

**Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit (VHRU)  
General Membership Meeting, June 28, 2011**

- **Call the meeting to order.**
- **Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- **Sad news, we have lost two more VHRU members. Jim Bredican, Cook County Sheriff's Dept and Bob Petrusek, Chicago Police Department. They will be added to our Honor Roll on our web page. Please keep them in your prayers.**
- **Treasurer Frank Bruton will give us his report on the status of our Treasury.**
- **Tonight we have with us two representatives from the Las Vegas Metro Police Foundation who would like to say a few words about this worth while program. Please welcome Kim Schofield and Deborah Clayton.**

**The Core Leaders voted last week to make a donation to this organization in the amount of \$500.00 to cover the cost of a 4" x 8" paver block in the sidewalk in front of the new Metro Police Headquarters. The paver would be inscribed "Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit"**

- **Update on the EMPG State Grant. I have been in touch with our new contact, Mr. Hanne Epstein of the State Emergency Management Division who is located in Las Vegas.**

**All our documentation (two quarters) is completed and was delivered to the DEM representative at the Fusion Center. Most likely funding will take place after the close of this quarter (6/30/11).**

- **ARES/RACES representative contacted me to ask for our assistance. They are in the process of building a communications vehicle and wanted to photograph our trailer to get ideas on how they would design there's. This shows that we are way ahead of others in this field.**
- **I attended a meeting in Laughlin on Thursday, June 23rd with Lt Brian Evans of the Laughlin Sub Station, Las Vegas Metro PD. Also at this meeting was Bob Boerner, VHRU Tri State Coordinator and the Laughlin Team Leader, Bill Stehle. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss our participation in the River Run and also the upcoming River Regatta in August.**

**On the same day, Bob Borener and I drove to Needles California to meet with Luke Johnson, the Tribal Emergency Manager for the Fort Mojave Tribal Nation and his staff. The discussion focused on Insurance and they agreed to send to me their insurance policy for consideration for the pending draft MOU.**

- **On August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> the State of Nevada, Emergency Management Division is hosting a no cost seminar on Tribal Inspired Leadership Training. The hotel accommodations will be covered by the State as well as per diem expenses.**

**It was agreed at last weeks Core Meeting that Mesquite Team Leader, Rich McDonald and our Public Information Officer, Janet McDonald would attend representing the VHRU. Rick and Janet will give us a report at our September meeting.**

- **ICS 200 training class was held on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at Everest College in Henderson. This is the next level of ICS training we need to have. The State in its grant requirements wants everyone to have ICS 100, 200, 300, 700 and 800 if possible. We have over 160 members certified in ICS 100 and we need to start on ICS 200. We had in attendance at this class 27 members.**

**Monthly classes will be arranged by our ICS Instructor Jackie Miller based on her schedule. An e-mail will be sent out to all on the date in July.**

- **I have asked Paul Wagner to arrange a meeting with Brent Jones in Pahrump to discuss the VHRU assisting the Nye County Emergency Management Division. There are numerous issues to be discussed with him that need to be clarified.**
- **Our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) renewal has been signed by Sheriff Doug Gillespie two weeks ago. This MOU will run for 5 more years, which is a good sign that Metro is interested in utilizing the VHRU in the future.**
- **One of our former members was injured in Arizona. Bob Lough and his wife were in an accident and he lost a leg. There is a fund that was established by the Henderson Police Department where people can donate to help defray their medical bills. The Core Leaders agreed to donate \$200.00 to this fund to help. The donation was made on this past Saturday at Wells Fargo Bank.**
- **For the past four years the VHRU along with Elite Security has donated \$500.00 to the John Bailey Memorial Fund. John Bailey was an FBI agent assigned to Las Vegas and was killed in a gun fight**

during a local bank robbery. At our last week Core Meeting it was agreed to continue with our \$500.00 donation to this memorial fund. A check has been mailed from the VHRU.

