



EAGLE NEWS

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

April, May & June 2007



DAVIDSON RECEIVES RECOGNITION

Chapter President Ralph Donais presented a National TREA membership pin to Mark Davidson. Mark, a long time member of TREA Chapter 115, had recruited fifteen new TREA members in 2006. David Hammer and Ralph Donais were also sent pins for recruiting members during 2006.



ERICKSON ELECTED BY DAV

Rod Erickson, current Secretary of TREA Chapter 115 was recently elected by the Minnesota Disabled American Veterans as the Department Judge Advocate/Inspector General. Mr. Erickson's comment was, "I must have thought that I didn't have enough to do!" That seems to go along with the saying, "If you need a job well done, give it to a busy person who knows how to get things done."

TREA'S 44TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

If you haven't attended a convention in the past, or if it's been a while, you should plan on attending this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn and get involved and have your voice heard in the decision making that will shape

TREA's future. The Convention will be held September 13 - 16, 2007 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The hotel is the Charlotte Marriott City Center. Members At Large (MAL) as well as chapter members can each have two (2)

votes by bringing one proxy vote to the convention with them. This convention will be important to the future of TREA. Get details and costs in the May 2007 VOICE or at the National website www.trea.org.

MINNESOTA RETIREE'S TAX EXEMPTION by Chapter President Ralph Donais

My fellow retirees!

I wasn't going to say much about the past session of our State's Legislature in this news letter. As I thought about not writing, it became more apparent to me that it is important that everyone of us realize that there are those, who think that we are all rich because of our Military Pensions. Articles against us like the one written by Major Edward Lotterman of the Pioneer Press (Jan 7, 2007) needs to be answered by many not just a few. (I attempted to answer his article, but was never published)

Major Lotterman stated that Majors don't need a tax exemption. The problem is Minnesota's business community needs retirees to head off the predicted worker shortage in the next five years. It is apparent to anyone who looks at the statistics the we are losing retirees each year as the percentages have been going down hill. The state of Minnesota currently has less than one percent (.74%) as of September 2006, according to DFAS date received from them last year. For our Veteran population we should be around three (3) percent.

Currently retirees bring almost a **Quarter Billion Dollars** into the states economy each year. If we could increase the number of retiree to three percent where it should be, we would bring an additional **Half Billion Dollars** into the state's economy.

At present the state would have to give up around **19 Million Dollars** if they dropped the tax on military retirees. Sales tax alone on the additional **Half Billion Dollars** would be **30 Million Dollars!**

We need to look at who was leading the opposition against us this year and take appropriate action in the next elections. We have to tell them why we won't vote for them!

I worked with the Military Action Group (MAG) this past year. Many of the Veteran's issues that were presented to the Legislature came

from that the MAG. Keep up the pressure in your Legislative Districts

DFAS ADDS NEW SECURITY MEASURE TO THE MYPAY SYSTEM

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFRNS) – Another new security feature has been added to protect customers' data on the pay account system, myPay officials announced May 9. As part of an ongoing commitment to strengthen password and account security to protect customers' data, Defense Finance and Accounting Service has implemented the "virtual keyboard" to assist in protecting against malicious software such as spyware, trojans and keylogging.

The virtual keyboard is available now. Each time a user arrives at myPay to log on, the virtual keyboard will appear on the screen. The user will type in their login identification and then the user will "press" the keys on the screen by clicking on them with their mouse to enter their Personal Identification Number instead of typing the actual

keys. The virtual keyboard is to be used only for the user's PIN.

To enhance security, the keyboard layout changes or keys are displayed randomly every time the page is refreshed.

"This is a significant move toward adding yet another layer of security to our myPay system," said Pat Shine, director of operations for DFAS. "We want to reassure our customers that we are proactively working to secure their pay account information."

DFAS uses a variety of security features to protect data on the myPay system, yet officials ask that customers do everything they can to protect data from being compromised or captured on home computers.

Under frequently asked questions on the myPay home page (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) customers can find more information on steps to secure home computers.

To login to myPay using the Virtual Keyboard:

1. Type the login ID under Account Access on the home page.
2. Next, click on the numbers and letters (if using a restricted access PIN) of the PIN using the mouse and virtual keyboard on the screen. (Each number and/or letter will appear as an asterisk in the textbox above the virtual keyboard.) When finished, click the "GO" button.
3. Once in myPay, users will continue to navigate as usual.

TREA CHAPTER 115 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of 5 May 2007, was called to order by Ralph Donais, President. Del Fuller led the Invocation & Mark Davidson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Several Guests were acknowledged at this time.

