



# EAGLE NEWS

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

January thru March 2012

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Greetings to our chapter members! As usual there are a lot of things going on in the Veteran's arena both in the state as well as nationally.

There will be a new director appointed to run the Mpls VA HCS, Steve Kleinglass retired as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Barry Sharp is the acting director until an official one is selected.

I have been elected the chairman of the UVLC for another two years. I feel it is important that we as TREA Members have representation in the various Veteran's Groups around the state. Speaking of membership, we need to get the 10,000 plus enlisted retirees to join up and be counted. Our membership like many of the organizations these days has dipped a little. We will be asking the TREA MALS to become members of our chapter so that we can keep them informed. If you have email and don't receive anything from the chapter, contact one of the board members so we can get you added to the email listing.

Our chapter is once again sponsoring the RAD at Camp Ripley on Saturday August 25, 2012. We can use help in providing this valuable day to our fellow retirees. It is also a great way for you to keep informed about the changes that will affect your retirement. Several of us stay at the camp quarters on the 24<sup>th</sup> and prepare the site for the following day. If you wish to help and stay the night with us let me know as I can

reserve a block of rooms for the workers. There will be three other RADs in Minnesota this summer. There will be one in Rosemount on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. One at Mystic Lake Casino Saturday 29 September and one more near Duluth also in September.

The TREA National Convention is in Jacksonville Florida this year. If you plan to attend, please let me know. Remember the chapter will reimburse your registration fee if you attend. The date for the convention is the week of Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.

Go to the TREA web site [tre.org](http://tre.org) for more information. I plan to attend and would like to have several of our chapter members there with me. More information will follow in our next news letter.

I have been attending the Military Children's Education Coalition (MCEC) training. The purpose of this organization it to support the schools to better understand and help students of the military who are deployed, injured or killed in action.

There are thousands of students in our state that need this added support. For more information about MCEC go to [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org). Our meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February and I hope to see you there!

Ralph Donais, Chapter President

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**Legislation:** This years session starts on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and is supposed to go until the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. On the **15<sup>th</sup> of February** there will be a program for **Veteran's Day on the Hill**. I would hoe that you will attend the initial time in the rotunda and then visit

with you Representative and Senator. Make sure you make an appointment for that day.

There are several groups that work for veteran's legislation. The United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC), the Military Action Group (MAG) and the Commanders Task Force (CTF). I am an active member of the UVLC and the MAG, but our organization has not been allowed to be represented in the CTF.

Some of the issues being brought up this session, but not limited to are:

(1) Extend Widow Exemption longer than just 5 years, (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Career Military Retirement Tax exemption, (3) Certification of MOS for civilian licensed jobs, (4) Veteran preference – Insure that state agencies are facilitating hiring, Construction contracts, pre construction contracts & IT contracts, (5) Veteran check block on Sec of State business application to help identify Veteran owned businesses and get them VA certified, (6) We need to change the current bill HF 1068. We did not get the amendment passed during the last session. This bill deals with contracts for Veteran owned business, (7) Federal Title 49 Transportation bill discussion and the need to have the DBE and Veterans separated, (8) Continued Support of MACV to an increase of \$250,000.00, (9) Collaboration of Military, State, Federal, Vets & Private Org who are working on employment opportunities and new businesses for Veterans, (10) Presumptive (*go to page 2*)

*(Legislative Session from page 1)*

Certificate of Rehabilitation for Military Veterans, (11) Charitable Gambling Taxes and (12) Continued support of the MN Dept of Veteran

Affairs. We will try to get out emails as to when the committee meetings are!

**Your support is needed at the committee meetings when our bills are being heard!**

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### **TREA CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER 115 MEETING MINUTES – 12 November 2011**

Call to Order by Chapter 115  
President Ralph Donais

Invocation by Dell Fuller

Pledge of Allegiance by Ralph Donais

Treasurer Report by Dennis Rock – Savings has \$2,070.79 and Checking has \$1,650.53. Plaque money is coming in. Four more plaques were sold.

Membership Report by Mark Davidson – Four applications were mailed out. There are 266 members at the end of September. Mark and Ralph worked at a National Guard Retiree workshop at Camp Ripley. 40 applications were passed out. The next event will be held in the Twin Cities on April 12, 2012.

Legislative Report by Ralph Donais

- UVLC – the next meeting will be moved to December 5<sup>th</sup> to avoid conflicting with December 7<sup>th</sup> (Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day).
- MAG – There will be a meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Starting to work on 2012 issues

- Capitol – There are meetings ongoing at the Capitol.

#### **Old Business**

Plaques – Working on a color brochure. The Service Branch plaques make a great XMAS gift. The costs are \$20 per plaque with \$10 shipping locally. A stand is offered for \$5.

#### **New Business**

2012 Board Elections – Motion by Curtis Swanson and second by Jed Collen to keep everyone in the same positions. Motion passed.

AFRAD 2012 – The paperwork is signed and it will again be the last Saturday in August (25<sup>th</sup>). Should be going to only one session. Working to get rid of the lunch and have everyone dining on their own. The Dining Facility is \$8.66 for lunch and \$5.66 for short order. Newsletters – Dennis does a great job on the newsletters. Looking into doing some small ads in it.

Convention 2012 (Jacksonville, FL) – Chapter will assist with a part of the cost of attendance if there are members interesting in attending.

MAG Support – Assistance is needed meeting with legislators and attending meetings. If interested, talk to Ralph who can assist. Topics being looked at are: Widows tax exemption changed to lifetime; License and Certification assistance to minimize the time and effort for veterans; Erase minor offenses after enlistment is completed; Expand the Veterans Court.

