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**FEAWM
Full Membership Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2007
Westover Air Reserve Base
Chicopee, MA**

Attending: Jeff Anliker, volunteer; Karen Regish, USDA-NRCS; Ron Grzelak, Patrick DeFalco, SSA; Michael G. O'Reilly, FBI; David Mendoza, Barnes Air National Guard Base; Mary Dowling, VA Medical Center; Joe McDanel, WARB, Renee Squier, MEPS, Kara Duquette, MFN, USMC; Tim Walker, Chris Menard, Al Uroli, Westover Signature Services

The meeting opened at 8:30 with introductions.

Joe MacDanel gave a brief overview of Westover stating that all forces of the armed services are represented on the base and that they currently have 16 C5's housed there.

Minutes- The minutes from the November 2006 full membership meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report-Michael reported that the overall total in the account stands at \$8,916.07. This includes a 11 month CD of \$5,000. The treasurer's report was accepted as written.

Committee Updates:

Activities- Patrick announced that the FEAWM will host their first "Bowling Night" at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee on Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Burgers, pizza and other snack foods will be available from the snack bar at the bowling alley. The event will cost \$5.00 per person for two games and \$6.50 for three. This price includes shoes.

A Government ID and drivers license number is required of the driver to enter the base. Joe McDanel will be at the gate to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

Awards- No new report.

Education: On May 15 and 16, 2007 the FEAWM will host a retirement seminar at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee. The fee for this seminar will be approximately \$30 per person. Speaker for the seminar will be Steve Marder former employee of OPM. The FEA will absorb the cost of photocopies of a 90 page booklet. About 200 employees are expected to attend.

Federal Relations- Jeff and Ron are looking for a new chair of the Federal Relations Committee since Dana will be stepping down. Mary Dowling agreed to join the team and step up as the Chairperson. A quarterly breakfast with congressional groups and staff is planned. Jeff is willing to assist the committee. If anyone would like to join this committee please contact Jeff, Ron or Karen.

Pay and Benefits- Ron stated that Berkshire County locality pay was turned down. The results are posted at OPM.gov. Patrick is working on a new proposal for next year. He hopes to put something together with the Albany NY area.

Website/Public Relations- Jeff stated that Jennifer Christovich has stepped down as the chair of the website committee. Diane Petit from the USDA-NRCS has agreed to take her place as chair. Matt Mutti from Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield has agreed to join the website/public relations team.

The Westover Signature Services would like the website committee to have a link to their site from the FEAWM web site.

Other:

Passport Day will be held at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield on Saturday, February 3, 2007 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Each individual passport should take about 15 minutes to process. David Mendoza will do a follow up report on how the day turned out.

Mary Dowling voiced concern about the small amount of Federal Agency representation on the FEAWM committees. She stated that out of 22 Western Massachusetts Federal Agencies, only 4-5 are represented at the monthly meetings. She would like to see better participation. Jeff commented that since locality pay was passed by OPM 2 years ago, many agencies have become less active.

Kara Duquette, MFN. USMC Housing Director, reported that as of October 1, 2007 military housing will be open to active reservists and all government employees. She will be doing placements and housing units will be taken care of by a private contractor. She commented that a 1300 square foot, 3 bedroom home will be available for approximately \$1000 per month with heat and utilities included. Leases will run on a 6 to 12 month basis. There will be about 12 single family homes and 32 duplexes available. Renovations have been done to these structures in excess of \$7.2 million. She will update the committee when more information is available.

Kara is also interested in becoming a member of the Federal Relations Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 followed by a tour of the Westover Signature Services facilities. The next board meeting will be held on February 21, 2007 at USDA-NRCS, 451 West St. Amherst.

Recorder: Karen Regish