Approval of Minutes: Rod Erickson is at the state DAV meeting this weekend. No changes were requested to the published news letters so the minutes are approved.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Hair is living in Washington DC. President Donais gave the report in his absence. The Chapter has assets of \$4,830.82. In Checking we have \$1,796.82 and \$3,034 in savings. First quarter printing and mailing \$125.00 for printing and \$20.44 postage. Dennis has picked up coupons to reduce our printing cost. Motion was made by Dick Habeck second by Linda Davidson to pay for the Award of Merit medals that are being given out at the JROTC School in our area. Motion Carried. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report made by Del Fuller and Mark second the report. A request was made by President Donais for someone to take over the Treasurer's position. No one volunteered for the position at this time.

Legislative Report: Talking points were handed out to members attending the meeting and a discussion was held. The head of the committees in both the House and Senate opposed the tax exemption bill and would not allow the bill to move forward to the floor. The House and Senate have killed the bill for this session. The Governor still wants our tax exemption to be added back into the Tax Bill. A veto is coming for the first round at least. We will have to wait to see what happens. The Veteran's Omnibus Bills was passed with monies for many Veterans' programs in this bill. The Legislature allotted \$250,000 for the WWII Memorial dedication, but it is only matching fund money. That means that donations have to be made and the state will match them up to their amount. There have been several letters to the editor that have been printed around the state. There has been nothing in the metro area as of this meeting. Emails have also been sent out to many around the state.

Membership Report: Mark gave the membership report. We have 294 members as of the 31st of March. A paper copy of the report was received by Mark. Mark sent out twenty or so renewal letter and hasn't heard anything

back. We are working on getting the report via email so that we can make changes to the listing when needed.

Chaplain's Report & Metro Vets Report: No Report

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business: Brat Sale at Cub Foods in Elk River was discussed at this time. No one was interested in doing a booth this year.

The No confidence email about National leadership was discussed at this time. Email correspondence was sent out by email to most of our members. Discussion was held at this time. The Mid Term meeting was held and as of today nothing has been heard from the board. Where the money from TREA has gone was brought up during the discussion. Money has been borrowed because of shortages and when asked no answers have been given as to how much money has been paid back. As chapter president the questions that I have asked our national president about PNP Riddle spending the legislative monies has not been answered. Motion was made by Dennis Rock and second by Mark

Davidson that we add our chapter's name to the no confidence email.

TREA National Convention was discussed at this time. Members were asked to attend the meeting. The size of our Chapter allows for six delegates, who would have one primary and one proxy vote. We could have up to twelve chapter votes. We are still encouraging MAL's members around the state to attend. TREA is made up of 80% MAL members. Last year only one MAL was at the convention. We will continue to send out emails and newsletters to ALL TREA members in Minnesota. The problem of National not using nation wide members to staff positions is so they don't have to finance travel to Colorado was discussed.

Good of the Order: Guest and speaker, David Drajna, Volunteer Recruiting Chairperson of the Armed Forces Service Center informed the audience about the Center. Established on 22 November 1970 at the Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport, the Center is staffed by a volunteer work force 24 hours, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. Each year over 20,000 active duty servicemen, service women and their families enjoy the facility consisting of a lounge, kitchen, bunkrooms and refreshments. Dave reported that in March 2007, 26 men,

92 women and 165 dependent passed through the Center. During the period of November 1970 to April 2007 there were 716,945 armed services personnel have received assistance at the Center. There is a strong on-going need for volunteers to staff the Center in 4-hour shifts. Dave will be happy to answer questions via his home phone 651-631-9454. TREA could have a member on the board if so desired.

Award of Merit is being given out to most of the JROTC schools in the Metro area as they have asked that we present the award. The award is given out to the Senior Enlisted member of the JROTC Unit. A medal and ribbon are presented to each recipient.

WWII Memorial Dedication was discussed. We need donations to match the states funding. Our local bus company Vision Bus Company is donating five buses for the event. The local Legion and VFW are working to help with the program locally. A medallion and picture will be given to each WWII Veteran that attends.

Retiree Activity Days this year are on August 24th at the Air Force Reserve Station at Fort Snelling. On August 25th at Camp Ripley north of Little Falls, sponsored by our Chapter 115. Military benefit advisors and local Legislators will

be speaking. On 29th September is the RAD at Mystic Lake Casino. Chapter President Donais will be giving a presentation on the recently concluded Minnesota Legislation session.

