



EAGLE NEWS

The official Newsletter of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
Central Minnesota Chapter 115

April thru June 2012

APRIL IS THE “MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD”

During the month of April, the State of Minnesota takes time to recognize the Month of the Military Child in order to emphasize the important role military children play while a parent or important adult is serving. Register a military child and Governor Mark Dayton will send them a letter of

gratitude for their service. You can register at: www.mdva.state.mn.us/child/reg2012/childregistration.aspx

On the evening of April 5 Operation Homefront held a dinner to present the Military Child of the Year Awards to 5 children (or young adults) from

families in the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The awards are in recognition of “the strength, courage and achievements of our Nation’s Youngest Patriots.” They each received \$7,000 in college scholarship as well as a trip to Washington DC.

GREETINGS TO OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS!

There is a lot going on in our state as several thousand Army National Guard Veterans return home. If possible attend your local welcome home events.

The 2012 legislative session has been a busy one for Veteran’s issues. There have been numerous bills in both houses at the capital. I had the honor to testify at many of the committee

meetings. Until the last gavel drops we never know the outcome. Call your Senators and Representative and tell them to support our Veterans. Finally it is important that you become involved in our chapter and attend the upcoming meetings. The current board has been in place for several years and we need a break. We need others to step up and help with our

chapter. We are only required by national to have one meeting each quarter. That way the meeting time has been held to a minimum. Contact any of the board members if you have questions about their position or any of the positions.

Ralph Donais, President

MILITARY SKILLS TRANSLATION

Translate your military skills, experience and training to find career opportunities that best align with your capabilities. To get started, define your military experience by adding

your Military Job Title (for example, your MOS, MOSC, Rating, Designator). Once this information is selected, you can add your subspecialties and training to further

customize the jobs available to you. Go to <http://www.military.com/veteran-jobs/skills-translator/> for more assistance.

TRIWEST LOSES TRICARE WEST CONTRACT

In April of 2011, the TRICARE Management Activity announced that due to a protest filed by UnitedHealth Military & Veterans Services they had chosen reevaluated their decision to award the TRICARE West Region contract to TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. and allow the original 2009 competitors to submit new proposals. On March 16, TMA officials announced that the TMA procurement team had chosen a

different “best value selection.” Essentially voiding the TRICARE West Region contract with Triwest and awarding it to UnitedHealth Military & Veterans Services. According to DoD the instant obligation on the award is \$10,000,000 and the total potential contract value is estimated at \$20,462,202,594.

Note: The TRICARE West Region includes Alaska, Arizona, California,

Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, western Texas, Washington and Wyoming. (Read more:

<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2012/03/triwest-loses-tricare-west-contract/#ixzz1qLkfAkm1>.)

METLIFE TAKES OVER TRICARE DENTAL

March 21, 2012 | [Terry Howell](#) As reported late last year, MetLife will take over managing the TRICARE Dental Program and begin providing dental coverage for more than 2 million active duty family members, Selected and Individual Ready Reservists and their families on May 1, 2012. Editors Note: **This change does not effect TRICARE’s Retiree Dental plan.** All TDP enrollees will receive welcome packages and new enrollment cards. Read more: <http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2012/03/metlife-takes-over-tricare-dental/#ixzz1qLdXwph>

THE VERDICT: HANG UP
DON'T FALL FOR JURY DUTY SCAM

The phone rings, you pick it up, and the caller identifies himself as an officer of the court. He says you failed to report for jury duty and that a warrant is out for your arrest. You say you never received a notice. To clear it up, the caller says he'll need some information for "verification purposes"-your birth date, social security number, maybe even a credit card number. This is when you should hang up the phone. It's a scam. The scam's bold simplicity may be what makes it so effective. Facing the unexpected threat of arrest, victims are caught off guard and may be quick to part with some information to defuse the situation.

"They get you scared first," says a special agent in the Minneapolis field office who has heard the complaints. "They get people saying, 'Oh my gosh! I'm not a criminal. What's going on?'" That's when the scammer dangles a solution-a fine, payable by credit card, that will clear up the problem. With enough information, scammers can assume your identity and empty your bank accounts. Read more: www.fbi.gov/page2/june06/jury_scams060206.htm.

