



April 6, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIREES

Minutes of the April 2018 Bi-monthly membership meeting of the Misawa Military Retirees' Association (MMRA)

1. The meeting was held on Tuesday, April 3 at 1700 In the Gray Room of the Consolidated Open Mess, presiding officers Paul Sayles, President, and Toby Fanelli, Vice-President. Other officers were Joseph Roginski, Secretary, and Dave Barton, Treasurer, and 12 general members. .
2. Joseph Roginski read the minutes of the February meeting which were accepted and approved by the membership.
3. Dave Barton gave the financial report for the period covering 1 February 2018 to 1 April 2018. Beginning cash was \$6,756.39. Income: dues \$120, interest .57; donations \$1,119, total income of \$1,239.57. Expenses: February meeting \$130.55, Current funds: Widows Fund \$2,654.45, General Fund \$5,210.96, total as of 3 April 2017 - \$7,865.41. Financial report was accepted and approved by the membership.

4. OLD Business:

There was no old business pending.

5. New Business:

- a. Paul Sayles reported on the Community Chest (Red Feather) campaign MMRA participation. He said that we had collected ¥18,100 in donations. Paul said that we were number 4 of the top five contributors and we received a trophy which will be displayed in the office. He also emphasized that while the activity is the Japanese Community chest, we retirees also benefit in the form of social welfare activities, such as “meals on wheels”, wheel chairs, and assistance that may not be offered by the city. (Closed)
- b. Joe Roginski announced that the annual premium for the mandatory Japanese long-term care insurance program had increased about 10%. Dave Barton added that even with the increase, this program is still considerably cheaper than any of similar programs in the United States. (Closed)
- c. A member noted that although the hospital dental services are now emergency only, retirees can still get routine treatment on a space-available basis. (Closed)
- d. Dave Barton noted that the base hospital was not providing translators for retirees who have been referred to a local hospital or clinic. Dave said he would investigate the matter. *{NOTE: Dave Barton followed up on this the next day and found the hospital was incorrect and that all TRICARE eligible beneficiaries are entitled to a translator for referrals from the base hospital.}* (Open)
- e. Paul Sayles reported that he received an e-mail request from the Japan Day Committee soliciting funds to support that event. He noted that because our constitution only allows us to use funds to support the retiree community, that, as in the past, he would ‘pass the hat’ and collect from attending members. Dave Barton added that our funding has been very good, and perhaps we should review the constitution to see if that item needs to be changed. (Open)

- f. Joe Roginski briefed the members on the progress of disposing of Chief T's effects, saying that most of the items are out of the house and it will be cleaned on the 11th for the landlord to view and decide if he wants the house or it has to be torn down. . (Open)
 - g. Richard Masoner asked about the Veterans of Foreign Wars visit. Dave Barton responded that the VFW delegation would arrive on Thursday and hold a town-hall meeting at 1500 on the 6th (Friday) and that if anyone wants to attend, it will not be necessary to RSVP, just come to the meeting. He said there will be a discussion of possibility of restarting a Misawa VFW, and also discussion of VA and VFW benefits. (Open)
 - h. Dave Barton announced that the 'road tax' collection will be in the week of the 15th of April and that retirees should be able to get their stickers the week of the 22nd. (Open)
6. The meeting closed at 1745. The next bi-monthly meeting will be at 1700 on 5 June 2018 in the Club Tohoku Gray Room.

(Signed)

JOSEPH ROGINSKI
Secretary, MMRA