

THE VOICE

O f T h e E n l i s t e d

TREA Rolls into Vegas & Commits to Keep Winning:

2016 National Convention Recap



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

*Welcome to TREA President John I. Adams &
The 2016-2017 Board of Directors - pg. 5*

2015 TREA National Awards - pg. 10

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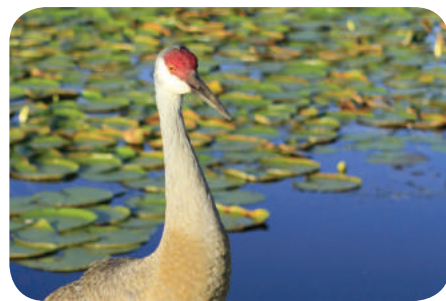


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The VOICE
is the flagship publication of TREA: The En-
listed Association, located at 1111 S. Abilene
Ct., Aurora, CO 80012.

Views expressed in the magazine, and the appearance of advertisement, do not necessarily reflect the opinions of TREA or its board of directors, and do not imply endorsement. The magazine (ISSN 1527-0467) is published quarterly by TREA, a nonprofit organization.



Magazine Staff

The VOICE is produced by DeCoste & Associates, LLC, a woman-owned small business located in Centennial, Colorado at 8200 Quebec St. #A3-219, Centennial, CO 80112.

The magazine staff can be reached by email at editor@trea.org. Editor-in-Chief, Kim DeCoste. Creative Director, Stephanie Short.

Editorial Office

Please send all written communication to TREA Headquarters at 1111 S. Abilene Ct., Aurora, CO 80012.

Submissions

The VOICE accepts articles and photographs on a continual basis, but does not pay for submissions. Please send all articles and photos via email to editor@trea.org or by mail to 1111 S. Abilene Ct., Aurora, CO 80012. There is no guarantee that all submissions will be published. One dollar of member's annual TREA membership dues pays for an annual subscription.

Deadlines

For copy and photos (with captions, please) the deadline is the 1st day of the month prior to magazine release. For the remainder of 2016-17 fiscal year, those dates are 10/1/16, 1/1/17, 4/1/17, and 7/1/17. Publication date is the 20th of the months in which magazines are being released.

Advertising

By their appearance, ads must not imply or infer any kind of TREA representation, warranty, or endorsement. For ad rates and a media kit, please email us at editor@trea.org or call 303-752-0660.

Postmaster (address change)

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Note from the Editor:

What a pleasure it was to join those of you who attended the Annual Convention in Las Vegas in September! It was my honor and pleasure to meet so many TREA members and to see TREA in action. You are an incredible group and we are so proud, as an editorial team, to have you as our client. This issue is dedicated to convention coverage, to help those who were unable to attend to get a feel for what took place. Most of what happened in Vegas will stay there, but not all!

We also have updated chapter news as well as a few bits of information that did not make it into the July edition. Our apologies for any oversights on that issue, which was the first for our team. We will continue to work to make this magazine as good as it can be, and something you all can rely upon for member information and updates on topics of interest.

We mentioned in July that we are on a new editorial calendar. As a reminder, please note that the mailed issues of The VOICE will continue to be sent quarterly, but now will be sent in the second month of each quarter, to allow for better coverage of major holidays and events. As always, your submissions are welcome. We do ask that you get them to us 30 days prior to the ship date to allow time for our team to compile, edit, and make sure all of the best content makes it into print.

You can reach us at: editor@trea.org with ideas, submissions, and feedback.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to give back to you for your devotion to our country, by allowing me and my team to produce this magazine for you. God bless you all. God bless America!

-Kim & the Editorial Team

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TREA FOUNDERS

George Skonce, 1915 – 2000
Dean Sorell, 1921 – 2004



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*The mission of TREA:
The Enlisted Association
is to enhance the quality
of life of uniformed
services enlisted personnel,
their families, and
survivors - including
honorably discharged
veterans and all retirees;
to stop the erosion of
earned benefits through
our legislative efforts;
to maintain our esprit
de corps, dedications
and patriotism; and to
continue our devotion
and allegiance to God
and country.*



A Letter from the TREA President By John I. Adams, TREA President

As TREA's new national President, I want to thank the convention delegates and the TREA members they represented for trusting me to lead this great organization for the next two years. This is the first time the national President will serve a two-year term and I pledge to do all I can to move TREA forward.

I think we also have a great Board of Directors. For the first time ever we have a Member-at-Large (MAL) on our board. He is Gregory Barnett and I am so pleased he has joined us.

Speaking of MALs, we had the largest number of MALs at our convention we've ever had. There were 12 and I hope we can increase that number at every convention in the future.

Some of you may not know that we have 15 different committees at the national level that deal with the various aspects of running TREA. Each member of the Board of Directors chairs at least one of those committees. Some chair two of them.

You may notice that most of those committees have new chairs this year. That's because I believe board members need to have knowledge about most areas of our organization, especially if he/she wants to hold the office of National President one day. I believe this will help them understand TREA much more completely. I had chaired several different committees as a director and the three vice president positions I held.

At the convention in Las Vegas we were able to accomplish a great deal and it seemed everyone enjoyed themselves. My thanks to all who attended and I hope to see more of you at the convention in Pittsburgh next year. This site was selected two years ago and more information will follow next spring.

For your long-range planning purposes the 2018 convention site is Fort Walton Beach, Fla. I want you to know that the Convention Committee will be looking at ways to cut the costs of attending our annual conventions. When we have a plan put together, we will be discussing it with your board of directors. Then, we will inform you what the plan will be.

