

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

Subject: Minutes of the Friday 30 September 2011 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 September 2011 MEETING OF THE CAPITAL AREA COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL

Welcome and Introductions – Co-Chair CAPT David Bernstein convened the council meeting at 0900 AM on Friday, 30 September 2011 in Room B718 of Coast Guard Headquarters.

Council Members:

Attending:	LCDR John Bagg	CAPT Steven Goldhammer
	Mrs. Susan Baicar	CAPT Norman Lemley
	CAPT David Bernstein	CAPT J. K. “Kip” Louttit
	PO1 Isabel Castellanos	RADM Ron Silva
	Mr. Paul Cojeen	CDR Benjamin Stoppe
	YNC Penny Collins, USCGR (RET)	CAPT Robert Warakomsky
	LCDR David Du Pont	SCPO Dennis “Mike” White

Guests

CDR Barbara Anderson
LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO PSSUHQ

Agenda

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- 1. Welcome and Introductions - CDR Barbara Anderson, USCGR, LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO PSSUHQ, YNC Pleasala ‘Penny’ Collins, USCGR – FRA, FRA Liaison to CCGNRC**
- 2. Discuss & Approve Minutes of the 24 June Council Meeting**

1. COUNCIL PROGRAM

OLD BUSINESS

- 1.1 Status of Email Distribution List and Membership Outreach**
- 1.2 Help Desk Utilization – (email nrhdesk@gmail.com)**
- 1.3 Update on Newsletter – Norm Lemley**

- 1.4 Website Update – Paul Cojeen
- 1.5 Survivor and Caregivers Guide Update – Bud Schneeweis

NEW BUSINESS

- 2.2.1 CDR Barbara Anderson, USCGR, “Establishing/Implementing Coast Guard Retiree Support Program
- 2.2.2 LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO PSSUHQ Our “Sponsor”
- 2.2.3 YNC Penny Collins, USCGR, Fleet Reserve Association-FRA Liaison CCGNRC
- 2.2.4 Discussion-VA, MD, DC Recognition of Veterans on Driver’s Licenses
- 2.2.5 Holiday Cards and Addresses
- 2.2.6 Council Membership and Committees
- 2.2.7 Survivors Guide Review and Revision
- 2.2.8 Treasurers Report
- 2.2.9 Retiree Participation in USCG Related Events/DC Area
Events Calendar
Contact with JBM-HH/Coast Guard Participation in JBM-HH Retiree Appreciation Day
- 2.2.10 Holiday Party Preplanning
- 2.2.11 2011-2012 Meeting Schedule
- 2.2.12 Suggestions for the Good of the Order

AJOURNMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- 1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Co-Chair David Bernstein called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM in Rm. B718 at CGHQ. Welcomed CDR Barbara Anderson, assigned at CGHQ to define functions and infrastructure for CG Retiree support. Welcomed LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO, PSSUHQ. Also welcomed and approved CPO Penny Collins USCGR (Ret) as a new member of the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council.
- 2. **Discuss and approve 24 June 2011 Minutes** – The minutes were approved as amended with minor changes. (See changes/replacement paragraph on last page.)

COUNCIL PROGRAM

OLD BUSINESS

1.1 Status of Email Distribution List and Membership Outreach – As previously reported, the council’s email list is up to date and in use. Norm Lemley reported that over 500 members are on our email list.

1.2 Help Desk Utilization – David Du Pont reported Help Desk is in good shape, running smoothly, and we have Watchstanders for next 3 months. There was one IT element recently. Jim Hoffman got a message that his password was scheduled to expire/has been reset. After 999

days you have to do a reset. Mike White said we need to put this password change info in the break-in of new Watchstanders. Bob Warakomsky thanked Dave D. for developing procedures to break-in new Watchstanders. He will provide us with statistics regarding reports at the next meeting. Dave Bernstein reported that at the National Retiree Council Meeting in May, our Help Desk was acknowledged as an example of excellence and is now the National CG Help Desk. COL Willner, the Co-Chair of the JBM-HH Retiree Council, is using our model for his organization.

1.3 Newsletter Update – Norm Lemley reported that he sent out 3 extra Newsletters this time—lots of business. Also sent out the Holiday Party flyer.

1.4 Website Update – Paul Cojeen reported that it looks good—has lots of info. Some things we just need to provide link. National Council is RADM Silva and Vince Patton. We should not compete with National or Fred’s Place; perhaps just provide links. May be discussed offline. Norm Lemley mentioned getting items published. He sent one item to Joe Fernandez (CG Web developer) but has not yet been posted. Paul said usually items get published quickly—perhaps Joe was out of town.

