



EAGLE NEWS

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

February, March & April 2008

Only law firm in the State of Minnesota that is dedicated to veterans, service members, wounded warriors and their families opens.

Attorneys, John Baker, Adam Wadd and Sharon Clark-Williams are pleased to announce that as of the New Year, they have opened a new law firm that specializes in providing legal services to veterans, service members, wounded warriors and all their families. Baker, Wadd & Williams LLP is a full service law firm offering legal services to meet all the needs of those connected to the military. Services include family and criminal law, veterans benefits (all types), military law, employment law, small business and non-profit representation. Our ideal is to help military personnel, veterans, wounded

New Law Firm Serving Veterans
warriors and all of their families at every stage of their life.

Currently, we are located in Woodbury, Minnesota but soon we will move to a permanent location in the Maplewood Executive Center, 2785 White Bear Avenue North, Maplewood, Minnesota.

We are extremely excited about this new endeavor and believe that now, more than ever, is when this type of law firm is necessary. We also believe that we are in a unique position to "serve" because we have served and know how to speak the language. John Baker is retired from twenty-two years in the U. S. Marine Corps. Joining John is a Navy veteran – Adam Wadd. Adam served in the submarine corps for six years. The third partner is Sharon Clark-Williams. Sharon is

uniquely qualified because she is a Blue Star Mother, married to a retired Marine and has been the lead legal researcher at a major corporation on military and veteran law. Contact information is listed below along with our temporary office information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

John Baker
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This e-mail was received in January 2008, but is still important and a reminder for all of us to carefully review all documents we received for accuracy. This situation would have been a catastrophe for Captain Pothier's spouse upon his passing.

Guys,
"Just wanted to let you know that the same as many of you, I recently received my Military Retiree Account

Military Retiree Account Statement
Statement. Please review the back of your statement and verify who you have designated as the beneficiary in case you die. Mine has changed to someone I don't even know (Cathy J. McMillin "wife") as getting 100%. Based upon the fact that recently the VA had military retiree personnel information compromised it is interesting that somehow my beneficiaries have changed. If you look at the broader picture of what

this means that many veterans probably wouldn't catch this and that as we lose more of our fellow service men and women each day this would leave their dependents without the benefit they deserve. I will be calling DOD first day they are open as well as the DOD IG and local congressman."

*Semper Fidelis,
Gerald T. Pothier
Capt. USMC (Ret)
1951-1988*

This bi-monthly publication offers national information about topics of interest to all retirees. The writers for News Briefs, National Committee updates, The Senior Citizens League

TREA National Publication "The Voice"
and the Washington Legislative Update have taken the time to provide the most current and accurate news available.. The Dear Editor gives each of us the opportunity to share

our opinions with others. Where ever you get information about military retiree benefits and issues, share it with others.

TREA CHAPTER 115 CENTRAL MINNESOTA MINUTES OF 9 FEBRUARY 2008

Chapter President, Ralph Donais, brought the meeting to order at 1100

hours at the VFW Memorial Complex, 7350 Quaday Ave. NE, Otsego, MN.

Del Fuller gave the invocation and Dick Habeck led the Pledge of Allegiance. Individuals introduced

themselves around the table. A quorum was present.

The minutes of the chapter meeting of 3 November 2007 were reviewed. **Motion** made and **seconded** to accept the minutes as published in the chapter newsletter. **Motion carried.**

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. There was a discussion about the chapter still waiting for the National 3rd quarter rebate in the amount of \$150.00.

Ralph Donais started a discussion about legislative issues. The retirement tax issue is an issue of the United Veteran's Legislative Council (UVLC) and is one of the Governor's 35 issues for this legislative year. Ralph also mentioned that the new spinal injury unit at the Minneapolis VAMC is ahead of schedule. Ralph also mentioned that the next UVLC meeting is on Wednesday, 5 March 2008 and will be at Building 9 of the Minneapolis VA campus.

Mark Davidson gave the membership report. As of 31 December 2007, the chapter has 287 members. Mark has mailed out twenty membership applications to prospective members.