- It's that time again for the Linda Farace Memorial Scholarship Program which is open to members who qualify. We will be donating six (6), \$1,000.00 awards this year for the fall College semester. After this donation, the Fund will have awarded \$22,000.00 to family members of the VHRU. The application for consideration is on our website and can be down loaded.
- It was agreed by the Core Leaders to conduct an VHRU exercise in Boulder City or at Hoover Dam followed by a picnic on Saturday, September 24th.

I will attempt to meet with the Boulder City Emergency (Fire Department) to discuss a joint exercise and if not, for him to send an observer to our Communications Trailer to watch our response. Over the next few weeks a scenario will be developed and presented to the Boulder City officials as well as the Hoover Dam Police Department.

We have a number of Core Leaders who will be the picnic committee for the September BBQ. I will ask our Boulder City member Ed Horvath to request the necessary permit for the use of the park. We will look at the same park we used before, Hemenway for our BBQ.

- I took a look at those members who have not paid their 2011 dues. We have at the present time 27. I sent e-mails to all about paying up with the option of a two year card. If you have not paid your 2011 dues, please do so this evening.
- As part of our grant requirements, we need to conduct communication tests on a quarterly basis. A date was set for this month so we can get this in the third quarter reports. This would involve only the Team, Squad and backup Squad Leaders.

The date was set for Thursday, June 30th at 9am. Pahrump, Mesquite and Laughlin will conduct their own radio test on the same day. These tests will be documented for submission to the State with our Grant documentation.

Ted Farace

## **Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit (VHRU) General Membership Meeting, July 26, 2011**

- **Call the meeting to order**
- **Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Treasurer Frank Bruton is away on vacation and I will give his report on the status of our Treasury.**
- **The State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management Chief has raised some questions in a letter to me concerning our State of Nevada ID card. According to the Director, he indicated has no information on the VHRU and the authorization of a State ID Card.**

**Frank Bruton and I researched our files on this issue. We spent 3 hours reading over all our material contained in 12 Archive boxes from 2002 to present. From our review, we put together a 2 inch binder containing documentation regarding our agreement (MOU) with the State and the ID card design by the State and issuance of the cards by the State Division of Emergency Management.**

**Frank Bruton and I were scheduled to fly up on the 20<sup>th</sup> to meet the Interim Chief Wright but it was canceled. It is now scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> and I will fly up alone being Frank will be away on vacation. The purpose of this trip is to review with the new Interim Chief our documentation on the ID card design and production and the VHRU operation over the past 9 years.**

**Following this meeting, I have another scheduled meeting in the Governor's Office with his Chief of Staff, Ann Wilkinson, to discuss the VHRU. This meeting was arranged by Deputy Chief Jim White, Henderson PD. I will brief everyone at our next General Meeting or by e-mail on the outcome of these important meetings.**

- **There will be another ICS training class on ICS 100 for those members who do not have the basic training course on Incident Command Systems. The class will be at the same location room # 104 at Everest College, Stephanie Avenue just north of RT 215. The class will start at 9 am and last about 2 hours. Please let me know if anyone wishes to attend.**

Immediately following this class in the same room, Frank McCabe and Jackie Miller will hold a CPR class for first time participants and renewal certification of existing CPR cards. Most of our CPR cards have expired (2 years). Frank and Jackie can only handle 16 people for this class. The start time is approximately 11:00 am. Let me know tonight who can attend.

- The VHRU has been approved again for our State of Nevada Amber Light permit. This permit expires on June 2012 and will be issued to only the Core Members. Copies will be kept in our Communication Trailer in the event we need to issue spare Amber lights to responding members to an event.
- I mailed a letter to the Chief of the Boulder City Fire Department who is also the Emergency Manager for that city requesting a meeting to discuss our planned mock exercise on October 1, 2011. I also copied the Chief of Police.

We are looking at a number of scenarios depending if the Police or Fire participate. We will decide, once we know if they wish to join us in this exercise.

If you recall, we conducted two exercises over past few years without their involvement. I hope this year will be different. Please mark your calendar and hope you can assist that day. Following the exercise we will hold a BBQ at Hemeway Park in Boulder City.