Membership – Need to work on converting MALS to Chapter Members.

#### **Next Meeting**

Motion by Dell and second by Mark to move the November 2012 meeting to the last Saturday in October (29<sup>th</sup>). Motion passed.

Motion by Dell to adjourn. Passed. Respectfully submitted

David Hammer

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#### **Web sites**

Chapter 115:  
[www.treal15.org](http://www.treal15.org)

National HQ:  
[www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)

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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](mailto:dennisvictoria@usfamily.net)

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**WALGREEN TRICARE  
CONTRACT EXPIRES**  
Week of January 16, 2012

The expiration of the retail pharmacy contract between Express Scripts, Inc. And the Walgreens pharmacy chain means Walgreens is no longer a TRICARE pharmacy network provider as of Jan. 1. TRICARE beneficiaries changing from Walgreens pharmacy can simply take their current prescription bottle to their new network pharmacy to have the prescription transferred. To find a nearby network pharmacy, use the "find a pharmacy" feature on Express-Scripts website at [www.express-scripts.com/tricare](http://www.express-scripts.com/tricare). Beneficiaries who want help finding a pharmacy, changing their medications to Home Delivery, or who have other questions can contact Express Scripts at 877-885-6313. For more information, visit the TRICARE website at [www.tricare.mil/walgreens/](http://www.tricare.mil/walgreens/)

**AVOID IDENTITY THEFT**  
Week of January 16, 2012

Here are some tips to avoid identity theft: (1) be careful what you post on social media; (2) beware of dumpster diving thieves who search through trash for bills or other personal information; (3) skimming involves credit or debit card information using a device when the card is processed during what appears to be a normal transaction; (4) beware of phishing attempts where the thief pretends to be a financial institution to trick potential victims into releasing their personal information; and (5) a change of address scam reroutes bills to another location to collect personal information. Information about other ways to prevent identity theft and recover from it are available on the FTC's [Identity Theft website](#).

**MONEY FROM THE VA  
MEANS FEWER HOMELESS  
VETS**

Below please see a local news article that shows how a national program works on the streets. VA Secretary Erik Shinseki has made ending veterans homelessness one of his primary goals and one can see that the effort is paying off.

From the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#)

Based on a one-day shelter and street census taken in January by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), from 2010 to 2011 the number of homeless veterans dropped by 12 percent nationally.

Cathy ten Broeke, Minneapolis-Hennepin County coordinator to end homelessness, said the drop can be attributed to the resources being poured into veteran homelessness from Washington, DC. The VA has housed more than 33,000 veterans in the past 2 1/2 years by expanding eligibility for vouchers that qualify them for Section 8 housing.

A joint VA/HUD program combines a voucher with intense support for mental health or substance abuse needs. Veterans pay 30 percent of their income for rent, and the voucher covers the rest. Each voucher costs the government on average \$6,500 a year, plus \$4,148 in case management services. The program's cost has been estimated to be less than the costs of emergency rooms, jails or homeless shelters.

Most of the veterans being served are from the Vietnam era, but the drawdown of forces from Iraq and Afghanistan is likely to tax the system and require applying the lessons learned. "This is not going away soon," Ten Broeke said. "The

prevention of these new veterans from having the same kinds of issues and falling through the same kinds of cracks is really key."

Estimates in Hennepin County indicate that 19 percent of homeless single adults are veterans



**New Mortgage Rules  
Bring Out Scammers**

The Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota (BBB) announced, beginning last month, some homeowners who are "under water" with their mortgages can now refinance under the Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP). The new HARP rules apply to homeowners who are current on their payments and whose loans are backed by either FannieMae or FreddieMac. However, the BBB warns consumers that [banks and mortgage companies aren't the only ones gearing up for the rush of applications](#).

"Whenever there is a new or updated government program that may be a bit confusing, scammers come out of the woodwork to take advantage of that confusion," said Dana Badgerow, BBB President and CEO. "There are already hundreds of websites claiming to be able to help homeowners through the HARP process, but many of them are fraudulent."

### FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 11, 2012

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.

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The Retired Enlisted Association  
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### REPORT A RETIREE'S DEATH

We're sorry for your loss. Though this is a difficult time, it's crucial to report the death of a military retiree promptly. Please follow the steps below to report the death as soon as possible.

#### What You Need

Retiree's name, Social Security Number and date of death  
Death certificate showing cause of death

Names of retiree's designated beneficiaries

#### How to Report a Retiree's Death

1. Complete a [Notification of Death Fast Form](#). Upon notification, DFAS will stop monthly payments to prevent overpayment. If you need help completing the form, please read the [form instructions](#).

If you cannot complete the [Notification of Death form](#), call DFAS at 800-321-1080. Please have the decedent's Social Security Number and the date of death when you call.

2. Within 7-10 business days after reporting the death to DFAS, you should receive a letter containing the following documents:

[SF1174](#) Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Service Annuity account forms and instructions (if the decedent was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan

or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan)

3. Complete the forms you received with your letter and return them with a copy of the retiree's Death Certificate that includes cause of death to:

DFAS U.S. Military Retired Pay  
P.O. box 7130  
London, KY 40742-7130  
Fax: 800-469-6559

If you need assistance completing your claim forms, please call 800-321-1080.

#### When to Report a Retiree's Death

Please report the retired service member's death as soon as possible. This will help avoid delay and possible financial hardship to surviving beneficiaries, family members or executors, who will be required to return any unearned military retirement payments. Eligibility for military retired pay ends with the death of the retiree.

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](mailto:ldavidson77@msn.com)