1.5 Survivor and Caregivers Guide –Bud Schneeweis was not at this meeting. Bud does have Bruce Russell’s outline and has indicated he was working on it. Isabel Castellanos, who is on the committee, noted that as we all know this is a big job and they are still working on it.

Discussion: Steve Goldhammer was at Cape May recently. They had a booklet re help for the new CG spouse. May be on Web somewhere but he gave Isabel a copy. Debby Farley is waiting for our input for Survivors Guide. We need to make sure we follow-up and provide her with the information on changes we recommend. John Bagg asked if perhaps this was done by other Services before. If so, there may be pamphlets etc. out there somewhere. Mike said there is a VA Guide. Isabel is working on where info is and what might be out next steps. Dave Bernstein suggested also contacting COL Willner—Isabel should provide status at next meeting.

* For updated information and current status on the Survivors/Caregivers Guide, please see attached Addendum at end of minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

2.2.1 CDR Barbara Anderson, USCGR, “Establishing/Implementing Coast Guard Retiree Support Program - She is working on this – needs to be user friendly. She also discussed the changes to CG organization which establishes “Bases.” One emphasis in the functional statements is to have Bases provide support to Retirees in their AOR. Vice Commandant has signed off on it. Personnel Services Branch will support our retirees. PSSU (was HSC) involved in it too. Passed our thanks to her.

2.2.2 LCDR Jennifer Sinclair, USCG, CO PSSUHQ Our “Sponsor” She is working on getting addresses of retirees for us. Many complications. Vice Commandant asked RADM Hewitt to solve this by the Holidays. Chief Counsel also working on it. Working on data base access and release. Noted she will request the listing for PSSUHQ use for outreach to DC Area retirees.

2.2.3 Penny Collins, USCGR, Fleet Reserve Association-FRA Liaison CCGNRC – Very impressive background. Gave us overview of FRA, established in 1924, noting they are a member of the coalition. They have 70,000+ enlisted member from the Sea Services. FRA National Headquarters is at 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 ph. 703.683.1400. Passed around a sign-up sheet for FRA NewsBytes. FRA NewsBytes keeps you up to date on the Association’s legislative initiatives that affect us. NewsBytes comes out from FRA every Friday by e-mail.

2.2.4 Discussion-VA, MD, DC Recognition of Veterans on Driver’s Licenses –Legislation is required to do this. Letters have been sent to Governors of Maryland and Virginia and to the Mayor of DC. Florida has done this and we sent a copy of the FLA license to the Governors and Mayor. We had responses from MD and DC, but nothing from VA. Response asks that we call MVA Director. Dave B. will handle, will keep pushing, and will let us know.

2.2.5 Holiday Cards and Addresses – Our List is 3 years old. CDR Anderson will try/help through CDR Sinclair. We may have to have PSSU do labels and send out. Kip to find picture and send graphics and write up for card.. Ben will create new card and have them printed/ready for the Council to prepare for mailing at December meeting.

2.2.6 Council Memberships and Committees

The Committees and Members are listed below (Changes are in bold type):

Email Distribution-Norm Lemley, David **Bernstein**, Bruce Russell, Paul Cojeen
Newsletter-Norm Lemley, Paul Cojeen, Norm Paulhus
Web Page-Paul Cojeen, Norm Lemley, Ben Stoppe, Bruce Russell, Bob Warakomsky
By-Laws/Charter-Mike White, David Bernstein, David Du Pont, Susan Baicar
Caregivers Guide-Bruce Russell, Bud Schneeweis, Isabel Castellanos, with possible input
from National Council members, Kim Lorigan and Sal Romo
Survivors Guide-Bud Schneeweis, Lula Carpenter
Outreach-Kip Louttit, John Bagg, David Bernstein, Bud Schneeweis
Social Committee- David Bernstein, Bud Schneeweis, Bruce Russell, Isabel Castellanos
NRC Help Desk – Bob Warakomsky, Dave Du Pont

**Note that Bruce Russell indicated that he was leaving the area and was no longer going to be active in CARC. He does want to remain on our mailing list and will support us as he’s able to do so.

