



NAVAL ENLISTED
RESERVE ASSOCIATION
WINDY CITY CHAPTER



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P.O. Box 4562 Rockford, IL 61110
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PRESIDENT

Edward Whiteside

ewhiteside@yahoo.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Andy Anderson

SECRETARY

Vicky Koehnke

TREASURER

Eugene Koelker

genokoelker@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE COUNSELOR

Paul Smurawski

MASTER-AT-ARMS

Steve Devereaux

President's desk...

Hello Windy City Chapter,

Spring is here and the weather is finally becoming more hospitable. It's almost time for our next meeting. That will be on April 14, 2015. We will be meeting in the Northlake American Legion Post located at 241 North Avenue in Northlake Illinois. I hope to see you there.

As you all know, the N.E.R.A.'s 58th National Conference will be in Norfolk, VA this October. I have received some raffle tickets from the Joe Wasson Chapter for a free room. (I think it's for a "room night"). I would like to discuss this at our meeting. Based on the Illinois return address of the conference planners, I hope we will get to see them at our meeting. I know that moving is difficult and there is always a lot of work involved, so this might just be wishful thinking.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Best Regards, Edward Whiteside

Mark Your Calendar: April 14, 2015 Meeting!!!

Meetings are conducted at 2000 hours on the second Tuesday of even numbered months:
At the American Legion Post #888 in Northlake, IL

List of Attendees:

Ed Whiteside
Alan Koehnke
Steve Devereaux

Gene Koelker
John Nickelson
Gene Huie

Paul Smurawski
Darlene Nickelson
Kathy O'Cull

Vicki Koehnke
Dennis Devitt
Tom O'Cull

Butch Michaelson
Larry Monroe
Verna Koelker

WCC will meet at the Northlake American Legion Post on the 2nd Tuesday of months posted.

The Post is located in Northlake on the South side of North Ave. (RT 64), West of Mannheim (RT 12/45) and East of Wolf RD.

Windy City Chapter minutes February 10, 2015

Meeting of the Windy City Chapter convened at 20:23. President, Treasurer, Executive Council and Secretary present. A quorum exists.

Oct 2014 meetings & Dec 2014 newsletter were accepted as stated. MX-John Nickelson, 2X-Steve Devereaux.

Treasurer's Report: Accept the Treasure report as stated-MX-Butch Michaelson, 2 X- Darlene Nickelson.

Sunshine Fund: Darlene Nickelson sent a card to Windy City Member, Jim Premeske. Get well soon & for a speedy recovery.

Executive Council: In November 2014, attended a CPO meeting at Great Lakes, presented the CPOs with 2 NERA 100th anniversary challenge coins. The next CPO meeting is Feb 20, 2015, Executive Council will be attending the next scheduled CPO meeting, dated Feb. 20th. A discussion was brought up to bring NERA 100th challenge coins so the CPO members can purchase the coins at the next meeting.

Webmaster: No activity to report.

Old Business:

-2014 Holiday Party was a success. All had a great time.

New Business:

-Historically Beer, soft drinks, major dish and fish was reimbursed directly from the chapter. A motion to make this a standard auto reimbursement. MX-Butch Michaelson, 2X-Gene Koelker.

-2015 NERA Conference will be hosted by the Joe Wasson Chapter held in Norfolk, VA from Oct 14, 2015 to Oct 18, 2015. Check NERA.org site for more information.

-Gene Koelker & Paul Smurawski will be start working with the chief Mess for different venues for Windy City Chapter to sponsor at the NAS. Gene & Paul will bring back to the Chapter the list of opportunities that we (Windy City Chapter) can sponsor events. A motion was made, MX-John Nickelson, 2X- Butch Michaelson.

-With the purchase of 31 days/31 ways raffle from American Legion-Windy City Chapter won 3 times during the raffle. The winnings will be tabled until the next meeting.

-Windy City Chapter Life Member Jim Premeske health is stable. Please keep Jim in your prayers and thoughts.

-Until further notice Steve Devereaux will be acting newsletter editor until Jim Premeske health is better.

-Windy City Chapter inventory of the NERA's NAVY Reserve 100 year Commemorative Coin is out of stock and we need to order more coins from Headquarters. A motion was made to order 25 more coins. MX-Butch Michaelson, 2X-Alan Koehnke.

Good of the Chapter-

-Vice Admiral Braun will be visiting the Intrepid on March 2 in New York. Then she will be visiting the Pentagon on March 3 and then on March 11, Vice Admiral will be at the Navy Memorial also attending will be NERA Executive Director DCCM Steve Sandy, NERA Current President ABHCS Gene Koelker and past President Joanne Elliott.

-New NERA membership card will be sent out every quarter in bulk. So watch in your mail for new cards.

-The Navy Reserve Centennial Book coinciding with the centennial anniversary of the U.S. Navy Reserve in 2015. This beautifully illustrated, 208-page, hard-bound book aims to tell the story of those civilians' contributions to the nation's defense and security. For more information and to order copies of the book for \$34.95, visit www.USNR100.com/book.

