



EAGLE NEWS

The official Newsletter of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) Central Minnesota
Chapter 115
August thru October 2008

VFW WASHINGTON WEEKLY Sept. 12, 2008

COLA Passes House: The House cleared a cost-of-living bill Wednesday that would provide an increase for veterans with service-connected disabilities, as well as dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for families of deceased veterans. The Senate passed the veterans' COLA measure in July. The COLA bill, S 2617, provides for a Dec. 1 increase in disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation, and pensions that will match whatever increase is provided in Social Security benefits. The increase, which applies to about 2.8 million veterans and survivors, would first appear in January paychecks. The Social Security increase won't be known until mid-October, but is expected to be a minimum of 6 percent. The Social Security COLA automatically applies to military and federal civilian retired pay, but veterans' disability and survivor benefits and pensions increase only through the enactment of new legislation. The COLA bill now awaits the President's signature.

Wounded Warrior Resource Center Established: The Department of Defense announced that the Military OneSource service has established a Wounded Warrior Resource Center telephone number and e-mail address for service members and their families. Service members and their families can now call toll-free (800) 342-9647 or e-mail wwrc@militaryonesource.com 24/7 to request support.

Assistance provided by the resource center will not replace the specialized wounded warrior programs established by each of the military services, but it will offer another avenue of assistance for military facilities, health care services and/or benefits information. The Wounded Warrior Resource Center meets the requirements of Section 1616 of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act to ensure wounded families and caregivers have a central number to call at any time.

MORE DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO REPLACE, RENEW ID CARDS

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFRN) – Released September 22, 2008. Homeland Security Directive 12 now requires retirees and family members seeking to renew or replace a military identification card to provide two types of ID.

Retirees and family members needing identification cards must have two of the following types of current identification – one of which must include a photo:

- Driver's license or ID issued by a state or outlying U.S. commonwealth or possession
- ID card issued by federal, state or local government agencies or entities
- School ID card with a photograph
- Voter's registration card
- U.S. military ID card
- U.S. passport
- Certificate of U.S. citizenship
- Certificate of naturalization
- For persons younger than 18, who are unable to present a document previously listed, they may bring:
 - School record or report card
 - Clinic, doctor or hospital record
 - Day-care or nursery school record

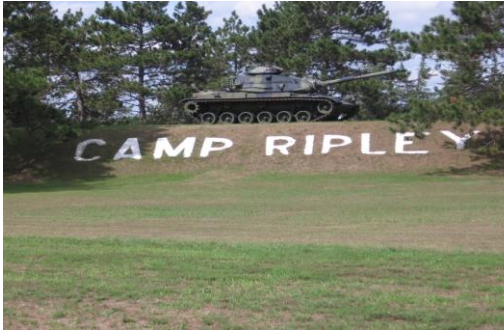
The listing above is not all inclusive. A list of acceptable documents can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-9.pdf>, Page 4. Before visiting a military ID card issuing facility, people may want to call first to determine what specific documents may be required, and to verify the process to renew or replace an ID card. For contact information and the location of the nearest ID card issuing facility, visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>. On this Web site, people can search by city, state or ZIP code.

CHAPTER 115 HOSTS 7TH ANNUAL AFRAD AT CAMP RIPLEY

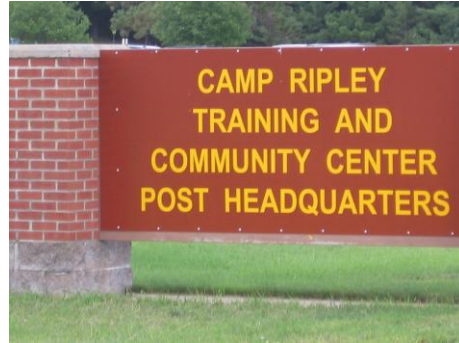
Over 200 retirees from Minnesota, Arizona, Wisconsin, South Dakota and North Dakota gathered at Camp Ripley on Saturday, August 23rd. The Minnesota National Guard leadership allowed attendees to use base billeting, shop at the PX, eat at the Dining Facility and conduct the AFRAD in their Training and Community Center. The AFRAD give attendees the opportunity to update their ID cards, listen to specialist speakers who work with our benefit programs on a daily basis, and have a one on one discussion with exhibitors in the Canteen.