2.2.7 Survivors Guide Review and Revision - See **Para 1.5** (page 3).

2.2.8 Treasurers Report – Bob W. passed out copies of CACCRC Financial Report and Pentagon federal Credit Union Statement. Discussed using some of money from the party for cards. Bob said there are no rules on how to use the money. All agreed to use some of the money for our holiday cards.

2.2.9 Retiree Participation in USCG related Events/DC Area Events Calendar

Contact with JBM-HH/Coast Guard Participation in JBM-HH Retiree

Appreciation Day-at Fort Myer on 7 October **2011**: Admiral Silva sent e-mail last night. Only response so far: is that Admiral May will try to attend. David Bernstein has been given the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown, Arlington National Cemetery, representing all CG Retirees. All DoD Services are required to have an annual Retiree Appreciation Day. TAPS Seminars – 2012 Schedule is out. If we want to be on agenda, Coordinator is Gary Adams; E-mail at Ronald.g.adams@uscg.mil 202-372-4089. May need volunteers. Dave B. will contact. Note: Gary gives out flyer about our Council to those staying in area.

2.2.10 Holiday Party Preplanning - Planning meeting usually coordinated by co-chair. Dave will send out a “to do” list asking for volunteers. LCDR Sinclair gave date to HQ. CAPT Rizzo agreed that CG AUX should be invited to party. Delegated to Mr. Minutolo who sent out invites.

2.2.11 2011-2012 Meeting Schedule 02 December 2011
30 March 2012
29 June 2012
28 September 2012
30 November 2012

2.2.12 Suggestions for the Good of the Order – Welcomed YNC Pleasala “Penny” Collins as new member. Due to continuing health issues, Norm Paulhus still unable to come in for our meetings. Susan will send a “get well/thinking of you” card to let Norm know we miss him.

AJOURNMENT: Adjourned at 1141

Minutes Prepared by Susan Baicar, Acting Secretary
Submitted 4 October 2011

Co-Chairs, Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council

CAPT David Bernstein
SCPO Dennis M. (Mike) White

Attachment: Changes to Minutes of 24 JUN2011 Retiree Council Meeting

CHANGES TO MINUTES OF 24 JUNE 2011 RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

Changes (in bold/red) to para 1.2 of 24 JUNE 2011 Minutes:

1.2 Help Desk Utilization – David Du Pont reported that we have Watchstanders scheduled until the end of August with **most** from outside the DC Metro area. David also explained to COL Willner the training and work of the Help Desk and the use of **a** number to facilitate and guide questioners as to where to find the answers to their questions. The number is **202-475-5381** and can be found in the Retiree Newsletter sent from the pay center in Topeka, Kansas. The Help Desk receives 6-12 queries per week. **In addition to the HD,** COL Willner said the Army has a Post Retiree Services Office. The email address is – militaryonesource.com- and there is a Call Center to help retirees with questions. **At National Council Meeting** ADM Hewitt announced new online help, but the site has been difficult to access. Isabel Castellanos will check this out and once we have the information, we will publish it in the Newsletter

Changes/Addition to **2.1 Council Membership and Committees.**

First Line: E-mail Distribution: Change David DuPont to **David Bernstein.**

At end add: **NRC Help Desk – Bob Warakomsky, David DuPont**

Addendum-Survivor/Caregivers Guide-Bruce Russell

Bud and I met in August and recently exchanged e-mails on a way forward. Both of us have been busy with work and other things, but we are making progress as follows:

- a) He and I completed a comprehensive review of guides on similar topics out there. We have what we need in terms of resource documents.
- b) There are some good things and we have enough to work with. We are working first on the Survivors guide and identified 3 sections that need to be totally re-worked. Indeed the source documents and websites (e.g., DEERSs) provide inaccurate and mis-leading information. We are addressing these by providing the correct information in the Survivors Guide, and will recommend that COMDT go back to the source to correct the mis-information.
- c) Once the 3 chapters or sections for the Survivors Guide are complete, we will draft a forwarding letter for ADM Silva to send to the chief of Personnel (or whatever they are calling that office these days). We would recommend these NOT to go back to Debbie Farley as the 3 sections that need re-working are outside her purview—nothing to do with

annuity/ pensions and related benefits. Which in my opinion is why these sections have problems—she does not have the expertise or clout to get them fixed.

- d) These 3 sections will form the basis for 3 of the 10 sections of the Caregivers Guide—so these can be easily modified for the Guide. That would leave 7 or 8 to draft. Bud and I have a plan to produce 1 section every two weeks, starting sometime in November. We think this is doable.

Best, Bruce