



EAGLE NEWS

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

July thru September 2011

REMINDER: ID CARD CHANGES COMING

As of June 1, Social Security numbers are no longer printed on new ID cards issued to members of the Uniformed Services, retirees and family members. The new cards will have a unique DoD Identification number in place of the Social Security number. For those eligible for benefits, such as health care, a DOD benefits number will be on the back. Beneficiaries using the Military Health System and TRICARE should be prepared to state their Social Security number (or their sponsor's) when accessing health care or pharmacy benefits. TRICARE beneficiaries and providers can get more information, see ID card samples and view frequently asked questions at the TRICARE website at www.tricare.mil/ssn. General information about the removal of SSN from ID cards can be found at www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard.

CONTRACT FIGHT BETWEEN WALGREENS AND EXPRESS SCRIPTS REACHES IMPASSE

Express Scripts, which is the contractor for both the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy and TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery, and Walgreens, the largest drug store chain in the country, is having a knocked down drag out contract fight. This week Walgreens publically announced that they would stop filling Express Scripts prescription benefits on January 1, of course, there are still many months to go. Walgreens receives over \$5.5 billion in annual revenue from Express Scripts plans; it makes a full 7% of their revenue. (Express Scripts is the second-largest pharmacy benefits manager in the United States and expects to handle at least 750 million prescription claims this year.) Surely, we will hear more about this in the weeks ahead; TREA will watch to see if this fight may harm TRICARE Pharmacy beneficiaries and keep you informed.

2011 COLA FOR RETIRED PAY

The current inflation rate of 3.4 percent may mean an increase in military retirement pay, compensation and pension for disabled veterans and social security recipients in 2012.

Each year Military Retirement pay, VA Compensation and Pensions, and Social Security benefits are adjusted for the rate of inflation. This annual Cost of Living Adjustment is determined by the [Consumer Price Index](#) for the previous year. In a normal cycle, the CPI for a given year is compared to the previous year to determine the actual rate of inflation. However, since 2008 was the last year the rate of inflation was positive, it is the baseline for determining the 2010 rate of inflation.

THE WORST STATES IN THE U.S. FOR VETERAN EMPLOYMENT

As you all know while the job market has been bad for everyone, it has been dramatically worse for veterans, especially veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are many theories as to why this is true, we do not know for sure- but we now definitely know where in the country employment is worse for them. Below are the 10 worst state for 9/11 unemployment. Following the veterans unemployment percentages are the overall unemployment rates in those states compiled by the Bureau of Labor. These figures come from the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) Michigan 29.4 percent (10.3) | 5) Tennessee 20 percent (9.7) | 9) Nevada 15.2 percent (12.1) |
| 2) Indiana 23.6 percent (8.2) | 6) Kansas 17.2 percent (6.6) | 10) New York 15.2 percent (7.9) |
| 3) Minnesota 22.9 percent (6.6) | 7) Vermont 16.8 percent (5.4) | |
| 4) Montana 20.1 percent (7.3) | 8) Connecticut 15.5 percent (9.1) | |

Amazingly if you look at the number, the rate of unemployment in some of the states is 2 and 3 times more than that of the general population. This dramatic problem is one of the reasons that TREA is focusing more and more on the creation of jobs and business ownership for veterans and military retirees.

**AFRAD at Camp Ripley is Saturday, 27 August 2011.
Registration form on Page 3**

TREA CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER 115 MEETING MINUTES – 12 MAY 2011

Call to Order by Chapter President
Ralph Donais.

Invocation by Dell Fuller.

Pledge of Allegiance by Ralph Donais

Treasurer Report (e-mail from Dennis Rock): - \$2,070.34 in Saving and \$864.71 in Checking. Year to date income is \$780.26. Year to date expenses are \$1,432.46. Received a \$50 donation to go towards postage of the newsletter.

Membership Report: - Mark Davidson: End of March there were 27 new members and 6 terminations. Sent out 5 or 6 applications. Sent 9 letters to editors around the state.

- Legislative Report – Ralph Donais: Joint Committees now meeting. Ralph went for 4 meetings. Still talking about the 15% across the board cut of state employees. Omnibus bill is being discussed. Some confusion exists in the legislature due to inexperienced staff.

- MAG Meeting: Both the House and Senate have attendees. Will talk about the Omnibus bill at an upcoming meeting. John Baker

proposed bill to have prior misdemeanors before entering the service removed after getting out of the service, no status on this.

- Jim Gray: Al Holton gave a promo to the TREA RAD coming up at Camp Ripley on August 27.

Old Business:

- Plaques – Will put the information on the TREA Chapter 115 website. Motion by Dell, second by Mark to put a half-page ad (\$225) in the Convention program to advertise the plaques. Motion passed.

- JROTC – Schools will now order medals from national and national will pay.

New Business:

- AFRAD 2011: The date is set for August 27, 2011 at Camp Ripley. Deadline for reservations will be Monday, August 15. There will be a few items for a raffle. The lunch will be the same as last year.

