



THE MILITARY COALITION

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MINUTES OF February 6, 2014 MEETING

Fleet Reserve Association. 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314

1. The monthly TMC meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Hayden. All member organization representatives were present except: AMVETS, AUSA, MCL, NGAUS, USAWOA.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance: Co-Chairman Hayden
- b. Introductions: NERA introduced President Gino Popler; VFW introduced Brandon Gerke; FRA introduced National Executive Director Tom Snee; NMFA introduced Besa Pinchotti.
- c. Presentations: none
- d. Minutes approved for January 9, 2014 meeting.
- e. Treasurer's report – deferred for one month.

2. Co-Chair Discussion Items: Co-Chair Hayden (MOAA) briefed the Coalition on current status of the COLA-1% proposals before Congress. The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission is reaching out to TMC members to have an executive sessions with commissioners on February 19 – 20. Presidents, CEOs, or designated reps are encouraged to participate in this off the record discussion.

Hayden announced that the president's budget is expected to be released in two parts around March 4. At this point, first a top-line budget will be released, with details to follow second. TMC is expected big issues in the budget to include: TRICARE fees increases and cuts to BAH, pay, and commissaries.

3. Coordinator Announcements: Congressional directories have been orders; invoices to come.

4. Committee Co-Chairs briefed on key issues since the last TMC meeting. Highlights are noted below.

a. Awards. Co-Chair Hanson (ROA) announced that a committee meeting will be held in the next 60 days to discuss the awards reception in the fall.

b. Guard and Reserve. Co-Chair Hanson (ROA) announced that the next committee meeting will be February 13, 2014 at 10:00 AM at TREA.

c. MilCon/MWR. No report.

d. MilPersonnel/Compensation/Commissaries. Co-Chair Moakler (NMFA) discussed rumors about cutting commissary funding. For messaging purposes, she said it's best to frame the dialogue with the dollar savings for families. Any changes to the subsidy level will decrease the savings for families.

Co-Chair Grugin (AFSA) announced that the MCRMC will be holding several town hall meetings throughout the country and encouraged people to attend. Rep. Tim Griffin (R-Ark.) introduced H.R. 3996, a bill that would prohibit closures of any stateside commissaries. The committee will review and track this bill.

The next committee meeting will be in March.

e. Retired Affairs. Co-Chair Davis (FRA) announced that the next committee meeting will be March 18 at 9:30 AM at FRA.

f. Survivor Benefits. No report.

g. Taxes, Social Security. No report.

h. Veterans. Co-Chair Norton (MOAA) updated TMC with the status of S. 1982. S. 1999 was introduced by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.) that contains upgraded SCRA provisions. A TMC letter for coordination will be sent.

Co-Chair Brown (AFSA) announced that a new GI Bill search tool and complaint system had been launched. Holly Petraeus from CFPB will brief the committee later today at 1:30.

i. Health Care. Co-Chair Washington (FRA) said that letters to TFL beneficiaries that will be auto-enrolled in TMOP will be sent out around April 1. The committee is still waiting to hear guidance from DoD on how they plan to re-enroll beneficiaries impacted by PSA changes.

The next committee meeting will be February 27 at 8:30 AM at FRA.

j. Membership and Nominations. No report

k. Website. No report

5. Old Business. The report from the audit committee has been delayed until the March TMC meeting.

6. New Business.

7. Good of the Order. JWV is looking for a new Director of Operations. The ideal candidate has been described as: Recently retired military preferred, willing to consider younger applicants also. Office and building manager with some accounting and Microsoft office knowledge. Can do attitude. Ability to handle veterans issues, interested in serving veterans, coordinate staff of 15, and problem solving skills.

a. Appreciation was extended to FRA for hosting today's meeting. The next TMC meeting will be **2:00 PM, March 6, 2014** at FRA.

8. Adjournment: 11:05 AM this date.

Respectfully,
Jamie Naughton, Coordinator