



NMRC MINUTES

15 January 2026

To: NMRC Members

The Nebraska Military Retiree Council met at 0900, 14 January 2026. The meeting was called to order by President Bill Nelson.

Officers Present: Bill Nelson, Dick Burch, Bryan Tlamka, Deb Tankesley; Members at Large: Joe Garcia, Merlyn Schuster, Randy Frazier, John Bailey, Jeff Horne and Peggy Brown

Guests: Col Spencer Hansen, CMSgt Tontegode, SFC Olsen, John Regan & Dan Benes

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the previous meeting were mailed/mailed to members. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded, the motion was approved.

Membership: As of 31 Dec 2025, the NMRC had 582 members.

Treasurer's Report: A quarterly report was presented. Current balance in checking is \$14870.65. Expenses for the year were reviewed. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made and seconded; the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

The 2025 Election ballots were counted and the results were: Vice President re-elected: Dick Burch, Treasurer re-elected: Bryan Tlamka and Member-at-Large re-elected: Randy Frazier
A Founders Award recommendation was reviewed. The approved recipient(s) will be announced after notification has been made. The presentation date of the award will be announced.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Bailey has decided to retire on 15 January 2026 after 25 years on the board as an ANG Member-at-Large. Johnn requested Ed Schmohr finish out his term. Ed accepted and will begin 15 January 2026. John has enjoyed his time on the board and is willing to continue supporting the Annual Social and the Run to St. Lo event.

SFC Olsen discussed conducting a Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) on 11 April 2026 at the Bellevue Readiness Center. More will be provided with an agenda, presenters and if RSVP's will be needed should funding for lunch be approved.

Dick discussed the TAG update briefing notes. MG Strong's #1 priority is strength. Events in planning stages are (1) Military Leadership Academy for Educators (20 Schools). Purpose to educate Educators on the Nebraska National Guard and develop relationships to promote service and education opportunities in the military. (2) 2. GuardX - A Soldier For A Day event focusing on civic leaders, staffers, and CODEL.

(3) Community Partnership Program - MG Strong announced the communities that will be on the calendar for 2026 CPP engagements of Chadron, Kearney, McCook, Ogallala, Wayne and +1.

The new Heritage Room at the JFHQ is under development and will be used to showcase the NENG and it's rich history. All units who currently have Social Media accounts will be forced to close them unless they currently have a Public Affairs position in the unit (MTOE/TDA). Implementation instruction pending. Policy. Commanders who have table of distribution and allowances (TDA) or modified table of organization

and equipment (MTOE) authorizations that include a 46-series Public Affairs Officer, Public Affairs Noncommissioned Officer (NCO), or a Department of the Army Civilian Public Affairs Specialist (Career Program 22/1035) are the only commanders who may establish and maintain an authorized organizational social media presence. Subordinate units without authorized personnel will deactivate their social media. To maintain communication efforts, they should submit content to higher-level accounts for posting and will deactivate and archive by 28 February 2026. Army NCOES is projected to undergo changes that will increase the course lengths. Basic Leader Course is proposed to be extended to 5 weeks and Master Leader Course is proposed to be extended to 3 weeks. Implementation guidance pending. United Through Reading program is available to Veterans reading stories to children/grandchildren. www.unitedthroughreading.org.

CMSgt Tontegode discussed the uniform standards have changed. Identifier tabs are again authorized as are colored morale T-shirts for certain days. A-Staff construct/Wing structure reorganization has been cancelled. The Wing will maintain the current organizational structure. The AF is updating its fitness standards. Significant changes are the 2-mile run, and height/weight ratio are now included in the scoring. Fitness scores will be annotated on all evaluations. The 170th Group at Offutt AFB continue to grow and be an integral part of the 55th Wing. The 155th Wing will be conducting a Combat Readiness Inspection 5-8 February. Recommend avoiding the base during this time. The annual retiree breakfast will be in April. Tentative dates will be 15 or 29 April. Hope to provide base tours this year. The Fuels Hangar is scheduled for a major remodel this year. In the process of updating the Soldier and Airman Emergency Relief Fund program, with the goal of building a long-term, sustainable financial resource within the NENG to support soldiers and airmen at times of need. Actively developing a military retiree volunteer program the NENG. The program will give military retirees the opportunity to volunteer at the JFHQ front desk to greet and answer questions for visitors. Details of the program and how to sign up will be released in the coming weeks.

Dan Benes reminded everyone to be registered with the NE Department of Veterans Affairs by submitting a DD214 or NGB 22. This will authorize you to have Veteran on your driver's license, apply for military specialty license plates and proof for the motor vehicle tax exception https://www.nebraska.gov/va_registry

Col Hansen discussed recruiting for the extra positions at Offutt was accomplished at 100%. The ANG has recruited 151 individuals this year. School students will be visiting for an Open House on 1 April. The runway with the support of the Lincoln Airport Authority and the National Guard will be a total replacement without shutting down flying. The Regional Flight Simulator is currently at 65% designed.

Bill discussed when and where to hold the Annual Social. The new Heritage Room at JFHQ should be done this Spring and could be an option. Dates and locations will be reviewed at the April meeting

No further business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 0955, 14 January 2026

OTHER COMMENTS: Questions, comments or need assistance let us know.

NMRC Meetings 8 April 2026, 0900 at the East Campus Readiness Center, Room 206. All are welcome to attend meetings held quarterly on the second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October at the East Campus Readiness Center. NMRC Dues are \$5.00/year or NMRC Life Membership with no dues for 85+

Upcoming activities:

First Monday each month, 0700, ARNG Retirees, Virginia's Café, Lincoln

Last Monday each month, 0800, ANG Retirees, Stauffer's Café, Lincoln

Second Saturday each month, 0800, North Platte area Retirees, Merricks Ranch House Diner on E 4th.

Third Wednesday each month, 1100, Patty's Pub, Lincoln

Quarterly, TBA, Kearney area Retirees Breakfast

7 Feb 2026: GNMB 60th Anniversary Kearney NE

11 Apr: Retirement Appreciation Day (RAD), Bellevue (Save the Date)

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