



October 25, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

Minutes of the October 2021 Bi-monthly membership meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees' Association (MMRA)

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 5th at 1700 In the Gray Room of the Consolidated Open Mess, presiding officers: President-Paul Sayles; Secretary-Joseph Roginski; Treasurer, Dave Barton, and 16 general members. Vice-President Toby Fanelli was in hospital.
2. Joe Roginski read the minutes of the August 2021 meeting, which were accepted and approved.
3. OLD Business:
 - a. COVID-19 – Paul Sayles reported that epidemic is unabated but conditions improving in Japan and he reminded us to keep current on travel etc., check the bulletins to keep current. This item will remain open until the pandemic crisis is declared over. (Open)
 - b. Retiree Appreciation Day – Dave Barton reported that the Retiree Appreciation Day went off successfully and a pretty good turnout. There were good comments from the leadership including Col Dooley from the hospital. The breakfast was supported with \$188 dollars from the Officers' spouses Club and with the support of the Enlisted Spouses Club that amount was \$688 and the total bill for the breakfast came to \$976, so we had to pay less than \$300 of our own funds. There was food left over and there was take home boxes available so no food went to waste. The breakfast went well and everybody was satisfied. We all went to the exchange for the rest of the event. There were lots of prizes for the drawings with plenty of gift cards throughout the two hours from 10 to 12 noon. We had three widows who were presented with the bouquets as we usually do. Med Group was there in force as always and they apologized for not having the flu shots, but they will be available shortly, active-duty first and then the rest of us about the end of this month. Dave also said he was told that Pfizer booster had been authorized and will be available. (Closed)
 - c. Hospital referrals, translator support, etc. – Paul Sayles reported that for the time being, there will be no change. The hospital will continue to make appointments and referrals for retirees, translations of paperwork for both sides, Japanese and American hospital staff, as needed but on a space available basis, and if no translator is available, and one is needed, you will have to provide a translator. That brings up another issue, in that the translators must be medically certified to translate. TOPA is coming up with a list of certified translators. This is because of the HIPA requirements. Lee Martin asked the question “Does this mean that if I asked the hospital just to make my appointment and I take my wife with me to translate as I always have, that I can't do that anymore?” Paul answered that he does not know, and that he is passing on the information that he was given. Paul assumes that if they are dealing with a hospital to hospital issue (meaning documents relating to the appointment must be translated- JJR), then they require a medically certified translator. Paul said he would get more clarification. Dave Barton interjected that most likely this is referring to just the paperwork. There was more animated discussion on this but we will wait for Paul to get more clarification as to what exactly it is that requires a medically certified translator. (Open)

4. New Business from the previous meeting
 - a. Air Show/American Day/Japan Day/Halloween – Paul Sayles announced that there will be no air show or American Day this year, and there may or may not be a Halloween, and if there is Halloween activities it will only be on-base. Ray Eberhardt commented that all the combined activities scheduled for 31 October have been canceled. Dave Barton commented that the Halloween trick or treat activity will be on the 30th, and there will not be any Japanese guests coming on the base for this activity, and this is also tentative depending on the COVID developments. (Closed)
 - b. Toby Fanelli – Paul Sayles commented that Toby Fanelli is in a rehabilitation facility and that as far as he has heard, Toby is doing OK, not getting worse and showing some improvement in his rehabilitation. Lee Martin commented that Toby is in a facility in Oirase, that no visitors are allowed due to the COVID and that Toby actually called him recently. Lee said, however, aside from the no-visitors policy, that Joe Roginski convinced the hospital to allow a lawyer in so that Toby can sign powers of attorney so RAO staff can take care of Toby's business needs. Additional comments on Toby's condition, treatment, processes, etc. have not been included in these minutes. (Open)
 - c. Cecil Hahn – Joe Roginski commented that Cecil Hahn passed away on the 12th of September. He had leukemia. Cremation and funeral were held shortly after with limited attendance and that the RAO is assisting his wife in handling Cecil's affairs. (Open)
 - d. Dave Barton commented that he had talked with Bill Tuttle's wife, Asako, Bill Tuttle and his wife, Asako, who manages the base library, asked if we could set up the Vietnam War Display on the 1st of November through the end of the month, and to which Dave agreed. (Closed)
 - e. Paul Sayles asked if there was any new business and a new member, Jason Green, introduced himself. Jason retired from the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer. He said he was in Misawa before and he brought his father-in-law, Pete with him. We welcomed them both. (Closed)
 - f. Ray Eberhardt expressed his thanks for all the support for the RAD, especially the Medical Group. (Closed)
 - g. Bill Tuttle commented that he is new in the RAO and he is learning more about our benefits and needs, and the assistance the RAO provides. Of special interest are the needs of the Japanese widow when the retiree husband passes, in that the surviving spouse does not realize all that is involved in reporting and documenting the death, the ensuing paperwork, and that it can get quite involved. Bill suggested that he would like to put together a package that will help the Japanese spouse in this process, what will be required and what to expect. Bill also said he found a sample will and an "Electronic Document List" that a member can fill out with all your electronic accounts, such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. with logons and passwords, so that when you die, somebody can go through the process of closing out these electronic accounts. The retiree can file this document in a folder kept in the RAO locked cabinet along with the will. (Open)
 - h. Mark Bissell, the Misawa Commissary Officer, addressed the members with some information and was ready to answer questions. He said the new service, Click-to-Go, which is on-line ordering, kicked off last week. Also implemented curb-side pick-up. Both services have been going good and he asked that each of us give it a try. He commented that the typhoon south of us had delayed shipping, and pumpkins also will be late. Halloween candy is also a little short, so get it now or you may be using Christmas candy for Halloween. There is a program for patrons to ask for products and new items. Actual requests are about 20% successful. Foster Farm Turkey was previously banned by Japan but will be coming in this year for Thanksgiving. There are all around shipping delays, 8 weeks instead of 6 weeks. Dave Barton commented that if you have a complaint, direct it to the commissary, not to Misawa Asks or other social media. Joe Roginski saw a comment on FB about the commissary being closed on Mondays. He asked Mark for some background on that. Mark replied that base population and OPM mandated manning is the reason for this. Monday is the day selected to be closed because our holidays, usually Monday is the day observed, so Monday is the most logical day to be closed if the commissary has to be closed one day a week. Also Sunday is one of the heaviest shopping days of the week for the commissary. A member thanked the commissary for the gift cards given out in the RAD. (Closed)

- i. Paul Sayles said that for the near and far future, Toby Fanelli will not be able to act in his position as the vice president, and he asked that if anyone is interested to be acting vice president until the next election of officers, to e-mail him. (Open)
 - j. Michael commented that the high school is now operational on main base, even though not fully complete, and that it is now a 6-8 middle school, now 9-12 high school. (Closed)
5. Financial Report – Dave Barton read the financial report which included the missing information from the report from the previous meeting He reported: Beginning balance of \$9,165.14, Dues income \$120.00, There was a widows donation of \$10. Officers Spouses Club and enlisted Spouses Club donations for the breakfast came to \$688. Dividends \$0.16 for total income of \$908.16. The club bill for the last meeting was \$137.64. RAD breakfast charge was \$976. Widow's fund balance was \$5,004.62, General Fund \$3,955.04, Ending balance \$8,959.66. A motion passed to accept the report. (Closed)
 6. The meeting closed at 1750. The next bi-monthly meeting will be at 1700 on 7 December 2021 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

(signed)

JOSEPH ROGINSKI
Secretary, MMRA