- Yesterday I spoke with the representative from the Fort Mojave Tribal Nation regarding the insurance issue. They have received a policy that will cover us up to \$10,000 if any member of the VHRU is injured while helping that Tribal Nation. Frank Bruton has reviewed this document and we have no real issues and asked them to proceed to get the MOU signed. The Tribal Council meets in August and I hope to have the MOU signed at that time.
- I will be meeting with Assistant Sheriff Flynn from Las Vegas Metro PD sometime in early August. We need to check in with him to see if there has been any feedback or issues with us assisting their Department over the past year.
- It's that time again to do our Road Clean Up. The Core Leaders normally do this but it's open to anyone tonight who wishes to help. We meet at Bonnie Springs, in Red Rock Canyon on Friday 7/30/11 at 10 am. Following this clean up, we drive to Pahrump and assist the Pahrump Team do their clean up on Rt 159.

- **Please don't forget, the Linda Farace Memorial Scholarship Fund is open for submission for an award consideration of \$1,000. This Fund is only available to those members in good standing and have been with the VHRU for 2 years or more. The award will assist children, step children and grand children of members with their college education.**

**Once these donations are made this year, the Fund will have given \$22,000 in grant money to our member's families. Applications are available on our web site, for your information. Awards will be announced at the August General Meeting.**

- **As I mentioned in my e-mail that the Italian American Club is in the heat of a legal battle with the restaurant provider. In the mean time, the club is running out of money because the restaurant and bar are closed. The Core Leaders agreed to donate to the club \$500.00. The Italian American Club has been good to us for the past 8 years and has never asked us for any money to use their ballroom for our meetings. It's only right we support them in their time of need.**

**Ted Farace**

## **Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit (VHRU) General Meeting, August 30, 2011**

- **Call the meeting to order.**
- **Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- **Treasurer Frank Bruton will give his report on the status of our Treasury.**
- **The River Regatta event took place in Laughlin / Arizona on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The Laughlin and Arizona Teams participated on the Nevada side of the Colorado River, assigned to Las Vegas Metro PD. The VHRU had 9 members working this event. Also assisting us, the Metro Volunteers from the Laughlin substation. Metro had uniformed officers in two marked units at the key points, one at the boat launching area at the Riverside and at a key intersection that was closed. In all, the event went smooth with an announced 30,000 participants.**
- **Rick and Janet McDonald from Mesquite flew up to Carson City and participated in a Tribal Nation Training Seminar. Thank you Rick and Janet for representing the VHRU organization.**
- **On August 6<sup>th</sup> the North Las Vegas Police Department activated the VHRU for a major water main break. I was out of town on vacation when I received the call and immediately contacted Paul Wagner to start calling the Team and Squad Leaders. The event lasted all night and ended at 0830 hrs the next morning. Unfortunately, we had a poor showing, only 14 members responded.**
- **On Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> we held another ICS 200 class. In attendance were 19 members. Thanks to Jackie Miller for conducting this class. Next month we will have another ICS 200 class which has been scheduled for Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at the same location, Everest College in Henderson. An e-mail will be sent to all members in mid September reminding everyone about this class. This is still an important part of being a VHRU member, training. So far we have close to 200 members certified in either, 100 and 200 ICS programs.**
- **On Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> the New York Police, Las Vegas Ten-13 Club will be hosting a Memorial to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2011. This is the tenth anniversary and unfortunately**

**we can't use the Police Memorial Park on 9/11 as Metro PD has reserved it for their Memorial. The New York Memorial will commence at 11am followed by a BBQ. All are invited to attend. The Police Memorial Park is located on West Cheyenne behind the Metro Police Academy and North West Area Command.**

**To honor those who lost their lives, the Ten-13 Club has designed a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Pin. The cost is \$5.00. John Villano from the New York Club is here tonight and if you would like to purchase one, please see him.**

