

The one hundred and twenty-sixth (126) meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at 4551 Llewellyn, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland at 9:15 a.m., 8 Dec 12, in accordance with AR 600-8-7, this report of the meeting is submitted:

The following members were present:

MG Roderick J. Isler, USA Ret (Chairman)

CSM Sandra A. Matlock-Williams USA Ret (co-Chairman)

COL Erwin Burtnick, AUS Ret

COL Burt L. Rice, USA Ret

SGM Jim Gilbert, USA Ret

1SG Eugene Johnson, USA Ret

MSG Charles Plummer, USA Ret

SSG Shirley Grande, USA Ret

SSG Walter Hollman, USA Ret

Mrs. Catherine Eckford

Mrs. Missy Duncan

Ms. Christine Hopke, RSO Rep

MG Isler called the meeting to order with a welcome to all. COL Rice rendered the invocation and MG Isler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business:

Col Rice discussed the Exchange construction on Ft. Meade:

Construction for the new Shoppette (on Mapes) will start in the beginning of the year. There is netting around the PXtra, which will be demolished after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. Initial build will be parking for the exchange customers. The sales are down at the Exchange. Once the exchange is completed it will include the cleaners and clothing sales in the immediate area.

Ms Hopke, RSO representative, thanked the council for participation in the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) which was a success. It took place at McGill Recreation Center. Next year's RAD is on 18 Oct 2013 and a guest speaker is needed. Discussion took place concerning rotating speakers from other organizations: such as AUSA, NOA, TREA etc.

Starting 1 Mar 2013, retirees will no longer receive paper checks through the US postal system. They must have direct deposit to a financial institution. If retirees do not have a checking or savings account they will be given Debit Cards.

Ms Hopke also discussed needing input for the Chief of Staff Retiree Council Meeting that is scheduled for 22-24 Apr 2013. Col Burnick discussed as an issue that Reservist are retiring and not getting retirement briefings

New Business:

COL Rice informed the council that Club Meade was closing for renovations. It will be closed from Jan – May 13. KACC construction of four modules to support the clinics was ongoing and that parking is a big issue in and around the area. The VA clinic has not yet opened. It is projected to handle 3-5 thousand veterans and more parking is needed.

MG Isler discussed the Survivors Benefit Symposium. The proposed date is projected for Mid-Jun 13. The committee was organized with the following members who volunteered to work on the committee: CSM Matlock-Williams is the lead on this event. The committee members are:  
Missy Duncan  
Col Rice  
Col Burnick  
CSM Matlock-Williams  
MG Isler

CSM Matlock-Williams will check with the RSO to see if she had any information on the past events.

COL Rice stated that the Ft. Meade USO has relocated to Mapes and 6<sup>th</sup> Armor Cav, it is open and looking for volunteers to support.

The Gate guards are converting to federal civilian positions. 56 guards are needed. Approximately 30 have been hired but it is a slow process to build up the force. The positions are GS 6 grade and proving a challenge to fill.

SSG Hollman asked about the vehicle decal policy. The policy varies by installation and service. Ft. Meade does not provide decals.

COL Burnick provided that effective 1 Jan 13, the Maryland State Drivers license will allow the word "VET" put on it. Veterans have to take in their DD214 and/or ID card to have this done. If it is done during the renewal process it is free. There is an additional fee otherwise.

CSM Matlock-Williams provided the Council meetings dates for the 2013 calendar:

9 Mar 13  
8 Jun 13  
14 Sep 13  
14 Dec 13

SGM Gilbert proposed that we have guest speakers for the meetings.

The discussion focused on the meeting location for the council with no solution provided at this time.

MG Isler adjourned the meeting at 10:15.