- Other RADs around the area are Rosemount on August 26, Duluth on September 10 and Mystic Lake later in September.

- Convention 2011 will be held in Reno, NV. National asked for a donation for snacks and such. Received No vote from TREA 115 attendees. The chapter will put an advertisement in the convention brochure. There will be one more meeting prior to the convention. If you have ideas to bring forward, bring them to the meeting.

- MAG Support: The next meeting will be May 16 in room S-300 in the State Office Building. Anyone can attend.

- Membership: Need to continue work to move MALS to Chapter membership if they desire to move.

The next chapter meeting will be August 27 after the AFRAD at Camp Ripley.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hammer

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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

WELCOME TO AFRAD 2011

Training & Community Center (TACC)
Camp Ripley – Little Falls, MN

TENTATIVE AGENDA

(subject to change)

SATURDAY, 27 August 2011

0800—1600 Exhibitors (Cafeteria)
0730 – 1300 Registration (Lobby)

MORNING SESSION (Limited to 200)

0800-0930 Briefings (Theater)
0930-1000 Refreshment Break (Café)
1000-1200 Briefings (Theater)

1100-1300 Lunch (Gym)

AFTERNOON SESSION (Limited to 200)

1200-1330 Briefings (Theater)
1330-1400 Refreshment Break (Café)
1400-1530 Briefings (Theater)
1600 Adjournment

1630 Chapter 115 meeting (Café)

The registration fee for each attendee includes break refreshments and event supplies. Monday, 15 August, is the **deadline** for Lunch registration because of contractual obligations.

Walk-ins are welcome, but Lunch is unavailable after the 15 August mail-in registration deadline.

CONCURRENT ACTIVITIES

ID CARD PROCESSING (in TACC)

Based on first come – first served.
Friday & Saturday, 0830 to 1530

Military Museum

Friday, 1000 to 1700
Saturday, 1000 to 1600

Post Exchange & Class VI Store

Friday, 1000 to 2000
Saturday, 1000 to 1600

LODGING

On-Post housing **may be** available by calling 320-632-7378 for reservations.

Check in at Building #6-76 Ed Center
Friday, 0600 to 2400
Saturday, 0700 to 2300

AmericInn of Little Falls, MN

306 LeMieur St SE 320-632-1964
Reservations: 888-205-0958

Country Suites By Carlson Little Falls

209 16th Street, NE 320-632-1000
Reservations: 800-596-2375
E-mail: cx_lfal@countryinns.com

AFRAD Point of Contact:

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REGISTRATION FORM

10th Annual Camp Ripley AFRAD
Training & Community Center (TACC)
Saturday, 27 August 2011

Yes, I wish to attend (select 1 session):

- 0800 Morning Session
- 1200 Afternoon Session

Registration: 1 or 2 person @ \$7.50 each = \$ _____

Lunch: 1 or 2 person @ \$7.50 each = \$ _____

Check# _____ payable to "TREA Chapter 115"

First & Last Name _____ ↑

Street Address _____ ↑

City, State & Zip Code _____ ↑

(_____) _____ ↑
Home Telephone with area code

Retired Rank: _____

(Circle one): USA USAF USCG USMC USN NG

E-mail address _____ ↑

Guest (first & last name) _____ ↑

Mail registration form & check to: TREA Chapter 115
2404 Hillsboro Ave N
Mpls, MN 55427

Monday, 15 August is the **deadline** for Lunch registration because of contractual obligations

-----CUT ALONG LINE AND MAIL-----

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

August 27, 2011 at Camp Ripley after the Saturday AFRAD
Saturday, November 12, 2011
Saturday, February 11, 2012
Saturday, May 12, 2012

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

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Annual Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation Day (AFRAD)

Camp Ripley --- Little Falls, Minnesota
Saturday, 27 August 2011

On behalf of the members of The Retired Enlisted Association, Central Minnesota Chapter 115, you are invited to the 10th Annual Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation Day at Camp Ripley, Little Falls, Minnesota.

This Day is an opportunity for all armed forces retirees, spouses, widows and/or guests to receive updated verbal and written information about Government benefits.

We are grateful to the specialists from government and veteran affairs that will arrange their time to be with us on Saturday. These professionals work with our entitlement programs everyday and have all the current information we need. Some will be speakers in the Theater and all will be in the Cafeteria to meet one on one with the attendees.

A member of the Camp Ripley staff will be available, from 0830 to 1530 on Friday and Saturday in the Training and Community Center building, to renew or update retiree or dependent identification cards.

The AFRAD registration form for prospective attendees is on the third page of this newsletter.

Ralph Donais, President
TREA Chapter 115

Other RAD's & POC's:	Friday, 26 August 2011 Rosemount NG Armory Gary Buerck 763-315-5918	Saturday, 25 September 2010 Mystic Lake JRAD (Casino) AF RAO 800-231-3517	Friday, 9 September 2011 Black Bear (Casino) Duluth Butch Liebaert 715-398-315
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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