The 150th Anniversary Commemoration of Taps At Arlington National Cemetery

May 19, 2012 10 AM-12 Noon
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, Virginia 22211

Taps 150 will commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Taps, our National Song of Remembrance, in the Old Amphitheater (near the Lee Mansion) at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia on Saturday May 19, 2012. The event is sponsored by TAPS 150, Bugles Across America and Arlington National Cemetery. All buglers and trumpeters are welcome to attend the ceremony and perform Taps in Arlington, our nation's most sacred ground.



The 150th Anniversary Commemoration of Taps

June 22 – 24, 2012
Berkeley Plantation
12602 Harrison Landing Road,
Charles City, VA 23030

This three-day event will celebrate the birth of America's National Song of Remembrance with Civil War re-enactors depicting the Union Army at rest at Harrison's Landing (on the grounds of the plantation) following the Seven Days Battles in late June 1862. Living history programs will feature the music of fifes, drums, and bugles, including the commemorative sounding of Taps on Saturday night. Concerts by military bands on Friday night and the Federal City Brass Band on Saturday night will add to the musical flavor of the event. The focal point of the weekend will be the re-dedication of the Taps monument on Saturday, June 23, at 11 AM.



PERMANENT ID CARDS FOR 75+ SPOUSES

Spouses of military retirees that are 75 years old can now get permanent dependent ID cards (If your current card is within 90 days of expiring) This can be done by mail through the 934th AW Customer Service. Call that office for instructions on mail procedures at (612) 713-1085. (Takes about 30 days to process) . Another option – Sponsor can bring a 3 X 4 or larger Recent Photo of their dependent spouse if spouse cannot physically come with.

SPACE "A"

Go to www.military.com to get all of the information and rules about Space "A" by selecting *Travel* and then under *Space A Overview* and then go to *Gateways* to check on individual bases that offer Space A. The 934 AW at Minneapolis



5 Steps to Spring Clean Your Debt

Every year many of us spring clean our homes, hauling the junk out of our closets and only keeping things we really need. It's a good time to reflect on the things we own, what works well for us and what we want to keep. This spring, do some financial spring cleaning on your debt and give it a good overhaul. With a little bit of work, you can haul that debt load into the sun, give it a good airing out, and get yourself started on a better path.

1. **Take stock:** Write down your current accounts, interest rates, balances, and monthly payment. If you can, find your balances from the previous month and note if you're increasing or decreasing your debt and by how much.
2. **Do a stress test:** Look at your debt payments relative to your monthly take-home pay. If you're paying over 36% to debt payments (include car leases and rent in the debt payments) you're probably over the amount that's healthy for you. A DTI calculator like DebtScore.com can help you perform these calculations.
3. **Run debt-free scenarios:** Once we're in debt it can feel like we'll never get out and, as a result, sometimes we just give up even trying. But the secret with debt is that it's usually possible to pay off credit card debts in as few as 3-4 years by just continuing to pay what we do today and not charging more. And if we take that money we used to pay to credit cards and put it to the mortgage, we can pay that off in 10-15 years. Sometimes you can save over \$50K in interest. Sites like SavvyMoney.com or Oweing.com offer free calculators that can help you understand how quickly you can get out of debt and will give you a payoff schedule to show you how it can be done.
4. **Lower your APRs:** How are the APRs on your credit cards? If there's a big difference across your cards, this may indicate that some of your cards have rates that are too high. You may be able to negotiate lower rates with your lenders or you may want to look at new cards. With mortgage rates at historic lows, you should look at refinancing options.
5. **Create a debt plan:** Even if you don't want to create a detailed plan, set a goal of getting out of debt. The [Military.com Debt Boot Camp](#) can get you started.

CHAPTER CONTACTS

President & Legislative

Ralph Donais
906 Lookout Place
Elk River, MN 55330
Voice: 763-441-2630
r.l.donais@izoom.net

First Vice President

Mark Davidson
10007 Harriet Ave. S
Bloomington MN 55420
Voice: 952-884-6077
ldavidson77@msn.com

Secretary & Webmaster

David Hammer
4712 Wind Trail W.
Eagan, MN 55122
dhammer@att.net

Treasurer & Newsletter

Dennis Rock
2404 Hillsboro Ave N
Mpls, MN 55427
Voice: 763-541-9396
dennisvictoria@usfamily.net

Past President

Dick Habeck
2459 155th St NW
Monticello, MN 55362
Voice: 763-878-2934
Cell: 612-801-3488
habeckrh@aol.com

