

Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council  
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755  
September 6, 2014

The one hundred and thirty third (133) meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at 2234 Huber Road, Basement Conference Room, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland at 9:15 a.m., September 6, 2014, in accordance with AR 600-8-7, this report of the meeting is submitted:

The following members were present:

COL Bert Rice, USA Ret (Acting Chairman)  
CSM Sandra A. Matlock-Williams USA Ret (Co-Chairman)  
COL Erwin Burtnick, USA Ret  
COL Edward Uemura, USA Ret  
CSM Calvin Williams, USA Ret  
SGM J. Paul Funk, USA Ret  
SSG Walter Hollman, USA Ret  
Mrs. Missy Duncan  
Ms. Anna Taylor, RSO  
Ms. Rita Powell, Exchange  
Mr Walter Young, Commissary  
Ms. Michelle Weishaar, Exchange

COL Rice called the meeting to order with a welcome to all, rendered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The June 7, 2014 minutes were reviewed and approved.

#### The Exchange

The Exchange General Manager, Michelle Weishaar discussed the ongoing construction and timelines for the AAFES stores and concessions on Ft. Meade.

The Main Exchange construction is ongoing but had delays; because of this, a late fall opening is projected. Best case is late November. The concessions include: Domino's Pizza, Denny Express, Starbucks, Subway and Boston Market. The Exchange will also offer: Paul Mitchell Salon, Refill Pharmacy, GNC, Game Stop, Flower Shop, and a Gun Shop.

Firestone Tire will open at the end of the year. Dunkin Donut at Gate 32 Express opening is coming soon.

There is an ongoing survey at the front of the main store. The council was encouraged to participate in the survey. The Exchange is offering the board membership a 10% discount after each meeting on any purchases made in the Exchange.

The Exchange will advertise the retiree council meetings to help increase visibility of the council.

## Commissary

Manager Walter Young discussed the success of the recent case lot sale. The sale had 9 truckloads of items and made \$1.3 million in sales. Ft. Meade is one of the four commissaries participating in the Healthy Base Initiative (HBI) (Mrs Obama's project). The other locations are Quantico, Ft. Bragg and March AFB.

The healthy base initiative is promoted across the installation. There's a community farmer's market from 10am-2pm every Wednesday through the Nov 14. The farmers market is near Smallwood Hall off of Mapes Ave.

Every Friday the commissary has a Healthy Cooking Tour during the hours of 10am-2pm. Sign up on the commissary website to take the tour. At the end participants are given a \$10.00 commissary gift certificate. The tour last approximately 15 minutes and will continue until the end of March 2015.

The DECA CEO will visit the store on Wednesday September 11, after the grand opening of the Annapolis Commissary.

Sales in the store are up due to customers who stopped shopping at the commissary are now returning.

## KACC

Kimbrough's new commander is Col Laura Trinkle and LTC Timothy Hunt is the Deputy of Administration.

## RSO

Anna Taylor, RSO, discussed the CSA's Retiree Council Application packets mailed to the membership. Anyone interested must turn in the application by September 15. It has to be to the CSA by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Ft. Meade newsletter will be mailed from the post office by early next week.

## Old Business:

The Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) and the Benefits Symposium were discussed. The symposium will take place in the afternoon portion of the RAD in place of a keynote speaker. The symposium will run from 1:15-3pm. Representatives from Legal, Medical, Social Security, and Maryland's Veterans Administration will participate. COL Rice will give a 5 minute overview of all the changes on Ft. Meade.

The RSO stated that there are 40 confirmed vendors for RAD. Vaccinations will take place at the RAD and the flyers for the event will be available by Wednesday.

It was discussed and decided that the Retiree Council will have a table at the Symposium for visibility and to generate interest for the council.

COL Burtnick discussed the fact that the RAD was on a major Jewish holiday Rosh Hosanna. The council did not take this into consideration in the planning of the event. His efforts to get the date changed were frustrating and that Ft. Meade was the only installation worldwide to hold the RAD on the holiday. The council apologized for not ensuring that the date did not conflict with anything. It acknowledged a lesson learned and will ensure that holiday schedules are checked in the future.

It was decided, to increase visibility, the council members have the option to purchase name tags. The tags can be purchased at the Trophy shop at the Exchange for \$10 and the retiree pin is extra. Each member could use their personal pins for the name tag. Also, Missy Duncan donated tags for all the council members. These tags will be worn at the meeting and at the RAD.

New Business:

COL Rice was welcomed back as the Acting Chairman of the council.

It was discussed that email notification should go out to council members reminding them of all future meetings. COL Rice will send out the notifications of the meetings

Discussion took place concerning the council's role in the community and to do other activities throughout the year. The council wants to become:

- more visible in the community. Address issues of the retirees.
- a forum to share thoughts and ideas
- develop flyers & posters to post across the installation
- develop an email address specifically for the council

One member discussed using other newsletters to increase visibility. AAOWAGA will be approached to have them put information concerning the council in their newsletter that is in both paper form and on the internet.

The next meeting is December 6, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned 1040 hours.