



# EAGLE NEWS

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

July, August, September 2006

## MN LEGISLATURE VETERANS PACKAGE

A portion of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's veterans package, made it through the Minnesota Legislature. The \$9 million original package sought by the governor was aimed at helping returning veterans adjust back to civilian life and be successful.

The final version totaled \$3.4 million in new money for the programs. Expenditures include:

1. \$2 million for the State Soldier's Assistance Program, a general program for financially supporting veterans as they make the transition back to their communities.
2. \$100,000 to create a new veteran's website that will provide a one-stop source for information and benefits.
3. \$200,000 for grants to counties to enhance services provided by the County Veterans Service Officers.
4. \$600,000 to establish a group of representatives at Minnesota colleges and schools who can help returning veterans get into school.
5. \$500,000 in additional money to serve veterans, particularly minorities and women, who may have not been aware of the benefits they have coming.
6. \$80,000 to the VFW, the DAV, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Vietnam Veterans of America for veteran's services.
7. \$12.1 million to the Veterans Homes in bonding money that includes \$6 million in asset preservation; \$637,000 for a Fergus Falls special care unit; \$700,000 for a Hasting supportive housing unit; \$600,000 for a dementia wander area at Luverne; \$2.46 million for an emergency power system at the Minneapolis Veterans Home, and \$1.7 million for a Silver Bay master plan.

In other action, the lawmakers:

1. Requested the colleges, universities and the University of Minnesota to treat all military veterans as residents of the state for tuition purposes.
2. Stops late charges on veteran students who are waiting for government educational assistance.
3. Gave military personnel on leave free access to all State parks.
4. Provided employment leave for family members of an injured or killed soldier. Employers must also provide unpaid leave for family members to attend a military ceremony.
5. Authorized two plaques in the Court of Honor at the Capital, one for Medal of Honor recipients and one for military war dogs and their handlers.

## TREA CHAPTER 115 MEETING MINUTES

TREA Chapter 115 Board of Directors/Membership Meeting on Saturday August 5, 2006 was called to order at 11:00 AM - Ralph Donais, President.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance - Del Fuller

Announcements and Welcome Guests - Ralph Donais, President

Approval of Minutes - Motion by Del Fuller, second by Mark Davidson to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Tom Hair, Treasurer/Ralph Donais, President--The report was distributed and the items discussed were, \$81.25 for the food for the May 2006 meeting, \$50.00 for the post office box, \$166.80 for the web site and \$74.54 for the cost of the newsletter. **Motion** by Rod Erickson, **second** by Dennis Rock to accept the treasurer's report. **Motion carried.**

Legislative Report - Ralph Donais. There was a discussion about a meeting at the state capitol of the Military Action Group (MAG). The purpose of the meeting is to discuss next year's agenda with the #1 priority being military retiree income tax relief.

Membership report - Mark Davidson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. The chapter now has 292 members.

Health Benefits Advisor update - Rod Erickson. There was a discussion about TRICARE being extended for returning activated National Guard and Reservists.

President's report - Ralph Donais, President

1. Ralph indicated that there are still vacant chapter positions. He asked for individuals to step forward to fill these vacancies.
2. Newsletter items are to be submitted by September 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. Ralph indicated that he had received the program for TREA National Convention. He also asked if there were any others planning on attending.

Old Business: There was a discussion about the Chapter web site. Ralph thanked David Hammer for his excellent work. David gave a brief update about the site and the proposed updates.

New Business: There was an extensive discussion about the letter from TREA's National Headquarters to Dick Habeck referencing his open letter to the chapter members. Part of the discussion was about the fact that Past National President (PNP) Riddell attended the chapter meeting on March 18, 2006 (at which time he was the National President) and there was no indication that the National Headquarters had any problem with Dick's letter. During this discussion it was noted that chapter meetings are an excellent time to address concerns of the National Headquarters and this was not done.

Good of the Order: Ralph gave an update about the Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation Day (AFRAD) at Camp Ripley, MN on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and the Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) at Mystic Lake Casino on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

(CHAPTER 115 MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED)

Adjournment.. **Motion** by Dell Fuller, **second** by Dick Habeck to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.** The president adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Rodney A. Erickson, Secretary

APPROVED: Ralph Donais, President

## PERMANENT ID CARDS FOR SPOUSES

Spouses of military retirees that are 75 years old can now get permanent dependent ID cards. This can be done by mail through the 934<sup>th</sup> AW Customer Service. Call that office for instructions on mail procedures at (612) 713-1085.

## 2006 TREA National Convention Notes

**Wednesday Evening:** Opening ceremonies held at the Millennium Maxwell House in Nashville, Tennessee. Colors were present and all said the Pledge of Allegiance. President Riddell gave his opening speech to begin the convention. The Auxiliary held a ceremony to remind us of our fallen comrades.

Speeches then followed from VA Undersecretary William Turk, who said that new national cemeteries are now being established with 75 miles of veteran concentrations and that Fort Snelling cemetery is often used as a test site for new cold weather ideas before being used nationally. CSM Williams of the TN NG described their deployment, recruiting and retention. The Colors were retired and our convention was officially underway. There was a hospitality room for convention participants. Drinks and light snacks were served following the ceremony.

**Thursday Morning:** Convention called to order by President Riddell. Colors were posted by Chapter 29 Color Guard. Opening the Bible and invocation by TREA Chaplain Whitfield. The Pledge of Allegiance by President Riddell was then recited.

Roll Call of National Board.

Past National Presidents (PNP) and VIP's were recognized.

Roll Call of Certification of Delegates.

Approval of Special Rules of Order.

Approval of Convention Agenda.

Approval of 2005 Convention Minutes.

Nominating Committee Report (Nominations for 2006 BOD).

