

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

To: Council Members (via E-Mail)

Subj: Minutes of the Friday, 25 September 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 25 September 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, 25 September 2015 at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC.

Council Members:

Attending:

CDR Ana Carrie Ash-(telecom)

Mrs. Susan Baicar

CAPT David Bernstein

Mrs. Lula Carpenter

Mr. Paul Cojeen

YNC Penny Collins

LCDR David Du Pont

CAPT Stephen Goldhammer

Mr. Bob Hinds-(telecom)

CPO John Milkiewicz-(telecom)

Mr. Norm Paulhus-(telecom)

CDR Gary Thomas

CDR Benjamin Stoppe

AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Discuss & Approve Minutes of the 26 June 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

NEW BUSINESS

- 2.1 USCG Related Events/DC Area Calendar/CG Day Picnic-David Bernstein**
- 2.2 Discussion of CG National Help Desk functions to RSD functions – Bob Hinds, David Bernstein - Handout**
 - **Use of RSD training material for NCGRHD – Review handout**
 - **Role of Council**
- 2.2.1 Discussion of National Help Desk –David Du Pont/Bob Warakomsky**
 - **Status of NCGRHD support tool – Bob Hinds, Anna Carrie Ash**
- 2.3 CACG Retiree Council Party 13 December 2015 - John Milkiewicz**
- 2.4 Council Membership and Committees**
- 2.5 Treasurers Report- Bob Warakomsky**
- 2.6 Coast Guard Councils/Meeting with other DoD Councils**
- 2.7 Proposed 2015-2016 Meeting Schedule-AFRH**
 - 04 December 2015**
 - 25 March 2016**
 - 24 June 2016**
 - 30 September 2016**
 - 02 December 2016**
- 2.8 CG Retiree Recruiting Partnership**
- 2.9 Possible Messaging Changes for uscg.mil addressees**
- 2.10 Suggestions for the Good of the Order**

ADJOURNMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Welcome and Introductions- David Bernstein, Council Co-Chair welcomed AFRH personnel, Caroline Haug, Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Newton, Public Affairs and Frank Lawrence, Volunteer Tour Guide. Also welcomed via telecom were CDR A.C. Ash, Bob Hinds, Retiree Services Coordinator, and Retiree Council members John Milkiewicz and Norm Paulhus.

2. Discuss and Approve Minutes of the 26 June 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 around 600. He receives compliments on this service and the Newsletter. He will continue to attempt to gain the new email addresses of those that “bounce back” as rejects.

1.2 Help Desk Utilization-(email-nrhdesk@gmail.com) – David Du Pont informed the Council that the Help Desk is doing well. The quarterly response from watchstanders is good and if a change of watch scheduled is needed, fellow watchstanders are quick to respond to help. Bob Warakomsky reported the average calls received per week is 8-10. David Bernstein informed the Council he received 7 on his watch recently and a widow experienced some problem reaching PPC. The recording indicated they were swamped and not able to take her call at that time. Debbie Farley was contacted directly and the problem was remedied.

1.3 Update on Newsletter-David Bernstein reported that he has been sending out the Newsletter monthly and has received very positive comments from recipients.

1.4 Website Update- LT Chang is now posting the Council Minutes. Paul Cojeen will send him the 26 June 2105 Minutes along with the Holiday Party flyer to put on the Retiree Website.

1.5 Retiree Support Items- Refer to New Business

NEW BUSINESS

2.1 USCG Related Events/DC Area Calendar/CG Day Picnic- Bob Hinds, Retiree Services Director and Bob Warakomsky staffed the desk at the CG Day Picnic with David Bernstein checking in from time to time. Access to the picnic location was not a problem as you just needed to show your ID. There was no access to the CGHQ Building. A bus was provided to take guests to the picnic area. David Bernstein thanked Bob Hinds for facilitating the Retiree presence at the picnic and Bob said it was good to have a Retiree presence at the picnic. Visitors to the Retiree Desk gave

retiree email addresses and raffle tickets helped the visibility of the Council where active recruiting was done for Council members. David Bernstein said it was good to have Bob Hinds as Retiree Services Director as he not only does a great job, but his presence raises the visibility of Retirees at CG Headquarters.

Another event for Retirees is the "Fall Fest" at the AFRH on 04 October 2015 sponsored by "Friends of the Home". An Antique Car Show is part of this event and over a 100 cars are anticipated. Volunteers from the Council were requested for this event by Caroline Haug, AFRH Volunteer Coordinator. David Bernstein said he would put this in the Newsletter and an email and Penny Collins, FRA, said she would notify FRA members.

2.2 Help Desk – The Training Guide for the RSD (Retiree Services Desk) is helpful and the National CG Retiree Council would like it to remain in its present form. Also required is a consideration of the needs of a local area and each Region will implement their program to reflect those needs. Some will have RSD's and some not. In any case, the National Retiree Help Desk can successfully deal with virtually all the issues that the RSD's were created for. The Help Desk already does most of that responding to voice and email inquires and referring those needing assistance to the appropriate place including internal CG and external like VA. For local activities, the Councils will enlarge their role and deal with local referrals as we do in our newsletter. The Training Guide for RSD's would be helpful for the NHD (National Help Desk) as reference material and it was suggested the Training Guides be sent to NHD watchstanders. David Du Pont said he thought the Guides should be sent out as informational resources and not required training. This Guide is on the Retiree Services website and a link could be provided to NHD watchstanders. In addition, would be helpful if the RSD training information were available on the National Help Desk support tool being developed by CDR Ash.