Our conventions are important because not only do we get to renew old friendships and make new friends, but the important business of TREA is discussed and decided each year. It seems

the attempts by so many politicians and bureaucrats in Washington to cut our promised and earned benefits never ends. That is especially true right now with health care, the commissaries, and even the MWR programs all under threat.

The strength of TREA directly affects our ability to fight to protect your earned benefits and that means the board and I have a lot of issues to work on. Some areas include a Marketing Plan, a plan to generate income, and a plan to utilize the 25,000 plus volunteer recruiters to recruit and retain members. We'll also be looking for ways to generate more income and our Finance Committee will play a major role in this effort.

As this is written we still don't know what Congress will do with regard to military personnel benefits and we still may not know by the time you read this. Once they start meeting again after the elections they'll only have a few weeks to try and accomplish what they couldn't do for a year.

Major legislation remains to be finished, including a bill that would make major changes to the VA, the National Defense Authorization Act -- which would overhaul the military health care system, and then funding the entire federal government for the remainder of the 2017 fiscal year. Of course there is also a great deal of other important legislation that is not directly related to military personnel so it remains a mystery as to what they'll get done.

Each week our Washington Office sends out an update by email so if you are not on that list I urge you to go to our website, www.TREA.org and sign up, or call our national office and ask to be put on the list. That way you'll have the very latest information.

If there is urgent action about a legislative matter we'll issue an alert by email and tell you how you can help.

Once again, I am grateful for and honored by the opportunity to lead your board of directors and this great organization. I'm looking forward to the next two years. I have some big shoes to fill -- meaning all the past national presidents!

United We Stand: As the VOICE of the Enlisted Since 1963.





From the Nominating & Credential Committee

By Director Michael Davis, Nominating & Credential Chair

The TREA National Convention has ended and we now enter the 2016-2017 year. With that, we have a newly-appointed chairperson. Our newly-elected President for TREA is John Adams and again he appointed me, Michael Davis, to chair this committee. I will give my all to this assignment and look forward to making TREA members, staff, BODs, and friends proud of the work and challenges as we move forward.

Next, I would be remiss if we as a new committee didn't acknowledge the productiveness, dedication, enthusiasm, and longevity of PNP, Ms. Dottie Holmes. Ms. Dottie Holmes would never approve of us highlighting and SALUTING her in this manner, but, it's merited, so I did it! One of her mottos is "that she could not have done it alone." Therefore we also SALUTE the past Chairman Mr. CD Rice JR., and Mr. Nash Mines who worked with her and we thank them for being willing to stay on as committee members. Dottie, we all missed hearing your VOICE at this past convention in Las Vegas, "to the rear" during the Credential Verifications of delegates was so absent!

The new committee will have Mr. CD Rice JR., Mr. Nash Mines, and we hope PNP Mr. George Smith will accompany us and together will make TREA proud. Membership turns to sustainability!

Lastly, at our 2016 Las Vegas Convention, the delegates approved the terms of office for Vice Presidents. They shall be elected for two-year terms and may serve no more than one two-year term. This is in line with the President's term of office and this will give us strength and continuity. Therefore, in April 2017, we will place announcements in The VOICE for the offices of Treasurer and two positions for two-year Directors. We hope that there will be individuals who will submit resumes for these positions and therefore we won't experience what we did in Las Vegas, positions being filled by acclamation. We are better than that! We need fresh new ideas to help take TREA over into the future decades.

UNITED WE STAND



A Financial Report

By Deb Oelschig



I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as the National Treasurer for a second term. I am honored. I look forward to working with the Headquarters Staff, Board of Directors, and the Finance Committee in this coming year to examine TREA finances and make sure that we are headed in the right direction.

At this year's convention, the delegation voted to continue annual conventions as well as voting not to open membership to TREA members' immediate families. Both of these decisions will have a significant impact on our financial future. Conventions will become more expensive for TREA and you, the member. I believe, at a time when our membership is at an all-time low, we cannot continue to afford not to find a way to allow our families to become members. We should reconsider both of these decisions. One alternative to a convention every year would be a reunion.

I am very proud to be a member of TREA and to be in a position to make a difference. We as a Membership need to become united in our efforts to rebuild our numbers. If we could, each of us

should commit to recruiting one new member; think of what a difference that would make for our numbers! We can do this by reaching out to all military and their families to let them know what we have to offer. We DO fight in Washington – we fight for veteran healthcare, the commissary, COLA and many, many other issues that affect all veterans. Let your friends and neighbors know about the TREA Memorial Foundation. The Foundation can provide Benevolence, Disaster Relief, and Scholarships. Tell your community about the Senior Citizens League. They are a TREA entity whose mission is to "promote and assist members and supporters, to educate and alert senior citizens about their rights and freedoms as U.S. citizens, and to protect and defend the benefits senior citizens have earned and paid for. TSCL consists of vocally active senior citizens concerned about the protection of their Social Security, Medicare and veteran or military retiree benefits"

Be the Voice of the Enlisted! Be a part of TREA's success!



Meet the New Legislative Director

By Aaron Reed

I am writing to all of TREA, the Enlisted Association to inform you of my new position. I am Aaron Reed, the new Legislative Committee Chairman for our Board of Directors. I am retired Army with 20 years as a member of TREA- the Enlisted Association. I have been President of Chapter 3 in Aurora 3 times and have been on our National Board of Directors for 5 years. During that time I was Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and loved telling the world about TREA and what we do for America's military retirees, veterans, active duty, Guard and Reserve, their families and survivors. Now I have a new chal-

lenge- to use the skills I developed in PR to influence Congress and the Executive branch to improve how our Nation treats our entire military family. I am particularly concerned how service connected disabled veterans are being treated. I am very excited by this new role and I would like to hear your ideas. If you have any suggestions please e-mail me at directorreed@trea.org or at aaronreed2@aol.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.



