

**MRS OFFICIERS AND SQUAD LEADERS MEETING**  
**SATURDAY 21 September 2019**  
**MRS SQUAD ROOM**

Call to Order 1000 hours  
Invocation  
Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Commander Geis  
Chaplain Alan Krueger  
Vice Commander Geis

Roll call of Command Staff and Squad Leaders *Present:* Richard Asbury, Gary Kline, Howard Tellin, William Lee, Robert Nelson, Robert Selden, Alan Krueger, Michael Rose, Daniel Fisher, Michael Hanzal, Kenneth Tibesar, Raymond Frisvold, Lee Aragon, Richard Geis. *Excused:* Michael Pluta, Harold Braaten, John Wallace, James Jore, Kenneth Gibson, Richard Zech.

Adoption of Agenda: Motion to include addition of restoration of eagle for Memoriam Wall, order of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary challenge coins, and update on rain gear/coats made by Robert Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Selden. Motion approved.

Minutes: (Enclosure) 15 Jun 19 – A motion to approve the minutes was made by Howie Tellin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Frisvold. Motion approved.

Reports: Vice Commander – Thank you and sincere gratitude to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for the successful rededication event 15 Sept 19. Update related to retirement of Rhonda Boisvert, Volunteer Services, VAMC, on 24 Sept 19: Rhonda has been a significant part of the functioning of our MRS, re veterans administration regulations and benefits to our squad. She will be missed, and we wish the very best for her along the path ahead. A discussion concerning the season change with lunches and soup noted that the incoming Volunteer Services Director will be contacted to discuss the quality and quantity of what we are presently receiving and the volunteer cemetery administrative staff lunch delivery arrangement.

Adjutant – A written report was presented by Bill Lee and noted that Thank You letters for donations are being sent within two weeks of receipt. There is MRS letterhead stationery located in the file cabinet next to the printer. The updated changes to our By-Laws were distributed at the June meeting. Please review the proposed verbiage and advise Harry Braaten with any suggestions. A final draft will be prepared for our January meeting for approval by the members.

Finance – The report encompassing our checking account, CD value and savings account, the income and outgoing amounts for the year was verbally rendered. For the specific amounts, please contact Bill Lee, our FO. The motion to accept this report subject to audit was made by Ray Frisvold, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Fisher. Motion approved.

Ordinance – Our inventory is accounted for accurately. Supplies to maintain our rifles are appropriate. A computerized system is now being used to aid documenting, daily concerns with misfire or malfunction occasions and other schedules for cleaning and inspection. Generally, all is okay.

Quartermaster – White gloves supply has been replenished for each squad in their lockers. Poly duty shirts were noted to be the preferred issue. Correct Tax ID #s will be provided to Ray and Gary from Tom Mullon. These were emailed to Ray Tuesday evening.

Historian – no report. Please report squad member changes to Jim Jore using the appropriate form.

Trustees – Bob Nelson reviewed the financial record in the recent past. The accounting was neatly organized and satisfactory with comparison to the monthly bank statements.

Officer of the Day – no report.

Medical – No report. It is noted that the water damage to the Bus Medical Bag has been resolved with new supplies.

Website – The site is maintained up to date. Daily CH schedules are posted as soon as they are received. From time to time, this report may be tardy. Please report squad member changes to Ken Tibesar by using the appropriate form.

Monday Squad – Mike Rose stated that 21-22 members are present for duty throughout this summer. Winter will have a lessening of these numbers. Squad members were pleased with the recognition and presentation of plaques for our Korean War veterans. Mike is using the posted listing for people who desire to be MRS members. The Monday Squad is doing very well.

Tuesday Squad – Dan Fisher stated that the roster is of 26 members, and notes this will diminish with the winter months. Gerry Ballot will be retiring from the squad following 11 years of service. Lee Aragon will assume the acting assistant squad leader assignment. Dan noted that Shelter 3 is again in use and that some visitors remained from former CHs when the squad arrived for the next CH. This will be reviewed with cemetery administration staff. Further, our squad room sink is still leaking, and on Saturday it was noted that the drain did not function. Ed White will be notified of this situation.

Wednesday Squad – Mike Hanzal reported a roster of 27 with 22 average during the summer. The lunch question was again discussed, with issues noted above and below. All is going well.

Thursday Squad – Ray Frisvold stated the roster is 25 members with 22 members average each day during the summer. The CH performed average 13 each week. All is going well.