Pictures on Page 2

Pictures from Camp Ripley AFRAD:



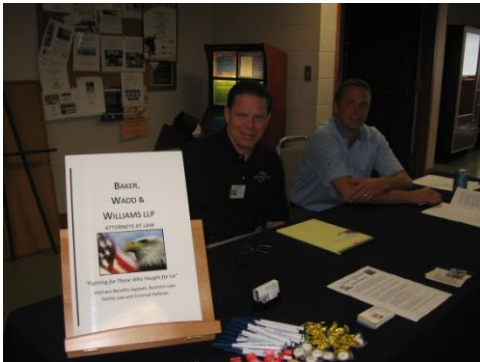
Our Host



Location of AFRAD



Donald Nesheim & Robert Rupp of MOAA



Adam Wadd & John Baker of Baker, Wadd & Williams, Attorney at Law



Rolando Sotolongo of Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs



Sandy Larson of Minnesota Veteran Homes



Speaker Alicia Emanuel of DFAS



Barbara Oemcke & Carlos Guzman of St Cloud Hospital



Bill Walters RSO McCoy & Tammy Hunter of Delta Dental



Ralph Donais of TREA Chapter 115



Amber Herem of TRICARE



Cynda Turner of CWF serving lunch

TREA CHAPTER 115 CENTRAL MINNESOTA MINUTES OF 23 AUGUST 2008

Call to Order - Ralph Donais, President. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance. Announcements & Welcome Guests

Approval of Minutes: Motion and second to accept minute of last meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Checking \$1,456.90 Savings \$3,053.04

Membership: 286 members on the current roster. 25 renewals and 4 terminations.

Old Business: National Convention: No one is attending the convention this year due to the cost and location. Discussion held on lack of communication from board.

JROTC: We went to thirteen schools this year. We pay for the awards. Members are needed to help deliver the awards. We will be participating in the program again in 2009.

Chapter Website: Inputting the internet site: Members need to send information to Dave so it can be put on our web site

trea115.org

New Business:

- AFRAD (2009?) Discussion held on date for the Ripley AFRAD. Motion made and second to hold the AFRAD on 29 August 2009. Motion carried.
- Fund Raisers (Brats at Elk River CUB or elsewhere?) Discussion held on holding a fund raiser. Monies raised could be used to help with the costs.

- 2009 National Convention at Sioux Falls, SD: Discussion held on chapter representatives to attend. Several members stated that they will be attending.
- Next Chapter Meeting Place: The meeting will be held in Otsego at the VFW Memorial Complex at 1100 on 8 November. Directions to the complex can be found in the new letter.
- Members to represent TREA at other meetings: Discussion held about member attending meeting in the twin cities.
- Nominations for Chapter Officers: Mark Davidson nominated for 1st Vice. Dennis Rock nominated for Treasurer. Ralph Donais nominated for President. Elections will be held at November meeting

For the Good of the Order:

- Thanks from Jim Gray to our chapter for assistance in getting the word out about the other RADs.
- News letter: Discussion held on sending our news letter out to all TREA members in the state. We will send out to the entire membership in Minnesota during the 2009 Legislation period. Special thanks to Rod Erickson for all he has done to make the presentations go so well. Without his expertise the presentations would not have been possible.

Benediction held and the meeting was adjourned.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES – Weekly Update 9/26/08

Although the final National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has been released, we are disappointed in its final form. What makes it interesting is that a Conference Committee never actually was appointed or met. The final details were worked out by a bi-partisan group of the senior members of the House and Senate Armed Forces Committees. NAUS was heartened to see that the bill prohibits increases in TRICARE premiums, co-pays and drug co-pays for another year. However, another NAUS high-priority issue, the SBP/DIC offset was once again eliminated.

Medicare Part B to Remain Unchanged. For the first time since the year 2000, Medicare Part B premiums will not go up in 2009. Even though the Medicare Part B premium will not increase, the Part A deductible will. The deductible that Medicare beneficiaries must pay for hospital stays of up to 60 days will rise \$44 next year to \$1,068 from \$1,024 this year.

VA Establishes ALS as a Presumptive Compensable Illness Due to Military Service. On Tuesday, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that all veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) would become presumptively compensable for the illness. This would apply to all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active service in the military. For more information on VA's disability compensation program, go to www.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000.

SBP Premium Reminder. On October 1, years of work by NAUS will come to fruition when those military retirees who are at least 70 years old and have paid SBP premiums for 30 years or more will no longer have to make those payments. You will see an increase in your take-home pay in your November pay.

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:

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

rodorrick@frontiernet.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

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

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

November 8, 2008
February 14, 2009
May 9, 2009
August 22, 2009 at Camp Ripley
after the Saturday AFRAD

All meetings 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.

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



THE

**RETIRED ENLISTED
ASSOCIATION**

Serving the Total Force

The Voice of the Enlisted:
Retired/Active Duty/Reserves/National Guard
"United We Stand"

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

MAILING LABEL

TREA CHAPTER 115 SUPPORTS MYSTIC LAKE RAD ON 27 October 2008



Ralph Donais (left) and Dave Hammer (right) attended the RAD at Mystic Lake Casino. Membership handouts were given out to over 100 prospective members. Ralph spoke from the podium about the 2008 state Legislative session and the Veteran's issues that came before our state Senators and Representatives.

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