

ITEM

ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order and the roll was taken was taken by General Arflack. 37 of 43 States present.
2. Dr Mick Zais, the Commissioner from South Carolina, gave a short address welcoming the Commission on behalf of himself and Governor Nikki Haley. John McCauslin, Chief Executive Officer of the Air Force Sergeants Association gave a brief statement thanking the Commission for the work they do and presented the Chair with a small memento.
3. Kathleen Berg then officially welcomed everyone and asked all Commissioners and Ex-Officio members to give a short brief of their position and duties.
4. The Commission approved the current agenda. The minutes from the 2011 Annual Meeting were amended to reflect that the 2010 National Conference should be called the 2010 National Meeting, the minutes were then approved.

ITEM 2 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

5. General Arflack emphasized that that the primary role of the National Office was to provide support to the Commission. General Arflack made a brief comment on the budget and the process they go through to ensure that it remains correct.
6. General Arflack confirmed that an audit was carried out and everything was found to be in order. Copies of the report were available should anyone wish to read them.
7. The General explained that it had been a busy year for training and that he had traveled a lot visiting State Councils and giving presentations where needed. He emphasized that he was happy to travel and to please let him know if you wanted him to attend any of your meetings/presentations you feel may be of benefit.
8. General Arflack informed the members that the organization now has 43 member States. This was due to the efforts of Ed Kringer, DoD, and his staff. He felt that as new legislation sessions were about to start that he expected a few more to join up in the near future.

ITEM 3 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. **Compliance Committee.** Mike Reed stated that the issues before the compliance Committee were to be discussed during the Executive Session.
10. **PR and Training Committee.** Rosemarie Kraeger opened by thanking the National Staff and Kathy Facon for their support during this year. Rosemarie explained that the first part of the Strategic Plan was accomplished by holding the New Commissioner Training the previous day which had been very successful

Rosemarie Kraeger went to explain that a number of objectives were in the pipeline for the forthcoming year, including attendance at national meetings and conferences to further expand our visibility. She felt they needed to ensure these were aimed at the right audience and that it was key to pick the right meetings/conferences to attend.

Rosemarie Kraeger also talked about the Interactive Brochure which is live online, she also explained about the support the National Office supplied to the setting up of State Councils.

Rosemarie introduced the MIC3 Toolkit which had been made available on CD to all commissioners and contained a lot of useful information.

Kathleen Berg thanked all those involved in the new commissioner training on the previous day.

11. **Finance Committee.** Pam Deering opened by informing the Commission that the audit has now been completed and was approved with no issues.

Pam Deering went on to give a brief summary on the budget for FY12, whilst the budget shows the Commission in the black the figures from the 2012 Annual Meeting will not be added until Nov/Dec when there will be a more accurate reflection.

Pam Deering also asked that everyone try and get their expenses in as soon as possible. This would help show a more accurate fiscal picture much sooner.

General Arflack stated he was confident they would have dues payment from all states by the close of the current FY. He added that the process of obtaining the dues was becoming easier as we found the right points of contact to send the invoices. General Arflack also reminded the Commission that at the beginning of FY14 we change to the reside database. Everyone will see those changes reflected in their dues.

Pam Deering explained that the dues sheet for FY14 that was handed out can be used to obtain payment in time for it to be processed on receipt of the invoice.

12. Cheryl Serrano asked if there was a goal to have an amount of expenditure in reserve and if that was the case if we then changed from the \$1 per military child.

General Arflack commented that they had this discussion previously and that they were getting better at projecting the budget. He added that there were some uncertain times with BRAC on the horizon and would be reluctant to make any changes until they knew what was going to happen with Force Structure. He also mentioned that CSG had suggested a reserve of 25% which they were at this well within. General Arflack added the possibility of adding a small scholarship program.

13. MG (R) Bockel asked the following:

a. What IRS chapter is the compact organized under.

**Rick Masters confirmed that the organization did have tax exempt status.
He further added that this needed to be looked into and that we were filing**

correctly and maybe we needed an official letter from the IRS confirming our status.

b. Were all the FY12 dues collected

Yes, all dues were collected in FY12

c. How is the money invested

CSG invests the money into a low interest account, he added that the Finance may want to re-visit this issue.

14. Shelley Weiss made a motion to authorize the General Counsel to investigate what the proper filing status should be and to act accordingly. The motion was passed unanimously.

15. Cheryl Serrano asked if there were things that were being done at the State level that may be eligible for re-imbursement and if this was legal and if so how we could go forward in this area. Kathleen Berg suggested this had been looked at previously and would be difficult to accomplish, coupled with this we are still trying to attract more States and at this point we will need more money for training.

16. Mark Oettinger asked if the Commission had Directors and Officers insurance. General Counsel indicated that they did. It was one of the services provided by CSG.

17. Following comment by Shelley Weiss, Kathleen Berg suggested that each State added a small descriptive profile about their individual State which would include State Council information and training, how the State is structured and other pertinent information.

18. Kathy Facon mentioned that DoDEA were required to provide to Congress annual figures on projected growth and loss. The report had been carried out for the past 8 years. This year may provide an idea on where they stand with BRAC and offered up a link to this and previous reports on this issues.

Kathy Facon also mentioned that the exposure needed to be at the lowest level and whilst large meetings and conferences were a great idea the lower level is where the information was badly needed.

19. Greg Lynch asked if we were different to other Compacts regarding what to do with excess money. The General Counsel answered that in his opinion they were consistent with other compacts and they were being well managed.