2.2.1 Status of NCGRHD Support Tool-CDR Ash is building a data capture tool. The question arose concerning where this tool should be located so the NHD and Regional Councils have access. It was suggested that the NHD calls be tracked on a spreadsheet. David Du Pont suggested that the NHD have the option to use this tool or the current system. Bob Hinds said the NRHD would continue business as usual to provide data to the capture sheet and data would be added to this tool. The use of a VOLAC (Volunteer Access) CAC Card would eventually be used and the National CG Retiree Council is being used to check out this system, but it is a slow process. CDR Ash has put together a plan for the next 3-4 Steps. Bob Hinds will put this in his system and go forward from there to see how it works to track the information entered. Bob Hinds recommended that Dave Du Pont and Bob Warakomsky continue to own the NHD and work with CDR Ash. Bob Hinds and ADM Acton (Co-Chair National CG Retiree Council) are meeting with the Commandant concerning data collection from NHD and PPC in October.

2.3 Holiday Party – John Milkiewicz informed the Council that a signed contract for the Holiday Party has been sent. John will do a “walk through” in November and try to firm up parking locations. The Council was advised that we need to be thinking about raffle items. Advertising should be done monthly by various organizations such as FRA, CPOA, and the CG Officers Association to be sure and get the word out so we have good participation. Norm Paulhus suggested we try to connect with people about to retire and Reserves. David Bernstein informed the Council that we really need outreach to Enlisted Retirees as our attendance is low in this group. A suggestion was made that contact be made with Kim Lorigan, President of the Coast Guard Enlisted Association and also a CG National Retiree Council Member, to help get the word out to the Enlisted CG population. Steve Goldhammer suggested that in the future, we have a sliding scale price for Enlisted attendees. David Du Pont requested the number of attendees needed to break even and the answer was 70-75. A suggestion was made that we invite the AFRH leadership to the Holiday Party. John Milkiewicz will check on the maximum accommodation at Vinson Hall. (Reporting back, maximum is 150-175)

2.4 Council Membership and Committees – Refer to Welcome and Introductions.

2.5 Treasurers Report- Refer to Treasurers Report at end of Minutes.

2.6 Coast Guard Councils/Meeting with other DoD Councils-David Bernstein is still in contact with the JBM-HH (Joint Base Ft Meyer-Henderson Hall) and encourages everyone to attend the FT Meyer “Retiree Appreciation Days” event. He encourages Retirees to use that facility as its main focus is to take care of the needs of Retirees.

2.7 Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule-AFRH

04 December 2015

25 March 2016

24 June 2016

30 September 2016

02 December 2016

2.8 CG Retiree Recruiting Partnership-Bob Hinds, Retiree Services Director, reconnected with CDR Heath Brown, CG Recruiting Command, who will check on what has been done with Recruiting suggestions and get back to Bob. Bob also emailed the Recruiting Partnership request to all Retiree Councils. CG cards may become available to pass out to prospective CG candidates and Norm Paulhus suggested that the CG website be placed on the cards. Bob Hinds said he would act on that suggestion. Norm Paulhus also suggested that a link to the Alabama CG “Katrina” film showcasing the Coast Guard be part of recruiting qualified candidates.

2.9 Possible Messaging Changes for uscg.mil addresses-Gary Thomas reported that due to heightened Security, all attachments must have a certification, emails

must be plain text and all embedded items will be stripped out-no HTML. David can send his items to Bob Hinds home email as well as uscgmil.

2.10 Suggestions for the Good of the Order

1. Bob Hinds will suggest to the Commandant that Active Duty connect with Retirees and to remember Survivors and Caregivers by both Active Duty and Retirees by outreach with a call or other communication. Bob Hinds will also stress the need for authorization of email addresses in order for the Retiree Community to stay connected with other Retirees and also to have the Active Duty more involved with Retirees.

Other Suggestions;

a. Gary Thomas suggested that Retirees be invited to all Regions' holiday parties as does the D-14 Party.

b. Norm Paulhus suggested a call be made to Retirees on Veteran's Day.

c. Local Personal Outreach- Every CG Base should be made aware of the Retirees living in their community.

2. David Bernstein reminded members of the FT Meyer "Retiree Appreciation Day" which is a wonderful day with fun and information available that affects Retirees.

3. A reminder of the "CG Food Drive" which ends 02 Oct

4. Remember the "Fall Fest" at AFRH.

ADJOURNMENT -10:55 AM

Minutes prepared by Lula Carpenter, CACG Retiree Council Secretary
Submitted 02 October 2015

CAPITAL AREA COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 25 SEPTEMBER 2015

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward 6/25/15	\$
1,386.10	
Dividend 6/30/15	
0.06	
Deposit 7/22/15 (FRA donation for CG Day Picnic)	
\$ 500.00	
Dividend 7/31/15	
0.07	
Deposit 8/6/15 (FLTCI donation for CG Day Picnic)	
\$ 250.00	

Dividend 8/31/15
0.09

Total
\$ 2,136.32

Expenses

Reimburse 8/15/15 (Bob Hinds CG Day Picnic Expenses)
\$270.00

Reimburse 8/15/15 (Bob Warakomsky CG Day Picnic Expenses)
\$480.00

Total
\$ 750.00

Balance 9/25/15
\$ 1,386.32