- Veterans Day (11/11) is approaching and I have submitted our application to march. I 'm hoping we get a decent spot in the parade and not close to the end as in other years. Please mark your calendar and try to join us on that day to honor all our service men and women living and deceased.**
- I want to brief everyone tonight on my conversation with the Interim Chief Wright, Division of Emergency Management when I went up to Carson City. Chief Wright has announced that the State will no longer fund the VHRU. He felt we have had enough financial support over the past six years. He did agree to reimburse us for our expenses this year.**

**I was not happy about this decision and I went to the State Capital the same day and meet with the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Governor.**

**I spent an hour going over our organization and what we achieved in the past 9 years and to discuss the decision of Chief Wright. The Deputy Chief of Staff was concerned about his decision and agreed to speak to the Governor on our behalf. I am awaiting comments back from the Governor's office.**

**In any event, the Core Leaders and I last week discussed this situation and agreed that we want to remain an active organization and continue to support the local police agencies. We have some funds left in our Treasury and if we watch our expenses we can continue until alternatives are found for funding in the future.**

- I had lunch meeting with Assistant Sheriff Flynn from Las Vegas Metro after my visit to Carson City and asked his opinion. Metro will not fund us; they don't have the money in their budget, unless they get additional funding from the State. I was hoping that we can seek funding from the three police departments in southern Nevada but in these times, I doubt they will have funds for us.**



- **We will proceed with our plans to have an exercise in Boulder City in October, followed by a BBQ. Going forward we will conduct one exercise a quarter to keep our training current and ICS classes for those members who have not been certified by FEMA.**
- **I received seven (7) applications for consideration for donations from the Linda Farace Memorial Scholarship Fund. The account has a little over \$7,000, so everyone that submitted an application will be given an award of \$1,000, mailed to the college of the applicant.**

**Those checks have been mailed last week. So far the Fund has donated \$22,000 over the past 4 years.**

**Ted Farace**

**Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit (VHRU)  
General Membership Meeting, October 4, 2011**

- **Call the meeting to order.**
- **Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- **Frank Bruton will give us his report on the status of our Treasury.**
- **As I mentioned in my e-mail to all, Joel Barez passed away. On Sunday I received a call from one of our member's wife that her husband John Gieseler had also passed away last month. John had moved to Florida last year to be with his kids. Details of Joel Barez Memorial service was sent out on e-mail to all members. A mass card from the VHRU was sent to Joel's wife and to John Gieseler's wife in Florida.**
- **The Division of Emergency Management indicated to me that they wanted us to take back any VHRU ID card with Governor Sandoval's name on the reverse side of the card. I recently sent out a letter to the 23 members who have that card to collect them. Those 23 members who surrendered their old VHRU State card will be issued this new ID card in the near future only if we have to change the card.**
- **I have no new information from the Governor's office. The good news, the State is processing our reimbursement on our Grant and I hope we have all our money back by the next meeting.**

**On Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, Frank Bruton and I appeared on the Jon Ralston TV (Face to Face) to discuss the VHRU organization and what is happening with the State of Nevada. In addition, we also tape another appearance on the Vegas Inc. TV show, which was on Saturday evening. Our appearance on both shows went extremely well. The only problem was we didn't have enough time to really discuss who we are and what we have achieved.**

**We sent both Jon Ralston and Dana Gentry a thank you letter and also asked if the Deputy Director, Jim Wright would be invited to come on Face to Face and face me to discuss his decision. Not sure if he will accept this invite. In the mean time, we drafted a letter to the Governor. We are not giving up on this issue. We should continue to be a State resource, in our opinion and will try to get the State DPS to agree.**

- **If we are not successful in obtaining funding from the State going forward, the Core Leaders have agreed to hold another raffle as a fund raiser starting in January. Paul Wagner and Peter Griffiths have**

offered to donate new shotguns for the two top prizes. Bob Boerner has also offered to donate a silver 9/11 Memorial coin set and Rick McDonald, silver commemorative coin set. There will be a cash prize as well.