TREA Awards

By Larry Hyland, Immediate Past President



Recommendations for TREA National awards for calendar year 2016 must be submitted to National Headquarters no later than March 31, 2017. TREA Form 100-43 must be completed for all awards, to include justification and citation where required. For more information, see TREA Standing Rule #8.

Okay that concludes the standing requirement and –by the book- notification, but is that it? Of course not – perhaps we need to explore the nature of awards and why some think it is using money that could be better spent elsewhere. Why do we request nominations for awards, go to great lengths to provide those awards, and ensure the award is proper for the action or actions taken? Because awards recognize both volunteer and employee journeys, and the achievements they earn for the association. That leads to the overall betterment of the association, and in the case of volunteers, shows the community through the contributions they have made on behalf of TREA. Why shouldn't we celebrate and support those who go above and beyond in their support roles to the association and who collectively and individually inspire others to either start volunteering, continue volunteering or achieve more – whether with TREA or in addition to TREA?

Along with volunteers though, we also need to identify and applaud our staff who, for the most part, do not hear too much during the year in the way of accolades. However, they keep their respective fingers on the pulse of the association, ensuring continuity and corporate knowledge is maintained while staying upbeat and pleasant when dealing with the myriad of inquiries from members, vendors, contractors, board members, etc. Individuals and groups, such as chapters, want to know that their work has made a difference. Probably the most viable and key to providing awards is that individuals like to be recognized -by hearing- the impact their contributions made. So keep that in mind when you submit all those nominations, which I am sure you will.

TREA has a great story to tell. We uphold our mission by working hard every day bringing value to all enlisted veterans and those still in uniform, and also by our show of strength, determination, and good will in local communities via chapter and MAL involvement. When we recognize individuals or groups, it reconfirms the fact that we are doing the right things and continue to be driven by our core values.

Most people want recognition that they believe to be both sincere and authentic. People appreciate a personalized thank you. Whether it is with words highlighting the impact of a volunteer's or employee's contribution to the association or a small personalized token or gift – it is the sincerity for which it was written up and conveyed that ultimately makes a difference and why we do what we do!

UNITED WE STAND



Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee

By Ed Cates, 1st Vice



I am honored to be chosen to lead the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee in the coming year. As we saw at the convention, changes are sorely needed to move us along and to streamline our operations. To that end I have asked TREA's Director of Operations to review all of the references she must abide and identify those that hinder the business operations of the HQ. I will be formally tasking the LAO Director to the same thing and call on all of the Committee Chairman to have their members review Bylaws and Standing Rules that affect their operations, and submit changes that will allow their Committees to operate smarter. When I look at the sheer volume of guidance we all must abide by I marvel that we can accomplish anything. I am extremely fortunate to have PNP Charlie Flowers, Memorial Foundation Director Tom O'Connell, past BOD member Paul Ott on the Committee and hope to have a MAL join the group soon. I welcome MALs to volunteer for this Committee and bring the perspective of the majority of our membership the input of making the laws that govern us all. I want to remind all members that you need to have draft changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules submitted by March 30 of 2017. We need your input.



Membership Notes

By Justin G. Jump, Membership Committee Chair 2Yr Director

As Las Vegas 2016 is firm in our memories we push forward striving to make TREA the premier veterans organizations for all enlisted service members. It is this reason that I thank-you for electing me to a second term as Director and in supporting my selection to chair the membership committee.

The first task the membership committee will be focusing on is to formulate and strategize a national framework for recruiting and regional retention. We'll be working closely with TREA HQ, Legislative and Public Affairs along with the Treasurer committees. In the end, we must leverage every aspect of TREA to ensure gains in membership are successful. This means we will be working closely with regional representatives and chapter membership chairs to meet these ends.

Only together will we achieve the gains necessary to revitalize our membership. United We Stand!



TREA IT Committee

By Philip Hilinski, TREA IT Committee



Hello fellow members! Before I start, I would like to thank all members and MALs for your interest and support at the 2016 Convention in Las Vegas; it was very memorable. The TREA IT Committee has a couple new members as well as some familiar faces. Please take some time to check out the TREA Website when the committees are updated. We had many accomplishments last TREA year including helping update the TREA Website, performing assessments at TREA HQ, starting TREA Twitter, moving forward with TREA Weekly Newsletter, (make sure you are receiving yours by contacting National HQ), and 2016 Convention outreach programs. The Convention Questionnaire netted us results indicating a high degree of interest in the TREA

Website, as well as interest in other areas we will pursue thanks to your feedback. If you are a Chapter President and could not attend the 2016 Convention, contact Hazel at TREA HQ for your TREA CD with all kinds of support material from TREA BOD. Moving forward, look for new ideas such as TREA LinkedIn, postings to You Tube, and enhanced video/audio techniques, as well as an assessment of TREA D.C. There is a great Power Point presentation on the TREA Website under the IT Committee page about what TREA is all about—check it out for your chapter meeting or membership. Contact me anytime on my new TREA email at directorhilinski@trea.org. United we stand!



Membership Application

■ **Regular Members.** Any enlisted person - retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserves - shall be eligible for regular membership. Any active duty enlisted person shall enjoy the privileges of regular membership including attending conventions, making motions, and holding office.

■ **Veteran Members.** Any honorably discharged person (as noted on a DD214 or NGB-22) may apply for membership. They may attend convention, vote, and make motions. They must be a member in good standing for three years to be eligible to run for National office. The term "regular member" encompasses both charter and life members of TREA.