There were no Chaplain's or Metrovets reports. Rick Erickson mentioned that the increase in TRICARE costs have been put on a hold until the summer of 2008.

Ralph Donais gave the Presidents report. Ralph mentioned that the next Military Action Group (MAG) meeting will be on Monday, 11 February 2008 at the State Office Building. Usually Ralph and Rick attend these meetings.

Past President Dick Habeck swore in the 2008 Chapter Officers: Ralph

Whether you have individual or family Active or Inactive Duty TRICARE or one of the Retiree and their family members TRICARE options there are two resources in Minnesota to answer your questions. TriWest Healthcare Alliance (or TriWest) can be reached 24/7 at internet www.triwest.com and toll free 1-888-874-9378 or at Minnesota TRICARE Service Center walk-in only at Suite 145, 2626 East 82nd Street in Bloomington, east of the Mall of America. The two staff

Donais, President; Mark Davidson, 1st Vice President; Rod Erickson, Secretary; & Dennis Rock, Treasurer.

Unfinished Business:

1. The UVLC dues for 2008 have been paid.
2. There was no report about the internet site.
3. There was a discussion about asking the MALs to donate for the cost of the newsletter.
4. The Chapter will sponsor the AFRAD at Camp Ripley, MN on 23 August 2008.
5. There was a discussion about the possibility of hosting AFRADS in other parts of the state. Maybe somewhere in southern Minnesota?

New Business:

1. There was a discussion about doing a fund raiser this summer at the Cub grocery store in Elk River. The members present agreed to have Ralph select a weekend to do this.
2. There was a discussion about holding meetings in other parts of the state. It was noted that when this was tried in the past, the turnout was not very large.
3. There was a discussion about the Commander's Task Force (CTF). The CTF consists of all of the commanders of all of the chartered organizations except for TREA.
4. Ralph mentioned that Billy Oneyear had passed away.
5. There was a discussion about moving the chapter meetings back to St. Cloud, MN. The consensus of the members present was to continue having the meetings in Otsego, MN.
6. There was a discussion about input to the internet site. Articles of interest would be IRAC military members wending e-mails about the good things that are happening. It is felt that the news does not

TRICARE RESOURCES

members are available Monday through Friday 0730 to 1230 and 1330 to 1630 on a first come, first serve basis, no appointment is required, except on Federal holidays. If you have a telephone question, dial 1-888-874-9378. If you need help filling out forms, changing coverage or want face to face assistance, walk in to the Bloomington office.

If you do have access to TriWest internet site, there is a wealth of

publicize these enough. Also articles pertaining to military members personal issues should be sent to the web master.

7. **Motion** by Curt Swanson, **second** by Jim Gray to donate \$25.00 to the VFW Memorial Complex for the use of their facilities. **Motion carried.**

Good of the Order:

1. It was mentioned that the mileage to the VA medical facilities has increased.
2. There was a discussion about the possibility of a new VA clinic in Sherburne County.
3. There was a discussion and handout of the 2008 RADs.
 - a. 22 August, Rosemount, MN.
 - b. 23 August, Camp Ripley, MN.
 - c. 5 September, Ft. McCoy, WI.
 - d. 26 September, Duluth, MN.
 - e. 27 September, Selfridge, MI.
 - f. 25 October, Rock Island, IL.
4. The new requirement for non-profit organizations to file with the IRS was mentioned.
5. There was a discussion about expanding the chapter's mailing list to include other service organizations.
6. There was a discussion about having a fund raiser when other organizations are holding their meetings.

Motion by Curt Swanson, **second** by Del Fuller to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Ralph Donais adjourned the meeting at 1220 hours.

Respectfully submitted: Rick Erickson, Secretary

Approved: Ralph Donais, Chapter President

information about coverage, claim status, network providers and payment of enrollment fees online. Remember, TRICARE eligibility is verified through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting system (DEERS). We each are responsible for insuring our individual and/or family information is accurate by telephoning DEERS at 1-800-538-9552, Monday through Friday from 0600 to 1530 Pacific Standard Time except Federal holidays.

