Bud should be an integral part of the change & update cycle for the document.

The issue of including a section on disabled child's needs when the parents are deceased was raised, but general consensus is this is an issue which involves legal, and state statutes. LCDR Sinclair reported that the Coast Guard has counselors, but does not have the ability to address this complicated issue. Bruce and Bud were thanked for all their hard work on this extensive and unique project

**1.2 RADM Ron Silva – Recent Retiree Support Infrastructure Development Activities at CGHQ-**

The Annual CCG National Retiree Council meeting will be held the first week in May. There will be 3 Standing Committees – Benefits and Entitlements, Retiree Outreach and Volunteer Services, and CG Unique Retiree Services and Programs. The first day of the Annual Meeting will be Committee Workshops, day 2 Informational Briefings and day 3 Workshops will reconvene and develop recommendations to be made to the full CCGNRC.

There is now a new CG Retiree Website [www.uscg.mil/retiree](http://www.uscg.mil/retiree). Per ADM Papp's comment "The Website will serve as a central repository of relevant Retiree information and provide links to other resources"

The instruction dealing with CG Retirees is being revised. The New Draft Instruction will define the CG Retiree Program and how the Active Duty CG will support Retirees. RADM Hewitt will be retiring on 6 April and Curt Odom will be acting until his replacement arrives in June. Co-Chair David Bernstein commended RADM Silva and MCPO Patton for their hard work and the great progress that has occurred in the last year under their leadership.

**1.3 Email Distribution List and Membership Outreach** – David Bernstein, Co-Chair has taken on the Newsletter after Norm Lemley's untimely passing and informed the Council that he needs someone to maintain an email back-up list. Lula Carpenter, Council Secretary will maintain the back-up list and LCDR Sinclair said her office can help also. There is concern that new Retirees do not know of the Retiree Council's existence in the Washington Metro area and the local Councils in other parts of the country. LCDR Sinclair checked on this matter and was told it is part of the Retiree Package given at "TAPS" Classes for Retirees,

**1.4 Help Desk Utilization** – Bob Warakomsky will be giving a report on the Help Desk to the National Retiree Council Meeting. David Du Pont reported that they have enough Watchstanders and when there is a need, other Watchstanders step up to fill in as needed. David thanked all the Watchstanders here and in other parts of the Country.

**1.5 Newsletter Update** – David Bernstein, as new editor of the Newsletter, reported that the feedback has been positive and appreciative with 10-15 responses within the last 3 months. Norm Paulhus will continue to send information to David. MCPO Patton and Joint Base Henderson Hall also send information. David characterized the Newsletter as an important vehicle for maintaining a close connection with the Retiree Community. Bud Schneeweis commended David for taking over this

important job.

**1.6 Website Update** – Paul Cojeen reported that it looks good and has lots of information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2.1 LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO PSSUHQ – Recent relocation of PSSU in HQ Reorganization to establish “Base DC” –Retiree Support Items (please see attached information on the new Base NCR organization–** LCDR Sinclair explained the new Reorganization to the Members. PSSU will still be the liaison with local CG Retired Communities and facilitate their access to services such as issuance of ID cards, vehicle decals, etc. and are a support to the Retiree Community. Co-Chair David Bernstein thanked LCDR Sinclair for all her hard work in support of the Retiree Council. Steve Goldhammer presented a framed picture, “CG Amphibious Warfare” as a gift to LCDR Sinclair and her husband.

**2.2. Development of CG Retirees Website by CG-1 and local Council Websites –**LCDR Jennifer Sinclair and Paul Cojeen reported that the new National Council Website, a part the Coast Guard Website, will feature news and links to all Regional Councils which will give a bigger picture of the Retiree activities all over the Country.

**2.3 Input to the CCG National Retiree Council on Issues and Concerns of the CACG Retiree Council Categorized by Standing Committees** – David Bernstein asked the Council members to please submit questions they have to the National Council before the May meeting using the Committee categories, i.e., Benefits and Entitlements, Retiree Outreach and Volunteer Services, or CG Unique Retired Services and Programs. These questions can be sent to RADM Silva or MCPO Patton.

**2.4 Recognition of Norm Paulhus for his work in support of the Council** – Co-Chair David Bernstein expressed the appreciation of the CACG Retiree Council for all Norm Paulhus’ hard work and his dedication to the Retiree Council and the Coast Guard Community, particularly during his period of illness.

**2.5 Discussion of Need for Specific Council Member Backup for David on Email Distribution List** - Refer to Old Business, item 1.3.

**2.6 Holiday Party Report and Expenses** –

79 paid guests, and 2 gratis guests

Income from Party - \$610 door

\$100 raffle

\$336 drinks

Refer to Treasurers Report for more detail – Item 2.8

**2.7 Council Memberships and Committees** – All Committees are working.

## **2.8 CAPITAL AREA COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT**

**AS OF  
MARCH 30, 2012**

Balance brought forward 11/30/10		\$1,750.42
Deposit 12/27/11		<u>1,936.00</u>
Balance 1/1/12		\$3,686.42

Holiday Party 12/14/11 Expenses

Food	\$1,517.00
Bar	\$ 266.50
Tax	\$ 89.17
Labor	<u>\$1,051.53</u>

Total	<b>\$2,924.20</b>		less <u>\$2,924.20</u>
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Balance 3/30/12 **\$ 762.22**

Holiday Party 12/04/11 Receipts **\$2,776.00**

Holiday Party 12/05/10 Receipts \$2,462.00

Holiday Party 12/05/10 Expenses \$2,594.10

**2.9 Retiree Participation in USCG related Events/DC Area Events Calendar** – The CG Ball is 3 November 2012. LCDR Sinclair informed the Council that tickets for Retirees would be set aside.

The CG Picnic is 4 August 2012 at TISCOM, Alexandria.

The CG Golf Tournament will be held at Barefoot Landing, Myrtle Beach, SC.

**2.10 Suggestions for New Co-Chair to follow Mike White** – YNC Penny Collins and Isabel Castellanos were suggested. Actual determination of Mike’s successor will be determined at the next Council meeting.

**2.11 2012 Meeting Schedule- Room B-718 CGHQ, 8:30 AM**

22 June 2012 (a change from 29 June)

21 September 2012

30 November 2012

**2.12 Suggestions for the Good of the Order** – LCDR Sinclair informed the Council that the CGHQ is scheduled to move to the St Elizabeth’s Campus in 12 months and parking may be a problem.

Norm Paulhus suggested that a Retiree Pizza Party with guest speakers would be an option for the Council to research for future Retiree gatherings other than just the Holiday Party.

This will be an Agenda item for the next meeting as it ties into the Commandant’s “Honoring

Our Profession.” LCDR Sinclair offered help.

Bud Schneeweis reported that more and more states are recognizing veterans with the driver’s license designation. Maryland and the District of Columbia probably soon will be participating. Bob Warakomsky will send a letter to his VA delegate in regard to this matter.

**AJOURNMENT:** Adjourned at 1040

Minutes Prepared by Lula Carpenter  
CACG Retiree Council Secretary  
Submitted 19 April 2012