■ **Associate Members.** Widows/widowers of members and non-members, who were eligible for membership at the time of their death, are eligible to join TREA: The Enlisted Association as associate members. Associate members shall enjoy the privileges of regular membership, except the right to make motions, vote, or hold office. Associate members are not eligible for life membership.

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Membership Number: _____

Recruiter: _____ Recruiter Number: _____ Chapter Number: _____

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse: _____ Grade/Rank: _____ Years in Service: _____

Branch of Service: ☐ Air Force ☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marines

Membership Type: ☐ Regular ☐ Veteran ☐ Associate

If disabled, what is your rating: _____
☐ By checking this box, I certify that I am a U.S. Armed Forces Veteran.

Membership Fee

☐ One Year: \$30 (Does not include chapter dues, if applicable)

☐ Three Years: \$55

☐ Life Member under 70: \$400 ☐ Paid in 10, \$42 quarterly payments: \$420

☐ Life Member over 70: \$325: ☐ Life member: Paid in 10, \$34.50 quarterly payments: \$345

Payment

☐ Visa

Credit Card Number: _____

☐ Master Card

☐ Discovery

Expiration Date: _____

☐ Check (Make checks payable to TREA. I acknowledge payments returned for non-sufficient funds are charged a \$25 NSF fee)

Please return your application to:

TREA: The Enlisted Association P.O. Box 473280 Aurora, CO 80047
303-752-0660 800-338-9337 Fax: 303-752-0835 888-882-0835

www.trea.org



National Awards 2015



Certificate of Achievement

Gregg Bell and Dana Maddox – Chapter 1
Roosevelt Hale, Harold Moreland, Larry Foster, Raul Juarez, Oscar Pais, William Pool, James Scott & Johnny Sota - Chapter 80
Pictured: Roosevelt Hale

Certificates of Commendation

This certificate is awarded to show appreciation for accomplishments made throughout the year.



Ed Cates, Chap. 1



Marvin Weaver, Chap. 1



Chuck Zeitvogel, Chap. 1



Bernice Barrett, Chap. 1

Additional Recipients: Bob Kwiatkowski, Chap.1; Michael Myers, Chap. 1; Dan O'Connell, Chap. 1; and Howard Suarez, Chap 1.

Chapter President of the Year

The Chapter President of the Year Award is presented to the chapter president based on the overall accomplishment of their respective chapter for the year. The winner of this award receives, a Red Blazer or \$100 credit towards TREA products and all their expenses for the Pittsburgh convention are paid. The winners for the fiscal year 2015 are: for large chapter – Roger DeLosh from Chapter 1, for medium chapter – Don Higginbotham from chapter 80, and for small chapter – Thomas “Butch” Liebaert from chapter 119.

Large Chapter of the Year

Chapters are an important part of TREA. We rely on them across the country to help spread the word of the work that we do. This award is based on member retention within the chapter, chapter growth, timely submission of TREA reports, chapter newsletter and outstanding accomplishments. 2015 Large Chapter of the year goes to Chapter 29 in South Dakota.

Pictured: John Martinez



Medium Chapter of the Year

The winner of the 2015 medium Chapter of the year, goes to Chapter 80 in Texas – Don Higginbotham is President.



Small Chapter of the Year

2015 small Chapter of the year goes to Chapter 119 in Wisconsin. Butch Liebaert Received for the Chapter. He is Chapter President. *Pictured: Butch Liebaert*

Recruiter of the Year

Don Higginbotham from Chapter 80 received this award for recruiting 18 new members during 2015. He received \$75.00 cash.



Recruiter of the Year: Runner-up

Runner-up, Carlos Lance from Chapter 9, recruited 13 new members during 2015. He received \$50.00 cash.



National Awards 2015



Special 2015 Award

Submitted by Don Higginbotham from Chapter 80. This award presented posthumously to Isaiah Clinton from Chapter 80 for his unyielding dedications and relentless support of TREA and Chapter 80 for 23 years.

Pictured: Don Higginbotham



Gutierrez Americanism

The Gutierrez Americanism Award is an award presented for the development and implementation of programs and other initiatives furthering patriotism in the United States. The winner is Lonny Barret, Chap. 1.

Benjamin Pearson

Awarded to Dennis L. Feller from Chapter 29.

Member of the Year

This award is presented to a TREA member who has provided exceptionally meritorious service or achievement on behalf of TREA. The winner for 2015 is Harold “HC” Moreland from Chapter 80 in San Antonio, Texas.

The Founders Award

The Founders Award for Distinguished Service is presented for distinguished service and extraordinary achievement as a TREA volunteer over a sustained period of time. I am honored to present the 2015 recipient of this award to Mr. William DeBoer and Mrs. Alice DeBoer. Together they have 58 combined years of service, dedication and support to TREA: The Enlisted Association.



The Marjorie Holt Award

Awarded to Bill DeBoer.

Supporting Awards

The TREA Memorial Foundation has provided benevolent assistance to TREA members and to veterans overall for 26 years.



Pictured: President Larry Hyland, Vice Chair Mark Tabacheck, Treasurer Deb Oelschig, Trustee Roger Tackitt, HQ Scholarship Coordinator Tanya Austin, HQ, Financial Assistance Coordinator Hazel Simeon and HQ Staff Advisor TREA DFO Debbie Osborne
Not Pictured: Chair William “Bill” DeBoer, Secretary Thelma Hairston, Trustee Thomas “Butch” Liebaert, Trustee Mell Yell, and Trustee Bob Holtz

TREA Auxiliary has provided 44 years of support and dedication to TREA and the mission statement.