Chapter Meeting Dates: Discussion was held to move our meeting dates because there is a conflict with DAV meeting dates. It was further discussed about having email meetings instead of meeting at a location. At this time most of our chapter members have not indicated that they have email. Normally there isn't anyone running for the same office so our voting could be done by acclimation by using our new letter and email. A motion was made Del and 2nd by Dick to have our meetings held the 2nd Saturday of the Month. Motion was amended to have our August meeting following the AFRAD at Camp Ripley after the day's events. Motion Carried. Benediction was held by Del.

Motion was made by Mark Davidson to adjourn and a 2nd by Dick. Motion passed. The next meeting will be at Camp Ripley following the AFRAD. Time and building number to follow in other correspondence and it will be posted on our web site.

SAVE WITH THE ARMED FORCES VACATION CLUB

The Armed Forces Vacation Club (AFVC) is a "Space Available" program offering DoD-affiliated personnel the opportunity to take affordable condominium vacations at resorts around the world for only \$299 per unit per week. AFVC offers a variety of rental programs and options including condominium units that resort owners are not currently using, weekly resort condos in high-demand locations, nightly getaways, vacation homes, and special offers. For more information, visit the [Armed Forces Vacation Club website](#). Find military-only travel deals, Space-Available travel info, discount travel offers, and more at [Military.com's Travel Center](#).

CHAPTER CONTACTS

President:

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:

Rod Erickson
1672 Cnty Rd 146
Holyoke, MN 55749
Voice & Fax 218-496-9248

roddorrick@frontiernet.net

Acting Treasurer:

Ralph Donais

Past President:

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

Chaplain:

Frank Buhl
1627 13th Ave SE
St Cloud, MN 56304
Voice 320-656-9439

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

Newsletter:

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

Parliamentarian:

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

Webmaster:

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

Web sites:

Chapter 115:
www.trea115.org

National HQ:
www.trea.org

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 25, 2007
Following AFRAP at Fort Ripley, MN
Details to follow & on Chapter website

Saturday, November 10, 2007

Saturday, February 9, 2008

Saturday, May 10, 2008

All meetings are held at 1100 hours at the VFW Memorial Complex, 7350 Quaday, Otsego, Minnesota. Phone 763-241-5225. As always, spouses and guests are invited to attend!

From I-94 in Rogers:

Go north on highway 101 towards Elk River to CR 37. Turn Left at the light. Second road on the Left is Quaday Ave NE and turn Right.. You will see several brown buildings which are the VFW Sport complex on your Right..

From Highway 10 in Elk River:

From Elk River take Hwy 101 South towards Rogers to CR 37. Turn Right. Second road on Right will be Quaday. Turn Right. . You will see several brown buildings which are the VFW Sport complex on your Right.



Central Minnesota Chapter 115
The Retired Enlisted Association
Post Office Box 313
St Cloud, MN 56302-0313

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 2777
St Cloud, MN

(mailing label)

VETERAN'S FEDERAL LEGISLATION

The following Members of the House have asked to cosponsor HR 1222, the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. This brings the total cosponsors of HR 1222 to 80: Jo Ann Davis - R-Virginia, Robin Hayes - R-North Carolina, John Lewis - D-Georgia, Jim Moran - D-Virginia, Mike Rogers - R-Alabama, and Michael Turner - R-Ohio. Cosponsors of HR 1222 are marked with an asterisk (*).

1. Fulfills promises to young recruits that quality health care would be available to them when they retired after a career in uniformed service to their country.
2. Allows Military Retirees to opt out of the Tricare military health system and enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) plan if Tricare does not provide them adequate health care.
3. Maintains and improves access to the military pharmacy benefit for Military Retirees who opt out of Tricare and enroll in FEHB.

The following Members of the House have asked to cosponsor HR 1223, the Keeping Faith with the Greatest Generation Military Retirees Act. This brings the total cosponsors of HR 1223 to 60: John Lewis - D-Georgia, Mike Rogers - R-Alabama, and Michael Turner - R-Ohio. Cosponsors of HR 1223 are marked with a pound sign (#).

1. "Keeping Faith with the Greatest Generation Military Retirees Act" (HR 1223) – Addresses a specific obligation Congress has to military retirees who entered the uniformed services prior to 1956. They joined the service under one set of rules but retired under a different set of rules that stripped them of health care that had been provided routinely to them. In 2002, a Federal Appeals Court called on Congress to use its legal authority to address the "moral claims" of this class of military retirees.
2. Waives Medicare Part B Premiums for Military Retirees who entered the uniformed services prior to December 7, 1956, because they entered the service under one set of rules but retired under a different set of rules that stripped them of promised and earned health care.

Minnesota legislator *McCollm* voted in favor. Minnesota legislators who haven't voted are: *Walz, Kline, Ramstad, Ellison, Bachmann, C.Peterson,* and 8 Oberstar

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