

From: Co-Chairs, Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council

To: Council Members (via E-Mail)

Subj: Minutes of the Friday, 04 December 2015 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 comments. 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 04 December 2015 Meeting of the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council

Welcome and Introductions - Co-Chair David Bernstein convened the council meeting at 0830 on Friday, 04 December 2015 at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC.

Council Members:

Attending:

David Bernstein

Mrs. Lula Carpenter

Mr. Paul Cojeen

YNC Penny Collins

LCDR David Du Pont

CAPT Stephen Goldhammer

CPO John Milkiewicz-(telecom)

Mr. Norm Paulhus (telecom)

CDR Gary Thomas

CDR Benjamin Stoppe (telecom)

CAPT Bob Warakomsky (telecom)

THE CAPITAL AREA COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL AGENDA 04 December 2015 Meeting 0830 at the AFRH

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- 1. Call in Number -, Participant -**
- 2. Welcome and Introductions**
- 3. Discuss & Approve Minutes of the 25 September 2015 Council Meeting**

COUNCIL PROGRAM

OLD BUSINESS

- 1.1 Status of Email Distribution List and Membership Outreach**
- 1.2 Help Desk Utilization – (e-mail nrhdesk@gmail.com)**
- 1.3 Update on Newsletter**
- 1.4 Website Update**
- 1.5 Retiree Support Items**

NEW BUSINESS

- 2.1 CG Retiree Recruiting Partnership**
- 2.2 Discussion of National Help Desk – Bob Warakomsky/David Du Pont**
- 2.3 Meeting with other DC Area Councils**
- 2.4 Holiday Party –John Milkiewicz, David Bernstein**
 - 2.4.1 Publicity, Raffle prizes**
 - 2.4.2 Ticket money collection**
 - 2.4.3 Invitations to Commandant, Vice, MCPOCG, MCPOCG(R)**
 - 2.4.4 Cost of Party**
 - 2.4.5 Member Assigned Party Tasks**
 - 2.4.6 Parking**
- 2.5 Council Membership and Committees**
- 2.6 Treasurers Report – Bob Warakomsky**
- 2.7 Retiree Participation in USCG Related Events/ DC Area Events Calendar**
- 2.8 2016 Meeting Schedule-AFRH**
 - 25 March 2016**
 - 24 June 2016**
 - 30 September 2016**
 - 02 December 2016**

Suggestions for the Good of the Order

ADJOURNMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- 1. Welcome and Introductions-** David Bernstein, Council Co-Chair welcomed Council members and called the meeting to order.
- 2. Discuss and Approve Minutes of the 25 September 2105 Meeting-** The minutes were approved.

COUNCIL PROGRAM

OLD BUSINESS

1.1 Status of Email Distribution List and Membership Outreach-David Bernstein reported that he continues to acquire email addresses from retirees and now has over 800. He receives compliments on this service and the Newsletter and in the newsletter, requests that recipients find other Retirees and get additional email addresses.. He will continue to attempt to gain the correct email addresses of those that “bounce back” which number between 30-35. David Bernstein informed the Council that he spends approximately 3-4 hours compiling and completing the Newsletter before distribution. David thanked Norm Paulhus for his contributions to the Newsletter and David also uses sources from Base Miami and Joint Base Ft Myer-Henderson Hall.

David Du Pont reported that the IT system has been changed and a new Pilot Program with new software has been initiated which allows HTML emails to come into Headquarters. The testing phase is about half completed and we may know if the test is positive by the next Council meeting in March. David Du Pont said he was able to open attachments in Headquarters using the new test system.

1.2 Help Desk Utilization-(email-nrhdesk@gmail.com) – David Du Pont informed the Council that the Help Desk is now accepted by the active duty Coast Guard under COMDTINST 1800.5. This means the RSD (Retiree Support Desk) is no longer required to staff a phone watch when one central number will do. The RSD job is used for more local activities and meeting retirees face to face. David Bernstein reported he received 20 calls on his last watch but several were duplicates. Bob Warakomsky told the Council the average is 7-8 calls during a watch period.