Chaplain Alice DeBoer, Secretary Pat Weaver, Treasurer Audrey McCray, Vice President Pat Mitchell, President Irmgard Cates, TREA President Larry Hyland, Parliamentarian Elaine Warner-Savage, Director Betty Love & PNP Renee Keener

The Senior Citizens League – for 22 years of assistance to TREA’s senior members and to seniors overall. Thanks for a job well done!



Pictured: Treasurer Deb Oelschig, Vice Chair Charlie Flowers, TREA President Larry Hyland, PAC Treasurer Michael Gales, and Chairman Ed Cates
Not Pictured: Secretary Art “Coop” Cooper, Executive Director Shannon G. Benton, Policy Analyst/Editor Mary Johnson, Executive Assistant Georgette Pam, Administrative Assistant Lauren Morales and Senior Policy Analyst Jessie Gibbons

President’s Awards

Presented to each member of the TREA National Board: 1st Vice John Adams, 2nd Vice Garry Turks, 3rd Vice Michael Davis, Treasurer Deb Oelschig, Director Justin Jump, Director CD Rice, Director Aaron Reed, Director Phil Hilinski, Parliamentarian Ed Pacheco, VSO Michael Holzhauser, PNP Rick Delaney, TSCL Chair Ed Cates and Memorial Chair William DeBoer.



National Awards 2015

Community Service Award

Community Service Award is presented to members and non-members for outstanding service to TREA, its chapters and/or members. The 2015 winner of this award is The Honor/Color Guard from Chapter 29.

Staff Awards

As you know, TREA is a large organization. Granted, we have been bigger, but nonetheless – we still have over 27 THOUSAND members across the country. It takes a great team to be able to organize, respond to, communicate with and care about all of those members. TREA is lucky enough to have that team.



Starting with our Legislative Affairs Office in Alexandria VA. The ones that keep up in the loop on legislative issues:
Michael Saunders – Assistant Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs
Larry Madison – Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs Organizing
Deirdre Parke Holleman – Executive Director of Legislative Affairs (Pictured)

We have three new staff members, having been with TREA for as short as 3 months, they have done an outstanding job so far jumping in and learning 'on the job'. (William Britt – Finance Clerk, not pictured below.)



*Tanya Austin -
Front Desk/Receptionist*



*Susan Dunn -
Administrative Assistant*

We have two staff members who really showed us their true TREA spirit this year. When the going got tough and there was just the two of them, they persevered, pushed on and helped get the National Headquarters back on track.

Hazel Simeon – Member Services (Pictured left)
Debbie Osborne - Director for Operations (Pictured right)



Newsletter Awards

The winner for Large Chapter Newsletter is Chapter 1, Colorado Springs, CO
The winner for Medium Chapter Newsletter award is Chapter 80, San Antonio, TX
And the winner for Small Chapter, Newsletter award is Chapter 111 in Ohio.



Tuscany Suites & Casino: Thank You Plaque

TREA National Auxiliary Update



Letter from the Auxiliary By Irmgard Cates, National Auxiliary President

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

Thank you everyone that joined our 53rd convention in Las Vegas. I hope you had a good time and will tell fellow Auxiliary members that the Convention can be a fun way to have a vacation! Yes, we did work, but we tried to make the meetings as quick as possible so you could enjoy yourselves. Hope you will meet me in Pittsburgh; we are working on that convention now! If you have suggestions or concerns about next year's convention, please drop me a note or call.

I hope you will welcome our new director, Barbara Coley. It is always a pleasure to welcome a new person to the Auxiliary BOD and I am sure she will be an asset to the BOD and the Auxiliary. I want to single out Pat Weaver for stepping up and agreeing to take the job of Secretary. This is job that is very challenging and time consuming. Pat is a very special person to volunteer for this unsung position.

Going forward, we face many challenges as does TREA, and it has never been more important for both BODs to partner with each other for the greater good of our great organizations. I look forward to finding ways to grow our organizations so we can truly be the "Voice of the Enlisted".

Thank you everyone on last year's BOD for doing an excellent job. **I can truly say UNITED WE STAND.**



The Auxiliary WEF/Benevolent Program By Pat Mitchell, National Auxiliary Vice Chair & WEF/Benevolent Chair



TREA National Auxiliary WEF/Benevolent Program was developed to provide assistance to eligible auxiliary members whose spouse are deceased, leaving them without sufficient finances to purchase certain medical services and supplies which empowers them to maintain a respectful quality of life. In addition, WEF may provide for disaster or hardship awards to those members who are victims of floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, or fires; or to those whose limited income may prevent them from meeting financial obligations which would provide for a basic need.

This year the WEF/Benevolent Program has successfully offered support to four widows of the Auxiliary who requested assistance. The program assisted with dental care services, hearing aids, wheelchair covers, and assistance to a person who suffered a hardship due to the effects of a tornado. Our committee provided a means of comfort by reaching out to these people during a time of need.

Each of the recipients shared their appreciation with letters and cards of gratitude and thanks. One of the widows attended the National Convention this year and gave a verbal heartfelt and tearful thank you for our support.

In addition to the support of our widows, the WEF committee was the proud sponsors of the Joint Awards Luncheon for this year's convention by donating \$6,000.00 for this event.

Please remember that we are here to serve and assist members who are currently in good standing of TREA National Auxiliary for at least a period of one year, with dues paid for the year in which assistance is requested. Guidelines and limits are reviewed by the committee and awards on made on a one time request. Please contact Membership Benefits and Services by calling 1-800-808-4517 ext. 1010 or 301-583-8687 for more information. **UNITED WE STAND.**

Need Help? We're here to help!