20. A motion was made to approve the budget as proposed by the finance Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

21. The following 2 questions were asked by a member of the Commission:

a. Where are the figures obtained for the number of students that the dues are based on? *General Arflack responded by stating that the figures were obtained from DoD on an annual basis.*

b. Is the Commission competitive regarding the salaries that are paid to the staff at the National Office to ensure that the staff remains in place? *General Arflack commented by stating that whilst they were by no means at the high end of the salary range for these positions they were manageable salaries.*

22. **General Counsel Report.** Rick Masters outlined his responsibilities as well as reminding the members that there are a number of advisories published on the web.

Rick talked about he is involved in the day to day matter of answering questions when the need arises in consort with the staff at the National Office. He stated that he continues to work with the non-member states and DoD in trying to encourage the remaining non-member states to enact legislation. Rick Masters also gives testimony when required at legislative sessions.

A motion was made and passed to place the meeting into closed session. The meeting was re-opened.

23. Rules Committee Report. Mary Gable firstly thanked the members of the Rules Committee for the work they have carried during the previous 12 months. Mary then went on to talk about the Kindergarten rule. Mary explained that the word “enrollment” with regard to Kindergarten needed clarification. She further explained that the committee had discussed the proposed language change on 2 separate occasions during the year. The proposed language change was as follows:

“In the case of a kindergarten student, the student must have been enrolled and attended class in the sending state in order to assure continued attendance in kindergarten in the receiving state.”

Mary Gable went to add that the committee had discussed putting a time limit on attendance was not the recommendation of the committee, but rather the language of enrolled and attended.

24. Mary Gable opened the floor to public comment on the proposed rule change. Attached is a letter that was read by Melissa Luchau from Virginia opposing the rule change.

25. Having no further comments from the floor Mary Gable made a motion to accept the proposed language stated in paragraph 21. Mary Gable commented that she understood the needs and concerns raised by Virginia and understood them but that the ages of children entering kindergarten varied from State to State and that any State that wanted to be more lenient they could do so.

26. Kathy Facon mentioned that one of the concerns that had been expressed was the definition of Kindergarten. She stated that there may have to be further discussion in this area. The Chair stated that this question should be tabled until the Rule’s Committee can take a look at it if they felt it needed to.

27. Charles Patterson commended Virginia for their comment. He added that he felt the idea was not to give military children an advantage in this area but to level the playing field and felt that this language helped to do this.

28. Anne Wescott talked about how Virginia has managed this process. She added that Virginia will continue to implement the policy the way in which they have been doing as she felt they could be more flexible in this area.

29. Paul Aguilar talked about the constitution of New Mexico providing a free and appropriate education. He wondered what the implications would be for those States that had this requirement being asked to accept a child that may not meet those statutory requirements that would be contradictory to the Compact. Paul Aguilar also asked about accepting a child into a program that may not be age appropriate.

Rick Masters stated that to the extent that there is a conflicting statute, any conflicting statute must yield. He further added that the constitution was another matter and not having had the opportunity to look at this he would be unable to comment at this point.

Kathleen Berg added that it may be better to have options of placing children into age appropriate classes. She stated that if the child was placed too early into higher age classes it **may** have detrimental implications on the child for years to come.

Rick Masters further added that if the State made a decision to an additional accommodation that this would be the dictate of the State which is the member of the Compact and that the district would not be free to dis-regard what the State has decided.

The motion was made by the Chair to accept the rule change as stated in paragraph 27. The motion was passed and became effective immediately.

30. Kathy Facon agreed to send out again a spreadsheet of the kindergarten start dates for all States which could be used by everyone.

31. Tom Rutan asked if the National Office could post something on the website to explain the Kindergarten rules for new parents sending their children to school for the first time. Kathleen Berg stated this was a great idea and the rules committee and the national office could work together to put something together for approval by the Executive Committee.

32. K. Mark Takai asked if it would be possible to open up future meetings to include MFEL representatives from all States. He suggested that expansion for the annual meeting to 2 personnel and that the finance committee would need to look into this. Cheryl Serrano suggested this could be carried out electronically maybe by webinar? Kathleen Berg said this would be taken under consideration.

ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION – *The Interstate Compact in Hawaii*

33. A presentation was given by the following members from Hawaii:

Darren Dean, Military Family Education Liaison in Hawaii
Cherise Imai, Military Liaison, Hawaii State Department of Education
Fred Murphy, Principal, Wheeler Elementary School, Wheeler Army Airfield

ITEM 5 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

34. The following officers were elected during the annual meeting.

Chair - Kathleen Berg
Vice Chair - Kate Wren Gavlak
Treasurer - Pam Deering

ITEM 6 – BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS

35. Attached is a sheet containing the notes from the respective groups which were presented after the breakout sessions had concluded.

ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

Future Meetings

36. The following States offered to host future meetings:

Arizona, Georgia, California, Florida, Tennessee, Nevada, New Mexico

The Chair stated that these would all be looked into and that a decision would be made in the next few months following research by the National Office.

Affiliates Principles Group

37. The Executive Director explained how the APG would work at CSG. Briefing that the group would meet primarily by teleconference with one or possibly two face to face meetings annually. The leadership council will consist of representatives from each of the Affiliates and will provide members the opportunity to have a voice in the policy dictated by CSG. The financial contribution would be \$1000.00 on an annual basis.

A motion was made and passed that MIC3 would become a member of the APG.

ITEM 8 - SUMMARY

38. The Chair commented that as part of the next steps there was now a sub group of States that would focus on the National Guard involvement in the Compact and using the National Guard organizations to assist. The leadership for this would be North Dakota and Hawaii.

39. Kathleen Berg talked about providing an email list of those that would like to be considered as mentors for the newer commissioners. This list would be sent out on a monthly basis and would be sent out only to those that have signed up to receive emails.

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.



Richard Pryor
Operations Coordinator
MIC3

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All personnel listed on Page 1