

# The Greater New Orleans Retiree Council

January- 2014

NEXT MEETING: 19 Feb 1000 at the Base

Issue 1/2014

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## Respect Our Shipmates: Coast Guard Family Campaign

***“Together we will improve the quality of life for our Coast Guard members and military families.” ADM Robert Papp***

The Coast Guard Family is all members of the Coast Guard, which includes retirees, annuitants, survivors, spouses, reservists and auxiliaries.

The first Council meeting was held on 14 January 2014 at the Coast Guard Base New Orleans at 1790 Saturn Blvd, New Orleans La 70129. The below Coast Guard retirees/family members attended the forming meeting:

Larry Jones	Eugene Ferniz
Paul Siebenkittel	Don Renfro
Doug Thomas	Jerry Davis
James Montgomery	Fred Billiot
Claude Otto	David Mulford
Catherine Otto	Ken Mitchell

**Those that have joined the Council but were unable to attend the forming meeting include:**

Angela Fisher	William Carter Richards	Georg Marcum
Gary Casale	J. Douglas Thomas	Kevin Marshall
Jon Byrd	Don Preau	Pete Scarmado
Bob Casale	Hal Kloran	Tony Rivera
Krucenski, Leon	Michael White	Patrick Ponseti

**The first (unchartered) council meeting was a great brainstorming meeting that discussed aspects of how we can improve the distribution of information to assist the retired community, AND, how the retired community can assist those still serving in our Coast Guard. In addition, volunteer positions were discussed and some had members take them already. We welcome any information that will benefit other retirees, so share your great finds through this publication.**

### **The Greater New Orleans Retiree Council is still Unchartered**

**If you want to be a charter member of a future benchmark organization, please join NOW. There are no dues, just an opportunity to share your knowledge with others and be kept current on new developments that affect the retired community. The Charter Members will receive a certificate showing they were part of those motivated individuals that came together initially for the greater good.**

**You can indicate your desire to join by returning half of the recent postcard, e-mailing... Or, just pick up the phone and call the Retiree Help Desk at (504) 201-7587.**

### **TELL US!**

**This Newsletter needs your information to make this a great publication. In order to better serve the retirees, any person who wishes to add any comments or tips please send an e-mail to the below address. These can be anything from military discounts to healthy living practices. Please send your tips via email to the Social Liaison, Fred Billiot. In addition feel free to include interesting, Coast Guard related local information that may be of interest to our readers. Please ensure you put in the subject line: "Retiree Council" so it is quickly picked up.**

### **VA BENEFITS ADVISOR**

**Larry Jones has graciously agreed to be the VA Benefits advisor as he is certified as such and has helped hundreds of veterans. If any member needs help navigating the challenging Veterans System, please feel free to contact him.**

### **TRICARE PRIME**

**For those members who are younger than 65 and on Tricare Standard, you need to consider Tricare Prime to save you some real money. If you are within the geographic Prime areas, or even outside with your requested mileage waver, you can get Tricare Prime. If you are over 65 Tricare prime will automatically switch to Medicare Part A and Part B. The cost is \$45.64 month for a family and well worth the cost, even if you go to the doctor just a few times a year. Just stay within the Prime system of doctors choose your primary care manager and sit back. There are no claims to file nothing to do its all handled as part of the prime network through the authorized provider. All referrals are easy and handled through the provider.**

## **MILITARY RETIREE DISCOUNTS**

**Reminder: Lowes and Home Depot have military discounts for retirees. Both are a 10% discount on everything you purchase. As with many things, you have to ask for it but it saves you some real money. If you have any more good tips that can save money, feel free to pass them along so we can share with the retirement military community.**

## **THE RETIREE HELP DESK**

**The volunteer help desk can be done from your home at no cost and no travel is necessary after you pass the qualifying test and are certified. An open book, self paced test qualifies a volunteer and the tests are available from Jim Montgomery . Standing the watch can be done literally at the Retiree Desk on the Base or virtually through carrying the cellphone and reference book. The volunteer is expected to change routinely as coordinated by the director of volunteers (vacant) as to share the responsibility. The Council is responsible for the Retiree Desk help line at 504-201-7587. We are actively seeking volunteers to answer the phone and provide assistance to fellow retirees with questions.**

## **BRAVO ZULU**

**The council would be remiss if they didn't recognize the zealous support of the Base New Orleans Commander, CAPT Jon Gage. Going far beyond the minimum he needed to supply to stand up a Council, he literally opened the doors of the unit to the Council, offering logistical support and stating a goal to include more retirees in the social events of the unit.**

## **LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER?**

**There are two Job Fairs coming up in the area:**

**30 Jan at the Double Tree Hotel, Kenner (Williams & Veterans )  
1000-1500**

**6 Feb at the Superdome 1000-1400**

**Both are military organization sponsored Veteran focused job fairs. If you need more information contact Larry Jones at...**

**Also check out the "Hero to Hired" DoD job web site ( [www.H2H.jobs](http://www.H2H.jobs)), no cost for job seekers or employers.**

## **HELP LEAD THE COUNCIL TO SUCCESS**

The Council is required to have a Chair (normally a retired officer) and a Co-Chair (normally a retired Chief). The Council will pass up applications and nominations to the Base Commander, who will select these positions and duly appoint them for a three year term. Your application should be a short bio that includes availability for Council meetings and one on one meetings with the Base Commander. Including your vision for the Council could not hurt a bit. Don't let the word "normally" stop you if you are not a retired Officer or Chief. We are looking for what you have to offer now...not so much who you were in another life.

In addition to the Chair and Co-Chair, our Council will have the following opportunities to serve:

- Director of Volunteers (required: sets up schedule for the Help Desk)
- Director of Print Media (David Mulford volunteered)
- Director of Social Media (Doug Thomas volunteered)
- Active Duty Coordinator (required: liaison with the Base and resources)
- Think Tank Coordinator (Jerry Davis volunteered)
- Mentoring Coordinator (Don Renfro volunteered)
- Social Liaison (Fred Billiot was brought to that job by destiny)
- Retiree Outreach Program
- Veteran's Benefits Information Director (Larry Jones volunteered)

Just as Eugene Otto and his wife, Catherine, will help Dave with the Print Media, all positions can have more than one person working in them. The secret to a healthy volunteer organization is having enough people in the know on a topic so that if one goes on vacation, the others can keep it going. We are volunteers and this should be fun, not a burden that causes you to lose sleep.

**COME TO THE NEXT MEETING, 19 February at 1000**

**Base New Orleans, 1790 Saturn Blvd, New Orleans (you can stay for lunch after the meeting)**

**Start taking notes now, what is your favorite sea story experience? We will print in each newsletter issue.**