Friday Squad – Bob Selden noted that the roster is 25 members with 21-22 being the average for the duty day. They had 16 CH 20 Sept. The Squad Bus was not working properly Friday. It was unable to be started several times throughout the

day. Otherwise, the squad is doing okay. George Weiss is enjoying better health at this time. Ken Dolin (Sp ?) is returning to duty following medical challenges. (The MRS bus has been repaired. Thank you Kevin.)

Saturday Squad – Lee Aragon notes no change to report at this time.

Pearl Harbor Day remembrance is planned for 7 Dec 19, a Saturday. The location and time will be announced. A Veteran Affairs meeting is to be organized for 3 or 9 October to discuss this presentation.

The reorder for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge Coin was discussed. Funding for this reorder will be partially provided by AmVets Post 1 of Mendota, the remainder from MRS funds.

The restoration of the American Eagle is to be posted above the “In Memoriam” wood marker on the north wall of the squad room. John Barns of Friday Squad will be asked to provide a walnut shelf on which the eagle will be placed.

A motion to go forward with the challenge coins and the eagle restoration was made by Bob Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Selden. Motion approved.

Lee Aragon updated the information related to the new rain gear/coats. He described embroidery used to identify each coat and then assignment of one coat to each MRS member. The responsibility for maintaining the coat will be the individual member. Dan Fisher showed a sample bag which will also be provided to each member with the coat. The coat is to be kept in the bag, along with a white helmet, for use in the event of rain or other needs. At this time, the Monday and Tuesday squads will have the coats delivered in the near future. The remaining squads will take a bit more time. Cloth material for production is the issue. All MRS members have been fitted at this time, and any new members will be directed to do this as they join. Some squads have not been using the white helmets. A redistribution is being organized by Rich Asbury for the squads who desire the helmets.

Milbern Clothing Co of 1685 University Avenue West, St. Paul MN 55104 is being contacted to potentially supply our uniform, embroidery and alteration needs. The price point for items are being discussed with their staff by Rich Asbury.

A discussion about the throw rugs in the hallway of the squad room noted that they may become very wet and difficult to maintain during winter months. It is noted that at this time, the Cemetery Cleaning Staff do clean the rugs weekly and will continue to do this in the winter time. Should more than the weekly cleaning/replacing be required, further plans will be in order. At this time, we are grateful to the staff for the maintenance of the rugs and the squad room floor.

A discussion was undertaken about our MRS web site publishing donation information and the association with the PayPal organization (Enclosure). Several historical, political, ethical and moral issues were presented. There is agreement that our MRS web site page will remain unchanged.

This issue is outside the mission of the MRS at FSNC and is political in the minds of MRS members. Majority consider it a non-issue at FSNC – Dan Fisher.

It was affirmed by the squad leaders that the MRS is apolitical and will focus on its singular mission – Lee Aragon.

I was left with the impression that the Pay Pal issue is resolved. Several of us, at the squad leaders meeting, indicated that our members see this as a divisive issue. The political comments presented in the commentary to support removing PayPal offended members who share PayPal's support for various causes. Also, PayPal is a convenience. If folks want to donate, it is a secure way to donate. People do not have to use snail mail to donate. Folks do not have to call for an address to mail a donation. In short, if it I not broken, don't mess with it. I have statements from Monday Squad members stating that politics do not belong in the MRS. Semper Fi, Mike Rose

There was a discussion on the use of Paypal, as to the association of Paypal with certain other agencies. Bob Selden (Friday Squad) stated that if we need to vet a company on their association with certain other companies of organizations then we should be vetting All companies we deal with and this could lead to vetting our own members as to their beliefs or leanings. There was a discussion on having the Donation button on the web site, thinking it was asking for donations. Bob Selden commented that it was the same whether someone personally asked a member "how do I donate to the MRS?" or they go to the web site and ask it "how do I donate to the MRS?" the answer is provided for them either verbally or in print. Nowhere on the site does it Ask for donations, it is simply a place for information. Bob Selden (Friday Squad) Acting Squad Leader

Ken Tibesar suggested an abridged rededication promise from our rededication ceremony on 15 September 2019 be placed on our MRS web site. This was approved by all present.

Benediction  
Salute to Colors      All  
Adjournment          1150 hours

Chaplain Alan Krueger

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Geis  
Memorial Rifle Squad  
Vice Commander

*The next scheduled MRS meeting will be January 2020*