**The Widows Emergency
And Benevolent Fund (WEF) of
TREA National Auxiliary**

Assists members who are
experiencing financial
difficulty in getting health care and related
needs met.

Eyeglasses/Dental Care
Medical Supplies/Hearing Aids
Financial Hardship.

If you are a member in good
standing and want to apply for assistance,
Please **Call 1-800-808-4517, ext. 1010.**

Leave your name and number
and a program representative
will call you back.



TREA National Auxiliary Update



**CONGRATULATIONS to the 2016 – 2017
TREA National Auxiliary
Scholarship Winners**



Quentin William Johnson
Johns Creek, GA
Berry College
Sponsor: Aux Member, Helene Schoch



Sierra Olson
Valdosta, GA
Goergia Tech
Sponsor: Aux Member, Shirley Schoch



Brooke McMormick
Orlando, FL
Florida State University, School of Law
Sponsor: Aux Member, Lisa McCormick



Joseph Sodano
Minot, SD
North Dakota University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Sandy Ott



John Wesley James, III
Centennial, CO
Regis University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Gloria James



David Ethridge
Marietta, GA
Kennesaw State University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Lori Ethridge



Danielle Seeger
Shorewood, WI
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Sponsor: Aux Member, Lynda Seeger



Sarah Renee Schneider
Colorado Springs, CO
University of Dallas
Sponsor: Aux Member, Renee Keener



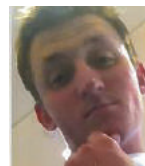
Megan Lovato
Pueblo, CO
Colorado State University, Pueblo
Sponsor: Aux Member, Shirley Lovato



Jennah Romansky
Cuyahoga Falls, OH
University of Rochester
Sponsor: Aux Member, Joyce Romansky



Cole Johnson
Johns Creek, GA
Berry College
Sponsor: Aux Member, Helene Schoch



Cody William
Tempe, AZ
Arizona State University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Helen Suggs



Matthew Hampton
Columbia, TN
Trevecca Nazarene University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Helen Ramirez



Eric Saksa
Lucedale, MS
Pearl River Community College
Sponsor: Aux Member, Helen Christopherson



**Auxiliary Prayer
By Alice DeBoer, National Auxiliary Chaplain**

"Gratitude is our most direct line to God and the angels. If we take the time, no matter how crazy and troubled we feel, we can find something to be thankful for. The more we seek gratitude, the more reason the angels will give us for gratitude and joy to exist in our lives." (Author Unknown)



Welcome to the 2016-2017 National Auxiliary Board



A Time of Remembering in Angel Fire, New Mexico By Hazel Simeon

Just a few miles from Taos, New Mexico is a very special place for Vietnam Veterans to wander and reflect. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire, New Mexico is the first and only state park in the US dedicated exclusively to Vietnam Veterans. As you wander around the grounds you will find a Huey helicopter that served with the 121st AHC, where it was known as the Viking Surprise and was one of the first smoke ships in Vietnam. In 1967 it was damaged so badly during a rescue operation that it had a total of 135 bullet holes in it.



Wander some more and you will see bricks along the walkway that have the names of Veterans and their dates of service. Two stars signify those killed in action, one star signifies that they are still missing. Continue your walk and you will see a bronze sculpture of an American infantryman in the field writing home called "Dear Mom and Dad" created by Taos artist Doug Scott. Wander some more and you will see an amphitheater with tiers of seats where you can sit and reflect or hold a ceremony in honor of the men and women who served. Hidden behind the stage is the Peace and Brotherhood chapel where photos of 13 military personnel killed in Vietnam are on display. After you have absorbed the peace that comes from spending time in that sacred place you wander to the visitors center where you will find over 2000 photographs of individuals killed in action

during the Vietnam War, a library for research, and books available for loan, photographs and artifacts donated by veterans. Plan on spending some time there because it is a place to remember and also to talk to others about your memories of the years between November 1, 1955 and April 30, 1975. You may find a brother or sister, a mom or dad who are there to remember that time where their loved one went away to war and they did not know if they would be coming home. You may find someone there who served in Vietnam, talk to them and learn from them, and say "Welcome Home". Above all never forget them for they have served, sacrificed and been changed by that war so far from home. Let this time in the place called Angel Fire be a time of renewal for you, let it speak to you of honor, of sacrifice, and of the dedication and commitment of those who have given themselves to service of country. That kind of service is to be revered and remembered and never forgotten.

The background and future plans for Angel Fire Vietnam War Memorial can be found at <http://www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org/>



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Diamonds

Engraved Inside
the Band with the
Inspirational
Sentiment, "You'll
Never Walk Alone"

Solid Sterling
Silver



The Faith Diamond Ring

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holidays
sparkle

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Mrs. Mr. Ms.

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CHRISTMAS DELIVERY!

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CHAPTER 29

Employees at First Interstate Bank in Rapid City, SD do fundraising by paying for the privilege of “Wearing Jeans on Fridays” for work. They then choose several deserving non-profits to whom they award funds too. TREA Chapter 29 Honor Guard was one of the recipients for their selfless dedication to ensuring deceased veterans receive a respectful sendoff.

Pictured left to right area: Ralph Hadley, President; Carrie Martinez, Bank Representative; Chet Westman, Chapter Honor Guard Chairman; and John Martinez, Chapter Treasurer



Chapter 29 members chat with Shutsy Reynolds about her experience as an WASP B-25 pilot during WW2. She is a true local hero and we enjoyed every minute with her. Photo l-r Gwen Klepsky, Shutsy Reynolds, Barb & Clark Kovacs.



Ernie Summarell and Shirley Allen at Western Resources Adult Day Services. We gave a service check and cookies to the group, who is fairly new.

