

Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit (VHRU) General Membership Meeting January 28, 2013

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Frank Bruton our Treasurer will give his report on the status of our Treasury.

Ted received an e-mail that was sent out by the CERT leadership to their members seeking volunteers to assist at the North Las Vegas/Metro Communications Rodeo. We provided security for two years at this event at the Speedway but they did not come to us for help this year.

I know they are aware we are still an active organization and for some reason they have not approached us to assist. I would like to know how everyone else feels about this and are they willing to assist. A show of hands on who would offer to help. I believe it starts at 6 am and ends around 2 pm on Wednesday, February 6th.

At our last meeting we spoke about the possibility of an MOU with the Mohave Valley Fire Department in Arizona. A review of our existing MOU with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe will cover our members assisting this agency. They are positioned on the reservation and are paid by the Tribe to respond to any fires or other emergencies on tribal land.

A letter of understanding was sent to the Fire Chief who signed off accepting the VHRU as a resource. Included in that agreement, we would install a VHRU base radio at the Emergency Management Command Center at the main fire station and they would also allow us to place a repeater on one of their communications towers to give us better communication capabilities. The first part of this plan was to install two antennas on our Laughlin trailer. This was accomplished last week by our Communications Consultant, Curt Geiger from Two Way Radio. Our thanks go to Curt for going down to Laughlin for the installation and giving his time.

The next faze of this plan will be to meet with the Fort Mohave Fire Technical person to understand what requirements we need to follow to install the repeater. I note was sent to the Chief to set up a meeting. We will update everyone on our progress at our next meeting in March.

Dues this year are coming in with approximately 75 members who paid \$100.00. Some opted to pay the annual \$30.00. Many more members' dues are still outstanding. I will send out a reminder by e-mail to all.

Ted spoke with the management of Sierra Gold to use this room for our 6 meetings this year. We have to pay a small fee for the room, which includes the cost of a bartender during the meetings. Happy hour starts at 6 pm that is the reason we moved our meeting time back one hour to save on the cost of drinks if anyone wishes to purchase one. We will have soda and coffee and we plan on having one dinner toward the end of the year, depending on our funds in the Treasury.

Please mark you personal calendars on dates for the year 2013.

- 1. Monday, March 25, 2013**
- 2. Monday, May 27, 2013**
- 3. Monday, July 29, 2013**
- 4. Monday, September 30, 2013**
- 5. Monday, November 25, 2013.**

There is no meeting planned for December.

Dan Christian our Tri State Coordinator (Laughlin/Arizona/California) was on local TV in Laughlin a few weeks ago to solicit new members. Additionally, articles were published in the local Laughlin and Arizona newspapers (I distributed to all this evening a copy of the article printed by the Daily News).

Dan would you please come up to the podium, to say a few words about your efforts.

A few months ago we submitted our application for consideration for a FEMA Grant. The announcement on those chosen was to be made at the end of December. I received an e-mail message stating, due to the high volume of applications, the announcement would be put off until January. As of today, no word has been received on whether we were accepted or denied.

Assistant Sheriff Ray Flynn has retired from Metro after 32 years. Sheriff Flynn was instrumental in obtaining a grant from his department a few years back allowing us to purchase forty (40) walkie-talkie cell phones for our Core Leaders. He also assisted us in donating a number of reflector vests.

Ted received a personal invitation to attend his retirement party at the Marriott Hotel. The Board made a decision to give Assistant Sheriff Flynn \$300.00 in gift cards to the Bass Pro Shops. He is an avid fisherman and we know he will enjoy that gift.

There were about 250 individuals in attendance. I spoke with a number of senior Metro officers to keep the line of communication open for us. I'm not sure who will be our contact person, mostly likely, Assistant Sheriff Greg McCurdy.

Every New Year for the past 5 years we have supported Metro PD by covering their substations while all the uniform officers were deployed to the strip. Thanks to those 16 members who volunteered. There were no incidents.

The 2013 Police Parking Plaques are available. I would ask that you only take one as we have a limited number for those members in good standing. This will be the last year we will issue these. Our funding is gone and they are expensive to print.

Finally, this is going to be Ted's 12th year as the President and Coordinator of our organization. I believe its time for a change and I'm asking if any member wishes to be considered for the position.

Ted will also discuss this further with the Core Leaders. I will send out an e-mail this week asking those members who couldn't attend this evening if they have any interest. Ideally this person should be from the Las Vegas area, as most of our work and police meetings will come from this area. Please let me know after the meeting if anyone has an interest.

Ted Farace