- Any new member who wasn't issued a uniform, they will be available at the next General Membership Meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please mark your calendar; the first Tuesday of each month will be our General Meeting. Next monthly, November 1<sup>st</sup> will be our last meeting for 2011.
- Janet McDonald has stepped down from her position as Public Information Officer. Our thanks go out to her for her help in composing articles to help recruit new members. Recently, Janet composed an article for the National FOP Newsletter. We are hoping they print this which may help recruit more new members.

If any member wishes to join the Core Leaders as the new VHRU PIO, please let me know this evening.

- The Henderson Police Department has contacted me to seek our help in an upcoming mock exercise in Henderson. The date is Thursday; Oct 13, 2011, the approximate start for us would be 0630 hrs. They asked if we could provide 15 VHRU members for security of the play area.

If anyone here tonight can help out on that day, see me after the meeting. I'm hoping to get a good number of volunteers so we can have shifts, early members and mid day members.

- Wed held another ICS 200 class on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The class was held at Everest College in Henderson off of Stephanie, just north of 215. We had 11 members in attendance.

This month our ICS class will be held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The class will be for ICS 100 for those who have not taken this beginning class. An e-mail will be sent out later this month.

- Our exercise for Boulder City has been changed from October to Saturday, November 5, 2011. The draft scenario (Earthquake) has been sent to Kevin Nicholson, the Boulder City Emergency Manager for his review and any suggested changes or additions. The Mojave and Laughlin Teams will be asked to drive up to the Bridge and Hoover Dam on the Arizona side and handle any traffic issues on that side of the Colorado. Frank McCabe and I will be testing our radios in Boulder City this month to find the best location to transmit and hopefully, reach the Arizona side of the river. After the exercise we will hold a BBQ for all who participated. Please mark your calendar. We want a good turnout for this event.

- **Las Vegas Metro contacted me to attend a kickoff meeting on October 13, 2011 of the New Years Eve Task Force at the new Metro Facility on Alta and MLK. I indicated we were involved on October 13<sup>th</sup> in the Henderson PD with their exercise. We offered to cover all the substations as we have over the past few years. I will be asking our members for volunteers next month.**
- **The Fort Mojave Tribal Nation is a go, the insurance has been purchased and we hope to have the MOU before the Tribal Council n signed by the end of October.**
- **The Italian American Club has offered us a great deal on using the ballroom tonight with no cost and a buffet each month. We realize this might be an inconvenience to some members but the organization has to take priority and take advantage of this excellent solution to our problems of have a meeting location with food available.**
- **A message was put on each table tonight from our member Roger Weaver who works in the Metro's Firearms Unit. The message is for everyone's information regarding an alert on the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of the Glock handgun.**
- **On October 19<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending a kickoff meeting for the upcoming New Years Eve Communication Exercise. This will be a planning meeting on testing the new Metro 800MH radios like we did last year. I will be picking up 16 radios on October 18<sup>th</sup> from Metro. We will need 16 volunteers to be in the field using these hand held radios during this upcoming test. The radio test will take place on November 10<sup>th</sup>, between 1 and 4 pm**

**I invited Sergio Rodriguez. Metro Communication Division to our November 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting to review the radio operation as we did last year for those who volunteer. Let me know tonight if you can help.**

- **I also was invited to attend another Metro and North Las Vegas meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October. This meeting will be combined with the upcoming NASCAR event at the speedway and the annual Communications Rodeo.**
- **I spoke with the Emergency Manager the other day at the Veterans Hospital on N. Pecos. The hospital is planning an exercise in November working with the North Las Vegas PD and they will need assistance once again. More of this when I have the specifics.**

**Ted Farace**



**Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit (VHRU)  
General Membership Meeting, November 1, 2011**

- **Call the meeting to order.**
- **Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- **Treasurer's report, Frank Bruton.**
- **Last week I received a call from the Governor's General Counsel, Lucas Folletta who went over the issues regarding funding etc. and assured me he would speak with Chris Perry the Chief of the Department of Public Safety and others in order to come up with a solution.**