UPDATING PERSONAL INFORMATION IN DEERS

Things you need to do if your life changes. **REMINDER:** Please keep records updated in the event of life changes, such as marriage, divorce, or death of spouse/beneficiary. If you need assistance please contact the Retiree Activities Office, 1255 Vandenberg Blvd. Suite 121, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas 72099. Phone numbers 501-987-6095, Toll-Free Number: 1-877-815-3111. Our office hours: 7:00am – 3:00p

Updating Personal Information

You should update your record in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) within 30 days whenever you experience any of the following life events (*this list is not all-inclusive*):

Change in sponsor's status:

Retiring or separating from active duty

National Guard or Reserve member activation or deactivation

Change in service status (i.e.

enlisted to officer, branch change)

Getting married or divorced

Having a baby or adopting a child

Moving to a new location for any reason

Becoming entitled to Medicare (either you or a family member)

If you are enrolled in a TRICARE plan such as TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Prime Remote, TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Prime Overseas or TRICARE Global Remote Overseas, make sure to report your

address change to your [regional contractor](#) or [TRICARE Area Office](#).

Verifying and Updating DEERS Information

Mistakes or outdated information in the DEERS database can cause problems with TRICARE claims. For example, retail network pharmacies check TRICARE eligibility through DEERS and prescriptions will be filled only for beneficiaries who are listed as eligible.

To enroll family members or update DEERS records, sponsors must complete an *Application for Department of Defense Common Access Card and DEERS Enrollment (DD Form 1172)* and provide other documentation, such as marriage, birth, or death certificates, Social Security numbers, separation papers (*DD Form 214*), Medicare cards, etc.

Each family member's eligibility record must be updated separately when changes occur. *Note: If the sponsor is not available, family members can add or delete family members from DEERS with a notarized [DD Form 1172](#) or a Power of Attorney.*

You can verify and update DEERS in one of the following ways:

In Person: To add or delete family members, visit a local ID card office. You can search for an office near you by ZIP code, city or state by visiting the [ID card office](#)

locator. Call the office first to verify location and business hours.

By Phone: Call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at **1-800-538-9552** to update your addresses, e-mail address and phone numbers. (TTY/TDD for the deaf: **1-866-363-2883**)

By Fax: Fax address, e-mail address or phone number changes to the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at **1-831-655-8317**.

By Mail: Mail changes to the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office. You must also mail supporting documentation if you are adding or deleting a family member:

Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office

Attn: COA

400 Gigling Road

Seaside, CA 93955-6771

Online: You have two options for updating personal information online:

Visit the [DEERS Web site](#) and follow the steps to update your address, e-mail address and phone numbers online.

Via the [Beneficiary Web Enrollment Web site](#). The site is linked directly to the DEERS database, so when you update your information via this portal, it not only updates DEERS, but also with your regional contractor.

CHAPTER CONTACTS

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FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

May 10, 2008

August 23, 2008 following AFRAP at Fort Ripley, MN. Details to follow in July newsletter & on Chapter website.

November 8, 2008

February 14, 2009

All meetings are held on Saturdays at 1100 hours at the VFW Memorial Complex, 7350 Quaday, Otsego, Minnesota. Phone 763-241-5225. Spouses & guests are always 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.

The Chapter 115 "Eagle News" is scheduled to be published quarterly in January, April, July and October. Send news to dennisvictoria@usfamily.net.

Central Minnesota Chapter 115
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April 22, 2008

Greeting to Chapter 115 Members!

I wanted to add this short note to let all of you know where we are at on the pension exemption bill in the state legislature. At present the Tax committee chairs are holding it up once again. Senator Baak is the tax chair and Ann Lenczewski is the house tax chair. Both chairs dropped our bill last year out of the tax omnibus bill.

This year as in the past we have tired to show the legislators that this is an effort to bring Second Career Military to Minnesota. Not only are they bringing someone who is well qualified to work in our industries, but they bring a pay check and their own medical coverage, along with them that will help with the states short falls.

Please get involved and start calling our legislators.

Ralph Donais
TREA Chapter 115

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