David Du Pont reported many watchstanders have asked to be taken off the watch list because of other activities. At this time there are only 8 watchstanders instead of the 12-13 in the past. More watchstanders will be requested at the next National Retiree Council meeting in April. Bob Hinds, Retiree Services Program Manager also sent out a solicitation for more watchstanders. With just 8 watchstanders, the 8 remaining must now take 2 week-24/7 at home watches out of a 3 month period instead of the 1 week required in the past.

1.3 Update on Newsletter- Refer to 1.1.

1.4 Website Update- Paul Cojeen will send the minutes from the June and September meetings to LT Steve Chang for posting on the website. The latest Retiree Council Holiday Party attendee list will be put on the website on 13 December. Paul will speak with LT Chang about making the opening of attachments easier for readers of the Council Newsletter

1.5 Retiree Support Items- No report

NEW BUSINESS

2.1- Coast Guard Retiree Recruiting Partnership- No report

2.2 Help Desk –David Du Pont reported that the National Help Desk is doing good work and David Bernstein gave an example from his watch. A retired Officer who was at Base Monterey needed proof of PTSD for a retired Base member for VA benefits, from a plane crash incident when he was on active duty and after research by the Help Desk, the needed validation was provided of the incident. This shows the good service the National Help Desk is providing.

2.3 Meeting with other DC Area Councils–David Bernstein has contacted the Retiree Councils at Bolling and Andrews AF Bases to broaden our reach within the Retiree Community.

2.4 Holiday Party- John Milkiewicz informed the Council that the arrangements for the Holiday Party at Vinson Hall are all set. It was suggested that we explore a future venue for the party. Vinson Hall has been excellent but we have no idea of costs and quality of other possible locations. Suggestions were FT Myer, the Army-Navy Club, Navy Yard, Bolling and FT McNair. Also it was suggested that we survey party attendees. Various Council members will research this.

2.4.1 Publicity, Raffle prizes- David Bernstein is donating a Kindle, Ben Stoppe, some books and Bob Warakomsky is donating some pictures. The Raffle tickets will be \$1 each and 6 for \$5. A discussion was held concerning soliciting donations from businesses for next year’s party, since with Paul Peak’s passing, personal donations will be difficult to find. Penny Collins volunteered to support the solicitations for next year’s holiday party, this for the Council.

2.4.2 Ticket Money Collection/Name tags at Party-Ben Stoppe and Steve Goldhammer volunteered to be drink ticket money collectors. Bob Warakomsky will collect money from guests who have not already paid. Lula Carpenter and Bob Warakomsky will greet guests and hand out name tags. Bob Hinds will make the name tags for the party and Bob Warakomsky will send him the list of guests.

2.4.3 Invitations to Commandant, Vice, MCPOCFG, MCPOCG(R)- At this time most have replied they will attend. David Bernstein will greet and introduce the special attendees.

2.4.4-Cost of Party-Bob Warakomsky informed the Council that at this time we had 65 attending the party and if we’ve committed to 75, which we will have to pay for, this will decrease our reserves for future parties. We will ask “no shows” to pay and usually they offer to pay. Also those who cannot come at the last minute and have already paid, usually say to keep their payment. We can hope to make a profit on drink sales.

2.4.5-Member Assigned Tasks- Refer to 2.4.2.

2.4.6 Parking-John Milkiewicz reported that 40 parking spots will be available for guests in the covered parking at Vinson Hall. Signs will be placed directing guests to enter from the rear of the Vinson Hall. There will be no Valet Parking. Norm Paulhus suggested that this information be sent to attendees and a reminder of the 4:00 PM start time.

2.5 Council Membership and Committees-no report.

2.6 Treasurers Report-Refer to end of Minutes.

2.7 Retiree Participation inUSCG Related Events/DC Area Events Calendar-
Spring Retiree Events and the CG Day Picnic will be announced.

2.8 Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule-AFRH

25 March 2016

24 June 2016

30 September 2016

02 December 2016

2.10 Suggestions for the Good of the Order

1. Lula Carpenter thanked Penny Collins for arranging our meeting dates at the AFRH with Sheila Abarr.
2. After discussion our meeting time of 0830 will remain.
3. Norm Paulhus reminded the Council that “Military Spouse Appreciation Day” is 6 May 2016.

ADJOURNMENT -10:25 AM

Minutes prepared by Lula Carpenter, CACG Retiree Council Secretary
Submitted 12 January 2016