

**Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit (VHRU)
General Membership Meeting, July 29, 2013**

Call the meeting to order.

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's report on the status of our Treasury. (Report to be given by Ted)

A moment of silence for Officer David Vanbuskirk Las Vegas Metro PD who fell to his death on Mount Charleston attempting a rescue of a stranded hiker. Officer Vanbuskirk was a 13 year veteran assigned to the Search and Rescue Unit.

I suggest we donate \$500.00 from our Treasury to help his young family.

Tonight we would like to honor Curt Geiger for all his generous help with our communications systems over the past years. Curt will you please come up to the podium. (A plaque will be presented to him on behalf of the VHRU organization.)

I sent an e-mail out to all members advising that we are prepared to award three (3) \$1,000 scholarships from the Linda Farace Memorial Scholarship Fund. Donations made by Elite Security Specialists, and Frank Bruton and I, have added additional funds allowing us to make these 3 awards.

If you are a member in good standing for two years (2011 and 2012) and have paid your 2013 dues, you qualify to submit an application. Those to be considered - children, grandchildren, stepchildren of VHRU members. The award checks will be mailed directly to the college or university. The drawing will take place at our September 30th General Membership Meeting. I have some applications tonight for those who are interested.

On July 3rd we were asked to assist the North Las Vegas Police Department for the annual July 4th celebration. Twenty-six members offered to assist. Our function was the same as the past two years - traffic control at various locations near the park where the celebration took place. The VHRU expenses amounted to \$370.00 from our Treasury in order to support the PD. Money well spent.

I want to thank those who helped. As in the past, North Las Vegas PD was very thankful for all our assistance.

On July 1st I had the opportunity to meet with Metro's Assistant Sheriff Greg McCurdy. The following were the talking points we discussed:

Assisting next year (2014) with the Laughlin River Run, arranging for driver training for those members who will be using Metro unmarked units on patrol and have the authority to order vehicles from their Fleet Services Unit and obtaining a number of Metro hand held radios. He informed me vehicles could be an issue next year. Metro has reduced its fleet of spare cars to cover budget shortfalls.

We discussed supporting the Laughlin Substation by supplying personnel for the River Regatta. I also informed him that I will be arranging a meeting in Laughlin with the new Lieutenant, John Healy to discuss these issues.

I requested that Metro assign a new hand held radio to the VHRU. The old radio was surrendered two years when they upgraded to the new radio system. I'm awaiting his approval.

I asked if Metro can assist VHRU with some limited funding, mainly for supplies and travel expenses.

We want to continue utilizing Metro to do our fingerprint checks for our background process at no cost to the VHRU.

On June 22nd, Bob Boerner, Ben Bacchi, Dan Christian, Curt Geiger and I went to the Mohave Valley Fire Department, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and installed a base radio as well as an antenna on their communications tower. Images of that event are now on our web site, www.vhru.com for you to see.

Thanks again to Curt for his expertise in the installation. Our radios were tested and the reception was better than good. We are now set from a communications standpoint if we are activated by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. (Mohave Valley Fire Dept is located on the FMIT reservation)

We will be hosting another fun shoot at the Clark County Firearms Range on Tuesday, September 10th. The shoot will start with sign-in at 0900 hrs. We will have coffee and donuts at that time and later around 1130 hrs box lunches for all attending. The cost will be \$25.00 for those attending. The VHRU has to pay a fee to the range of \$8.00 per head plus expenses for food, targets, etc. Just bring your weapon and ammo and enjoy the company. We have our own private range with our own range instructors on the line - no pressure just a good day out with your colleagues.

On July 10th Bob Boerner, Dan Christian and I met the new Metro Lieutenant John Healy at the Laughlin Substation. Issues discussed:

Utilizing the VHRU for the upcoming River Regatta on the Nevada side of the Colorado River, supporting and participating in the 2014 Laughlin River Run. Additionally, copies of our MOU with Metro and evidence of our not-for-profit 501 C (3) status were provided to the Lieutenant for his information.

Lieutenant Healy will discuss the above with his Captain, Charles Hank and give us their thoughts on the VHRU helping in 2014. Metro no longer houses officers in Laughlin due to the cost. Officers travel back and forth from Las Vegas because of the budget shortfalls. He also mentioned that there is a shortage of spare vehicles for us to use. If we are approved and, as an organization, decide to assist, we may have to use our own vehicles. I asked if we could have gas cards for those driving and this will also be discussed with the Captain.

The Lieutenant will be back in September (vacation) and we will meet again to finalize the discussions on whether we are in or out.

Regarding the River Regatta, Bullhead PD pays for the Metro Officers assigned, so it does not appear we are needed this year to help.

On the same day we were able to meet with Luke Johnson and Christine Medley from the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Emergency Management. We were brought up to speed on their project of installing multiple communication towers in a network on the reservation, with expected completion spring of next year.

We also discussed planning a mock exercise on the reservation in October of this year. I will draft a plan for their review and approval. More details on this in the next few months.

Metro, along with the ATF, has now established a policy regarding Background checks if you purchase a handgun or rifle. You are exempt if you have a Concealed Carry Permit but they are not accepting the HR 218 as a valid CCW. I will attempt to have this changed so an HR 218 holder will be acceptable, thus saving \$25.00 for the required background check.

The VHRU Board decided to purchase a Henry Golden Boy .22 cal Repeating Rifle, Law Enforcement Commemorative as the grand prize for a raffle. A second prize of \$500.00 in cash will be awarded. Please take a look at our website for more information and a photo of the rifle. Tonight I have a large photo of the gun on display in the rear of the room.

We will be sending out one book of tickets to each member. Each book will have 6 tickets and they can be sold for \$20.00 a ticket or \$100.00 for the entire book of 6 tickets. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 from the sale for our Treasury, so please try to support the organization and take a book. Anyone you know is welcome to purchase tickets - this is not confined to VHRU members. I will be sending flyers to various police agencies to see if we can get some active law enforcement officers to help out and purchase some tickets. Drawing for the rifle and the \$500.00 in cash will be held at our March 2014 General Membership Meeting.

We have received our 2013/2014 Amber Light Permit from the Nevada Highway Patrol. For Core Leaders only, please see me after the meeting to obtain your copy.

One additional agenda item:

The New York Ten 13 Organization will be hosting its annual 911 Memorial Celebration on September 11, 2013. This will mark the 12th anniversary of the terrorist attack on our country.

The Ten 13 Organization will host a BBQ after the short Memorial service, which is open to all who wish to attend. This would include family members, friends etc.

The location and time:

Police Memorial Park located on Cheyenne Avenue, just behind the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Academy. (Just east of 215)

The time for the short Memorial service is 11 am.

It's important that as many as possible attend this service honoring those who lost their lives "we will never forget".

Please wear your New York Ten 13 shirt or your VHRU shirt.

We look forward to VHRU members joining our New York colleagues at this service.

Ted Farace