Nominations from the floor.

National Presidents Report.

Washington Office Report.

PNPC Report.

Awards Committee Report.

TREA Senior Citizens League Report.

TREA Memorial Foundation Report

Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee Report.

Financial Report.

Five Year Plan Committee Report.

Chapter Start-Up & Assistance Committee Report.

Membership Committee Report.

Public Relation Committee Report.

Legislative Affairs Committee Report.

Scholarship Committee Report

## SEND CARD TO IRAQ VET IN VA HOSPITAL

Kathleen Brockway reports that some of the hospitalized Iraq vets are not getting any cards or letters. Please take the time to send one or more cards/letters to these vets at IRAQ VET, VA Medical Center, 1 Veterans Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55417

## NOTES FROM PRESIDENT DONAIS

1. Members with e-mail addresses please e-mail him your current name and address and phone number. Please include any need that Chapter 115 could provide you with. There is often breaking news affecting our retirees and e-mail is the fastest method to distribute the information.
2. Anyone who might be willing to be the TREA Chapter 115 representative to interface with the limited Minnesota High School ROTC units, please contact President Donais for details.

Convention Committee Report.

Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Report.

Chaplain Report.

Golf Committee Report.

Thursdays Meeting was Adjourned.

Workshops were held in the late afternoon to help chapters with all of the activities that a chapter should be doing to make running and keep your chapter in good order.

Thursday evening was the President Dinner "LeRoy's Southern Comfort". The food was served buffet style. Following the buffet was the presentation of chapter awards. This year we didn't receive any awards, but we are already working to see that we are the top runners at the Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. The hospitality room was open once more to help quench your thirst.

**Friday Morning:** The Convention convened once more with the roll-call and certification of delegates. Candidates speeches were held for each of the positions by the candidates and one other person of their choosing. Once the speeches were finished there was a break to allow caucuses to discuss each candidates position and discuss voting strategy.

Upon returning from the break we were given our ballots and everyone voted. While the ballots were being counted business continued with our National Resolutions. Each resolution was read and a recommendation from the board was given. The final yes or no was voted on by the attendees.

Next the proposed Bi-Laws and Standing Rules changes were discussed and voted on in the same manner as the National Resolutions. At this time the newly elected officers were announced:

President	Patrick W. Corbett, Bellefonte, PA
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Billy D. Oneyear, Fountain, CO
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Charlie L. Flowers, Denver, CO
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Thomas R. Butch Liebaert, Superior, WI
Treasurer	Marvin A. Stout, Palmdale, CA
Office of Director	William King Jr. (2yr), Orlando, FL
Office of Director	Weldon B. Roberts (2yr), Paragould, AR

**Saturday:** The daytime was free for you to check out Nashville. I had the opportunity to visit Andrew Jackson historic home on the north side of Nashville called the Hermitage. Saturday evening was the final ceremonies. A Pow/Mia presentation was given which brought a tear to almost everyone there. At the end of the presentation we all joined hands and sang Lee Greenwoods "God

Bless the USA". The swearing in of the new board of directors followed the ceremony. TREA's guest for the evening was Corporal Alan Babin Jr. who was wounded in Iraq. His mother, Rosie Babin, told his story of how he has overcome the many surgeries and beaten the odds against him. His story was very moving and his mother presented it well. The colors were retired and the 2006 Convention dismissed.



Millennium Maxwell House Front Desk Welcoming attendees



Colorado Honor Guard



Opening Ceremonies. CSM Williams TNNG, UnderSecy Turk & President Riddle. Past President Washington at the microphone.



National President chairs Business Meeting of Chapter Presidents, Delegates & Board



Business Meeting Chapter 115 Delegate Rock and President Donais



Delegate Rock, wife Victoria and Veterans Administration Undersecretary William Turk



Pavilion Hospitality Building



Pat Corbett, National 1st VP leads Chapter Assistance Workshop



Delegate Rock with new friends from Texas

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

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## **PENTAGON "BUY-OUT" OF DISABLED MILITARY RETIREES**

About a month after the Korean War started in 1950 the Pentagon offered to "buy-out" disabled military retirees. One WW II retiree was offered \$4,018.56 to "sell" his military retiree ID card and benefits back to the Pentagon. His wife would also lose her ID card.

In the past many years I have spoken to many WW II veterans. Only one veteran I spoke to ever heard of the above offer and he took the "buy-out". I spoke to him about 1992 and he said that taking the offer was the worse thing that he ever did. He was an NCO and was wounded in Europe.

I would like to hear from WW II veterans who took the above offer or remembered the above Pentagon offer. A copy of a Pentagon letter pertaining to the "buy-out" is at <http://www.pentagonmaverick.com>, click on the "Pentagon," upper left. Source: Bob Sawallesh, [pentagonmaverick@aol.com](mailto:pentagonmaverick@aol.com)

## **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Saturday, November 4, 2006      Saturday, August 4, 2007  
Saturday, February 3, 2007      Saturday,  
November 3, 2007  
Saturday, May 5, 2007  
Saturday, August 4, 2007

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. After crossing the Crow River, the VFW is located to the left of Highway 101. Turn left on County Road 42 at the signal light. Then, take the next left on Quaday. The VFW will be about ½ mile on the left. You will see several brown buildings on the left.

### From Highway 10 in Elk River:

Go south to Highway 101 towards Rogers. After crossing the Mississippi River, the 2<sup>nd</sup> signal will be County Road 42. Take a right at County Road 42 and then left on Quaday. The VFW will be about ½ mile on the left. You will see several brown buildings on the left.

IF your mailing label contains incorrect information, contact Mark Davidson at [ldavidson77@msn.com](mailto:ldavidson77@msn.com)