



# EAGLE NEWS

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

July, August & September 2007

## TREA 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

250 members of TREA and TREA Auxiliary met in Charlotte, N.C. from 11 – 16 September. The Board addressed approximately 32 issues, from committee reports to bylaw and standing rule changes and elections.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were Board and National Committee meetings. Opening ceremonies were Thursday evening, followed Friday and Saturday with Chapter delegates. The Sunday Installation Banquet was the final event. Ralph Donais ran for Board member unsuccessful. Picture lower right, Chapter President Ralph Donais congratulated Mark Davidson as the 2007 TREA Member of the Year. Mark was recognized for all that he has done to promote TREA this past year.



Chapter 115 Delegates



Convention Delegates



TREA Member of the Year

## TREA CHAPTER 115 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of 26 August 2007 following the Camp Ripley RAD, was called to order by Ralph Donais, President. Del Fuller led the Invocation & Mark Davidson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: May meeting minutes were made by Dave Hammer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Gray. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Savings \$3037.79 and Checking \$1879.66. as of the last week in August. Balance does not include all of the bills for the AFRAD or the total fees taken in for the AFRAD.

Membership Report: 290 Chapter members at this time. We are receiving our reports by email. 30 renewals were sent out and 15 new member applications.

Chaplain's Report & Metro Vets Report: No Report

President's Report: We are still having a problem getting our members involved. We would like to have our members around the state get involved in their region to help recruit members and work on our legislative issues. There are over ten thousand retirees in the

state and TREA only has a little over eight hundred. Can we get members to be in local parades? We need to be seen in communities around the state. Thanks again to all those who work so hard to make the 2007 AFRAD a success.

Unfinished Business: AFRAD is finished for this year. Motion by Dennis Rock, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Hammer to purchase a frame for a letter of appreciation for the Camp Ripley Commanding Officer. Motion Carried

New Business: Nominations for 2008 officers are Ralph Donais

President, Mark Davidson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Rod Erickson Secretary, Dennis Rock Treasurer. The new board will be elected at the November meeting. 2008 meetings listed on mailing page. 2008 meetings are listed on mailing page. Motion passed to reimburse 2007 National Convention Chapter delegate(s) not to exceed \$600 for travel, lodging & registration fee; Chapter President same items, but for actual cost.

Good of the Order: Discussion held on membership tables at the RADs around Minnesota. Director Hund is not coordinating who is representing TREA at the RADs. We would

like stories for our fellow veterans in Iraq. If you know someone who is there have them send you a short story that we can put in our news letter. Special thanks to Dennis Rock for all of the work he has done on our news letters for the past year. Any things for the news letter send items to Dennis.

Meetings will be February 9<sup>th</sup>, May 10, August 23 following the AFRAD and November 1<sup>st</sup> for 2008.

Motion made to send news letter to all TREA members to include the MALs made by Mark Davidson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Hammer. Motion Carried.

The reason to send the news letter out to everyone so that they can be involved with TREA and possibly help with the RADs and State Legislation. The news letter is available on our web site. [trea115.org](http://trea115.org).

National Convention Chapter delegate(s) and president reimbursement not to exceed \$600 for travel, lodging & registration fee. Made by Dennis Rock, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Davidson. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be 3 November 2007

### TREA CHAPTER 115 SPONSORS CAMP RIPLEY RETREE APPRECIATION DAY



Saturday, August 25 was a clear and sunny day for the Camp Ripley AFRAD. 225 attendees participated in one of two sessions held at the Training and Community Center.

Our exhibitors were most gracious in spending all of Saturday speaking to the audience in the auditorium and then answering questions at their table in the cafeteria. The gymnasium was more suited for the lunch because of the great turn out of retirees and their spouses.

The Chapter thanks Camp Ripley Commander for allowing us to use this facility. To all the exhibitors who travel from in and out of Minnesota to be with us. Finally, to Ralph Donais, Chapter President for organizing this event (again), acquiring speakers, arranging food and doing the mailings. This was a team effort by everyone who attended.



Amber Herem of TriWest



Joan of Camp Ripley PX



Alicia Emanuel of DFAS



MOAA Experts



Lunch time



Del, Mark & Rod of TREA Chapter 115



Dave Hammer of MN Department Vet Affairs



Delta Dental Experts

## GOVERNOR PAWLENTY ANNOUNCES START UP OF NEW TOLL-FREE "VETERANS LINKAGE LINE"

**St. Paul** - To make it easier to find services and to ensure immediate crisis intervention, Governor Tim Pawlenty on August 1, 2007, announced the launch of LinkVet - the Veterans Linkage Line for Minnesota veterans and their family members. The toll-free customer service line is the first of its kind in the nation and will provide information referrals, immediate crisis intervention and psychological counseling 24 hours a day, seven days a week at **1-888-LINKVET (546-5838)**. The new line is up-and-running as of today.

"Our goal is to make Minnesota the best state for veterans to live," Governor Pawlenty said. "Understanding and navigating the many programs and services provided by state, federal and local governments can be discouraging. The Veterans Linkage Line will connect veterans and their family members with information on veterans' benefits, health care and reintegration. It's another way for us to make sure we thank and support those who serve our country."

LinkVet will be answered by trained staff at the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) and

Crisis Connection, a Twin Cities based non-profit mental health telephone counseling service. MDVA staff, who are veterans themselves, will manage the lines Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Crisis Connection social workers will field all crisis calls during business hours, and all calls after hours, on weekends and holidays.

LinkVet was developed by the Governor's Yellow Ribbon Task Force Crisis Line Workgroup. This group met during the spring of 2007 and included representatives from several state agencies, the National Guard and non-profit veteran services providers.

After discovering there were several toll-free lines for crisis intervention and suicide prevention for returning soldiers and veterans, and that United Way's 211 referral line is not cell phone accessible, the workgroup proposed a statewide one-stop call line for veterans similar to the Senior Linkage and Disability Linkage lines.

Veterans who call LinkVet and need to be transferred to someone other than a MDVA staff member will be

connected in a three-way call to the necessary resources. MDVA staff will remain on the line with the caller until the veteran's issue has been successfully resolved.

Revation, the company that has supplied the software for Senior Linkage and Disability Linkage lines, has agreed to provide a one-year free trial of the Veterans Linkage Line software. After the first year, there will be no additional hardware required and approximately \$0.04 per minute operating costs.

Last year, MDVA launched [www.minnesotaveteran.org](http://www.minnesotaveteran.org), a one-stop Web site for information about education, medical, employment, and other benefits. Information concerning military retirement, state and federal benefits, as well as education and pending legislation are included on the site. Governor Pawlenty proposed the Veterans One Stop Website as part of his 2006 military and veterans support legislative package.

For online access to LinkVet: [www.minnesotaveteran.org/LinkVet.htm](http://www.minnesotaveteran.org/LinkVet.htm)

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National HQ:  
[www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)



**FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

Saturday, November 3 2007  
Saturday, February 9, 2008  
Saturday, May 10, 2008  
Saturday, August 23, 2008  
(Following AFRAP at Camp Ripley, MN)  
Saturday, November 1, 2008

All meetings are held at 1100 hours at the VFW Memorial Complex, 7350 Quaday Ave NE, Otsego, MN. 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.



**THE**

**RETIRED ENLISTED  
ASSOCIATION**

Serving the Total Force

The Voice of the Enlisted:

Retired/Active Duty/Reserves/National Guard  
"United We Stand"

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