CHAPTER 119

RAD held on September 30, 2016:

Chapter 119 held the annual RAD at the Black Bear Casino on September 30th. Chapter President Butch Liebaert, who has been doing this for 8 years, was in charge of the RAD again, getting speakers, setting up the agenda and acting as MC. Chapter members helped during the RAD along with Cheryl Liebaert at the Registration Table, acting as runners for individual’s questions, and manning the Chapter Table. Pictured left to right are: Troy Magnuson, Gerry Stark, Dave Carlson, Butch Liebaert, and Jim Potthier. Missing when the picture was taken are: Terry Maki, Wayne Phelps, and Cheryl Liebaert, who took the picture.



CHAPTER 119



Pictured front in 1st row are Larry Lockett and Butch Liebaert along with Big Daddy Bear (Bear Chapter 119 sent to be with Company while deployed in Afganistan) on the floor with 950th Combat Engineer Company.



Shown left to right are Troy Magnuson, Rod Wilson (Board of Director for the Dairyland Outdoor Veterans Retreat) receiving a \$300.00 check from Butch Liebaert.



Picture of sign at entrance of new Dairyland Outdoor Veterans Retreat being built in Dairyland Wisconsin.



Chapter 119 provided the Color Guard for the 2016 Annual University of Superior College Vets Expo. Pictured left to right are Butch Liebaert, Troy Magnuson, Chuck Tenlen, Jim Potthier, Doug Simensen, and Larry Lockett.



Shown left to right are Wisconsin Secretary of Veterans Affairs John Scocos, shaking hands with Butch Liebaert after giving him a Vietnam War Veterans Pin.

CHAPTER 80



Chapter 80 President Don Higginbottom with members of Family Endeavors who were guest speakers in June.



May Guest Speaker Anita Critis, Casualty Assistance & Survivor Benefits at Lackland Air Force Base.



Chapter 80 Vice President HC Moreland & Auxiliary President Juanita Higginbotham present a wreath at the San Antonio National Cemetery.



Chapter 80 Vice President HC Moreland & Auxiliary President Juanita Higginbotham prepare to present a wreath on July 4th at the San Antonio National Cemetery.



Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship in Roata, Honduras, 2016. Chapter 80 President Don Higginbotham and Vice President HC Moreland signed up Anthony Burgess as a new member of TREA. The search for new members never ends and is world-wide.



Chapter 80 President Don Higginbotham signed up Theresa Honey as a new member of TREA. Picture from a Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship, August 2016.

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Chapter 80 Auxiliary Makes Donation to the Storks Nest

The Storks Nest is a 501C3 program for pregnant young women who are first time mothers or any expecting women who desire to have healthy babies and prevent premature births. The program is sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, partnered with the March of Dimes. The students are required to complete all facets of the program, thereby receiving vouchers to purchase items for the baby before birth.

Chapter 80 visited the Stork's Nest recently bearing gifts for the students and the babies. Chapter President Don Higginbotham and Vice President H.C. Moreland accompanied the auxiliary.

Pictured are Auxiliary President Elaine Moreland and Chapter President Don Higginbotham, as they present gift cards to Stork's Nest program administrator Ginger Pope (center). Also, the Auxiliary President Moreland and a Stork's Nest volunteer observes as past national auxiliary president, Marie Smith, and President Higginbotham speak to the students.

RECRUITMENT NEVER STOPS

The Auxiliary President of Chapter 80, Elaine Moreland, never stops recruiting. On one of her many Caribbean cruises, she and Vice President Juanita Higginbotham recruited Mrs. Phyllis Burgess, who joined for three years.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE VOICE OF THE ENLISTED:

Do you have an idea or a story you would like us to consider for The VOICE? Please let us know if you do. Short articles, Veteran-community or Chapter news is all welcome. We will even consider a favorite recipe, how-to tips, travel information and the like. This is your VOICE, please help us make it as good and interesting as possible. Please also feel free to send your suggestions as to how we can improve. We are here for you! Email us: editor@trea.org!



Chapter 80 Auxiliary Makes Annual Donation to San Antonio Fire Dept.

Martha Clinton, Spirit Award winner and Chapter 80 Auxiliary Treasurer, presented the San Antonio Fire Department with 18 fans this year. Usually Martha and her spouse, the late Ike Clinton, Chapter 80 Chaplain, made this donation together. This donation remains a legacy for the two of them, Martha and Ike. The Fire Department delivers the fans to those families and seniors who do not have proper (or any) air conditioning in their homes. This donation is appreciated by the Fire Department and the families in Bexar County, Texas.



CHAPTER 88



On Tuesday, September 6th, Auxiliary donated over 250 composition books to West Ward School.

Pictured (Left to Right): Auxiliary President Carrie Bickham, School Counselor Wayne Moore, Auxiliary 1st Vice President Nicole Russell, and School Principal Mareen Adams.



Hundreds of residents attended the Killeen Civic and Conference Center to remember the fallen on Memorial Day.

Pictured (Left to Right): Auxiliary President Carrie Bickham and 1st Vice Marvin Brophy, representing TREA.



CHAPTER 39 Shows Their Support In The Commerce City Parade

TREA 39 President Chuck Baum, Auxiliary President Barbara Tackitt, and Sargent-at-Arms Lynn Tokach showed the spirit of Memorial Day by leading the chapter in the Annual Commerce City Colorado Memorial Day Parade. They carried the banners of the chapter and of the auxiliary and pulled a float honoring local disabled veterans and their caretakers with a colonial soldier in full dress uniform who presented a 13-star American flag to the crowds lining the parade route. The chapter also had walkers who made the children along the way happy with sweets that were handed out in abundance. Cards with stars from retired American flags attached were presented to any Veteran along the way who could be identified as well, as a tribute for their service.