-CPO Birthday Ball, Held on April 11, 2015 at Keylime Cove, Gurnee, IL. For additional information, contact LT. Jeff Kirby at 847-688-4862 ext. 119.

-Ed Whiteside won 50/50 raffle and Vicki Koehnke won the 3rd challenge coin.
Motion to adjourn @ 21:40 MX-Butch Michaelson, 2X Steve Devereaux.

2015 Meeting dates:

June 9, 2015, August 11, 2015
October 13, 2015, December 1, 2015

NERA's 58th Annual Conference

Join us at the:

Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport:

1570 N. Military Hwy., Norfolk, VA 23502

To reserve a room:

Phone: (757) 213-2231

Fax: (757) 213-2232

The dates are: October 14 - 18, 2015

Go to: nera.org for more information.

NORAD Head: Russian Bombers Sending a Message



WASHINGTON — Russia is using its long-range bomber fleet to send a message to the US, and the general charged with protecting the homeland says those flights will continue, or even expand, in the coming months.

Adm. Bill Gortney said the flights by long-range Russian bombers are "messaging" for the US, a reminder that there is another nation capable of power

projection. "They are messaging us. They are messaging us that they are a global power," Gortney told reporters Tuesday, before noting that "we do the same sort of thing."

Gortney said the number of Russian flights near the US has gone up since tensions between the two nations began to rise following the former's invasion and annexation of Crimea last February, with North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) keeping a close eye on where those planes are and what they are doing.

"We watch very carefully what they are doing," he said. "They are adhering to international standards that are required by all airplanes that are out there, and everybody is flying in a professional manner in their side and our side as we watch very closely."

Those flights could expand in the coming months, with Russia traveling even further into territory the US considers under its purview.

Asked about a report that Russian officials are planning to send bomber patrols through the Gulf of Mexico, Gortney said, "it wouldn't surprise me if they do that."

Those flights would likely be conducted by Russia's Tupolev Tu-160 "Blackjack" bombers, Gortney added, as opposed to the Tupolev Tu-95 "Bear" bombers that have been conducting regular flights in Europe.

While some would undoubtedly be concerned about Russian bombers coming so close to the US, Gortney seemed calm about the possibility.

"If you have long-range aircraft, you want to exercise them. In order to exercise them you need to fly long-range missions," Gortney said. "We are prepared to intercept them should we need to, should we choose to."

Obama signals support for changes to military pay and benefits:



The push to reform military pay and benefits picked up steam Monday when the White House signaled support for the slate of controversial proposals that call for changing the military retirement and health care systems.

But President Obama stopped short of endorsing the 15 specific recommendations that the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission sent to Capitol Hill in January.

The recommendations would shrink the size of military pensions by 20 percent and create new investment accounts for all troops. They also call for ending Tricare in its current form and instead offering military families insurance policies similar to those available to civilians.

"I believe the recommendations are an important step forward in protecting the long-term viability of the all-volunteer force, improving quality-of-life for service members and their families, and ensuring the fiscal sustainability of the military compensation and retirement systems," Obama wrote in a letter to the compensation commission.

The White House backs the "underlying objectives" of the recommendations, but will continue to review the details and "to adopt or refine the specific proposals in as many instances as possible," according to the letter.

White House and Pentagon support for the proposed changes will be an important political factor on Capitol Hill, where any changes would need approval from lawmakers. The White House will offer more details by April 30 about whether Obama supports the details of the recommendations or will seek to revise them, the letter said.

The changes to military retirement would for the first time offer a retirement benefit to troops who serve

less than 20 years. The Defense Department would offer to match troops' own retirement savings up to 5 percent of basic pay. Troops would own that investment account regardless of when they leave the military.

The proposal would also give troops who reach 12 years of service a lump-sum retention bonus in exchange for a new four-year service commitment. The amount would likely vary by service and career field.

The Coast Guard:

Has produced and delivered 174 response boats-medium, or RB-Ms, to 105 stations across 30 states and territories to replace its 41-foot utility boats, which were retired in 2014.

Since the first response boat was delivered in 2008, coxswains around the country and their commanders have consistently lauded the response boat's capabilities to perform the full spectrum of Coast Guard response boat missions.

Florida has the most RB-Ms of any state or territory. Station St. Petersburg, Florida, which received the 174th RB-M just last month, in addition to another it received in 2010, reports that the new boats have cut response time in half. The speed has been a huge help, said Senior Chief Petty Officer Eamon McCormack, the officer in charge of Station St. Petersburg.

The RB-M's speed combined with its other capabilities to help secure the Port of Tampa in April 2013, when a Customs and Border Protection law enforcement dog detected a material used in explosives during a routine check. The port was shut down, and Station St. Petersburg sent its RB-M to secure the water front. The boat reached the port in record time, McCormack said, and was able to secure the port and use its onboard Automatic Identification System to identify commercial traffic to make sure everything was in order.

"Don't be afraid to ask dumb questions. They're easier to handle than dumb mistakes."