**I had the opportunity to speak at length with the new head of the Department of Emergency Management, Chris Smith. He indicated he would try to help us find the right place and funding, if possible. This is good news that he is trying to help us. The father of Chris is Billy Smith who was our guest speaker last year from ARES/RACES the ham operators in Clark County. It's a small world.**

**If the decision stands not to support the VHRU, we will move on as we discussed last month. We have funding in our Treasury and will try next year with the raffle to raise additional money to support our organization. Our grant funds are being processed this week by the State and we hope to have the money by the end of the month.**

**This is our last General membership Meeting for the year and the Core Leaders will discuss some options, quarterly meetings or remain with our monthly meetings next year. The membership will be advised by e-mail in December.**

- **We have 16 members who have not paid their 2011 dues. The Core Leaders are in the process of trying to collect the dues and keep those 16 on our rolls as active members. Keeping our membership up is important for the future of the VHRU.**
- **This coming Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> is our scheduled Boulder City exercise. I received an e-mail from Kevin Nicholson who indicated the Boulder City Fire Dept (Emergency Management) would not participate in our exercise.**

**Paul Wagner has reached out the Boulder City Hospital and advised them of our plans for this exercise. The hospital authorities advised Paul that they recently held their own exercise and it would be difficult to staff a plan on a Saturday. They asked us to keep them in mind if we do another exercise in the future.**

**We are planning on using both of our communication trailers, one on the Nevada side of the Colorado and the other on the Arizona side. The staging area will be Henemway Park on US 93 just past St Jude's home. A follow up e-mail will be sent out with directions where to report. The uniform is, VHRU jacket black pants, VHRU hat and vest if you have one. For those members assigned a radio, please make sure it's charged and have it with you.**

**Last week, Frank McCabe, Curt Geiger, I, Bob Boerner and Dan Christian conducted radio checks on the Nevada side and Arizona side of the Colorado. Our radios worked extremely well and I don't see any problems using them at our upcoming exercise.**

**Additionally, Curt Geiger from Two Way Radio Communication Co our radio consultant set up his portable repeater and we tested our VHRU frequencies and they work well on both sides of the Colorado.**

**Instead of a BBQ following the exercise, which requires a lot of time and effort, box lunches was suggested as an alternative. I contacted the Corporate Office for Jason's Deli and they agreed to make box lunches for our exercise and charge us a discount rate of \$5.00 per box being we are a not for profit corporation. Soda and water will be available.**

- On October 18<sup>th</sup> I went to Metro's Communications Unit and picked up 16 new hand held radios for us to use in the upcoming radio communication test on November 10<sup>th</sup>. I'm short two volunteers does anyone hear tonight wish to help out?**

**Our contact at Metro Communications Unit, Sergio Rodriguez is here tonight to demonstrate the use of these new Metro radios. The radio test is schedule for 1300 hrs on November 10<sup>th</sup>. I will send out an e-mail to those 16 members on where to report that day.**

- **On October 20<sup>th</sup> Paul Wagner attended the NASCAR/ 2012 Radio Rodeo Communications Test planning meeting. This will be both a functional exercise and a table top event. More details will be forthcoming in January.**
- **We will conduct our quarterly Road Clean Up in Red Rock Canyon and Pahrump. We will have the VHRU trailer with us for this task. If anyone would like to join us, we will be meeting on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The location, Bonnie Springs Ranch, Red Rock Canyon on Route 159.**
- **Las Vegas Metro has asked us for help on New Year's Eve again. We will still need volunteers for security at the eight (8) Metro substations this year. We are not sure if they want us for their new headquarters building on Alta and MLK. If you can help out that night, see me after the meeting.**
- **On Friday, November 11, we will be marching again in the Veterans Day Parade. We will meet at the Stratosphere Hotel Casino for breakfast at 0800 hrs. We will then go to our assigned spot in the parade and will be ready to march. Frank McCabe will have VHRU trailer in place at our assigned spot. If you can march, please let me know tonight so I can reserve tables at the Hotel for the breakfast.**

**Ted Farace**