Historian

Stan Paulson
2222 75th St
Luck, WI 56032
Voice: 715-857-5544

Membership

Lynne Davidson
10007 Harriet Av S
Bloomington, MN 55420
Voice: 952-884-6077
ldavidson77@msn.com

Chaplain & Parliamentarian

Del Fuller
1850 Garden Street
Ogilvie, MN 56358
Voice: 320-272-4495

Web sites

Chapter 115:
www.trea115.org

National HQ:
www.trea.org

Eagle News is an unofficial publication of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), Central Minnesota Chapter 115, located at 906 Lookout Place, Elk River, MN 55330. The Eagle News is distributed quarterly to Chapter 115 members and is supported by donations that are deductible from Federal and state income tax to the extent permitted by law Section 501c19. Articles

may be reprinted wholly providing the intent is to promote the well-being of military retirees and/or the community in general; credit must be given to TREA, Chapter 115. TREA Chapter 115 is a nonprofit organization, nonunion, nonpartisan and nonsectarian. Views expressed in this publication are not the official views of TREA, Chapter 115, or

any governmental agency. The editor reserves the right to revise or reject any article due to length or opinion, and no articles discriminating based on race, sex, political stance, religion or age will be accepted for publication. The absolute deadline for articles is the 5th of January, April, July & October to dennisvictoria@usfamily.net

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 12, 2012
August 25, 2012 Camp Ripley after the Saturday AFRAD
Saturday, October 29, 2012

All meetings begin at 11:00 am at the VFW Sports Complex 7350 Quaday, Otsego, MN 55330. Phone 763-241-5225. Spouses and guests are always welcome to attend.

From I-94 in Rogers: Go north on highway 101 towards Elk River to CR 42/River Road. Turn Left at the light. Second road on the Left is Quaday Ave NE. Turn Left. Follow Quaday until you see several brown buildings, which is the VFW Sport Complex on your Left.

From Highway 10 in Elk River: From Elk River, take Hwy 101 South towards Rogers, exit on CR 42/River Road, turn right at the light onto River Road. The next road on the left will be Quaday Ave NE. Turn Left. Follow Quaday until you see several brown buildings, which is the VFW Sport complex on your Left.

Central Minnesota Chapter 115
The Retired Enlisted Association
906 Lookout Place
Elk River, MN 55330

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ST. CLOUD, MN
PERMIT #2777

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

>>

TREA CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER 115 MEETING MINUTES – 11 February 2012

- Call to Order by Chapter 115 President
Ralph Donais
- Invocation by Dell Fuller
- Pledge of Allegiance by Ralph Donais
- Treasurer Report submitted by Dennis
Rock – Checking has \$1,205.58 and
Savings has \$2,071.06.
- Membership Report by Mark Davidson –
292 members.
- Legislative Report by Ralph Donais
 - UVLC – Local Hmong veterans made a presentation asking to be buried in the MN State Veterans Cemetery. Focus on what is going on at the State Capitol. Mpls VA Hospital is working on the parking lot.
 - MAG – Working on bills at the State Capitol. A good resource is to search the MN Legislative website.

- Capitol – There are about 16 to 20 bills in the House.
- Old Business
 - Plaques – Still have a supply.
 - AFRAD 2012 – Going from two sessions to one like others in area. There will be a break at noon for lunch. Registration still at \$7.50 or two for \$15. Motion by Jeb (second by Jim) to pay for TREA workers at the AFRAD. Motion passed.
 - Convention 2012 – It will be at Jacksonville, FL on September 19, 20, 21 and 22. Chapter 115 will pay members registration if they are interested in attending.
 - MAG Support – All are invited to attend the meetings. They are typically held in the State Office

- Building in Room 300 on Fridays at 0900.
- Membership – New MAPS membership forms coming out. Need more Chapter members. Membership changing to \$30 per year and Life Membership went up from \$300 to \$400.
- New Business
 - 934 Airlift Wing – There was an announcement from the Air Force and Air Force Reserves about restructuring the unit. No exact word about when or what will happen. Ownership of the installation will change from the 934 AW to the 133 AW (ANG).
- Next Meeting: May 12, 2012
Respectfully submitted,
David Hammer

Please join us at the next meeting Saturday, 12 May 2012!

IF your mailing label contains incorrect information, or if you are not receiving the Chapter e-mail announcements, notify Mark Davidson at ldavidson77@msn.com