

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 6 March 2008. It was the 234th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL James E. Hyers	CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-chair
COL Charles A. Block	CSM James W. Harris
COL Herman S. Heath	SGM Sam McMaster
CW4 Robert N. Cooper	1SG James K. Prier
LTC James R. Mellish	SFC Bennett Jergenson
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	Mrs. Marie Wilkins
MAJ Jack K. Swinehart	

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Bob Bunting	1SG Jackie Ray
CDR James E. Cobb	SFC Joseph Barnes
MAJ Jack K. Swinehart	SFC Ralph E. Reed

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Scott Larese, Garrison CDR	Mrs. Gail Braley, AG
COL Mike Kaminski, LAHC CDR	Mrs. Deborah Seimer, DHR
Mr. Mark Wonders, PAO	Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR	

2. CSM Frye called the meeting to order at 1130.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business - None
5. Committee Reports.
 - a. Public Affairs - Provided a calendar of events. Highlights included the golf scramble and the 25th anniversary celebration of the Army Aviation Branch.
 - b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported the House hearings regarding revising VA disability ratings. A House Veteran's panel heard testimony on the need to revise the VA rating system to take into account quality of life, social impact, and functionality. The rating system

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has not been comprehensively updated since 1945. This was the third in a series of hearings concerning the VA claims processing system.

c. Health Care - COL Kaminski reported the Lyster Army Health Clinic (LAHC) pharmacy waiting time is 15 minutes. Mondays are the best time to pick up prescriptions and the pharmacy is looking to add common drugs to their list of available drugs. The Clinic's website will carry information on available drugs. Ribbon cutting for the VA addition will be 21 March at the rear of LAHC. The VA will be ready to see patients the last week of March.

d. Commissary - The commissary will be closed on Easter Sunday. The next case lot sale will be 2-4 May. Plans for opening a sushi bar on 4 July is underway with the sushi bar to be open from 10-4.

e. PX - A family clothing sale will take place 15 March to "clean house."

f. Golf Course - The GC council's next scheduled meeting is 27 March.

g. Equestrian Center - COL Heath reported the horse trials went well and the second open horse show is 15 March.

h. Outdoor Recreation - Turkey season starts 15 March and the MWR is now open seven days a week to provide customer service to weekend visitors. Fishing is better at Buckhorn lake than it is at Lake Tholocco.

i. Bowling Alley - Boston Butts will be available for order every month because of the success of the previous Boston Butt sale.

j. RAD - MAJ Swinehart will put the RAD event on the PAO calendar after the dates are decided. The guest speaker has not been decided for the RAD. The RSO job is in recruitment.

6. Advisors' Comments

a. Mr. Laster, DMWR, reported on the "Thunder on Tholocco" drag boat race event on 26 April and that the cabins at West Lake Tholocco are open for reservations. The Landing will serve an Easter breakfast and a brunch. There is a travel extravaganza on 18 March with many door prizes for attendees. Pam Williams from the athletic department, child and youth services sports program made a request for youth volunteer coaches. Background checks are needed to certify youth sports volunteers.

b. COL Larese reported on the new HQ building. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 25 April and the green space walkway, "Walk through Wiregrass" will be where the old building is now located.

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7. New Business - SFC Barnes may not attend the Retiree Council meetings anymore and MSG McCracken resigned. A senior MSGT (Air Force) nurse will come back to serve on the Retiree Council. CDR Cobb will be off of the council in April. The council need replacements for each of these positions.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators' Landing on 3 April 08 at 1130.

Approved via-email

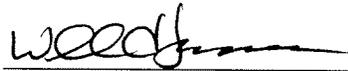
BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via-email

CHARLES E. FRYE
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Prepared By:

Carolyn Bost-Pittman
LTC, Retired
Secretary



MAR 28 2008

WILLIAM S. LARESE
COL, AV
Garrison Commander