The TREA name was put forth to the hundreds of observers along the route as an organization that supports our local Veterans and also remembers those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

After the parade march and ride, all participating members retired to the chapter facility for a pot luck bar-b-que meal with the chapter, saying thanks by providing the meat and having members pitch in with the side dishes typical of a Memorial Day picnic. We went the distance once again to prove that UNITED WE STAND and always will stand for all Veterans.



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The Jacuzzi® Hydrotherapy Shower provides a lifetime of comfort and relief... safely and affordably.

As we age, the occasional aches and pains of everyday life become less and less occasional. Most of us are bothered by sore muscles, creaky joints and general fatigue as we go through the day- and it's made worse by everything from exertion and stress to arthritis and a number of other ailments. Sure, there are pills and creams that claim to provide comfort, but there is only one 100% natural way to feel better... hydrotherapy. Now, the world leader in hydrotherapy has invented the only shower that features Jacuzzi® Jets. It's called the Jacuzzi® Hydrotherapy Shower, and it can truly change your life.

For over 50 years, the Jacuzzi® Design Engineers have worked to bring the powerful benefits of soothing hydrotherapy into millions of homes. Now, they've created a system that can fit in the space of your existing bathtub or shower and give you a lifetime of enjoyment, comfort and pain-relief. They've thought of everything. From the high-gloss acrylic surface, slip-resistant flooring, a hand-held shower wand, a comfortable and adjustable seat, to strategically-placed grab bars and lots of storage, this shower has it all.

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Easy Wine Guy: Thanksgiving Edition

By Paul DeCoste

Well it's that time of year, the first big holiday since the 4th of July. The great thing about Thanksgiving (and the 4th) is that both are celebrations that for most people don't require presents or mandatory church attendance! So, despite the fact that that families sometimes collide, these are opportunities for great times and fond memories that will last a lifetime.

Whether you are the host or traveling to friends or relatives, selecting a wine can be a painless task. Remember everyone has an uncle Lewis, "the wine aficionado" who won't like anything or an uncle Eddie who, Lord knows what he'll bring, or will drop a couple of ice cubes in the \$100 Cabernet you've been saving for just this occasion and then guzzle the whole glass. Don't forget, Aunt Edith who craves a big glass of White Zinfandel over ice or Uncle Archie who just wants a cold beer and thinks wine is stupid and only for snobs. Then there are the grandparents, spouses, friends and neighbors. How do you please them all a keep your sanity?

Let's start with the premise that wine will make your fantastic meal even better. You don't have to spend a fortune, you don't have try to please everyone, because we know with family that seldom works anyway, right? I will give you suggestions that will, at the end of the day, hit everyone's sweet spot, make you into the wine god (or goddess), and, not break the bank so you'll have money for the after dinner poker game (a tradition at my house until we found out that Grandma was dealing from the bottom of the deck).



First question, how much will I need? In my family we are probably talking a case or two, but for most people, a half a bottle per adult for dinner is about right. Depending on your crowd, it's probably good to have a couple of bottles ready before dinner starts. I would recommend a nice Prosecco (La Marca or Lunetta) which is a slightly sweet Italian sparkling wine that everyone should enjoy. You can get one for about \$10 that will be fine and will get the party started (make sure you have beer for Archie and a nice bottle of bourbon couldn't hurt!) Prosecco can also be served with dinner as well.

Starting to smell that Turkey? No time to panic! Thanksgiving wine pairing is very easy. There are lots of different foods, so no one wine will be right. Let's look at the choices.

Rieslings will go nicely with turkey, Aunt Bessie's creamed corn, and stuffing. A few I would suggest would be J Lohr, Fezter, or Chateau St. Michele. They should all should run about \$10 as well, maybe less since retailers will have them all on sale! Stay away from Chardonnay; it will probably overwhelm the food. If you want a drier white try a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc such as Oyster Bay or Kim Crawford. Both would be good choices and are available across the country.

For a red, I'd recommend a Pinot Noir (Murphy Goode, Cambria, La Crema) and, yes, even a Merlot could work (Blackstone, CH. St. Michelle, Pepperwood Grove)! You want a lighter red to go with the turkey. Cabernet or Zinfandel will generally be too heavy. By the way, if you're going to splurge, do it with the Pinot Noir. You can get a delicious Pinot for \$15-\$20, I would suggest one from Santa Barbara and a nice Merlot for \$10.

After dinner you can keep drinking the Rieslings with your pumpkin pie.

So there you go. You can present your guests with 4 or 5 different wines that can be served from start to finish. As a rule of thumb, you'll get 4 full glasses of wine per 750ml bottle, so plan accordingly depending on the size of your gathering, the size of your glasses, and other beverages you serve. Also remember that with more holidays coming up the next month, you should not be afraid to buy extra. You'll likely be using it through the end of the year. All the wines mentioned are available across the country and should run from \$10-\$20 each.

From the Easy Wine Guy to you, have a happy, safe holiday season! CHEERS and GOD BLESS AMERICA!



Letter from the Memorial Foundation

By Mark Tabacheck, Memorial Foundation Chairman

Earlier this year, The TREA Memorial Foundation requested resumes from individuals who would like to serve as Foundation Trustees. A total of seven individuals submitted their resumes. The current Trustees evaluated each of the seven resumes received and placed several resumes in the "fully qualified" category. These resumes were forwarded to the TREA National Board of Directors for the final selection. There were two resumes selected for the position of TREA Memorial Foundation by the Directors.

We would like to thank all the individuals who submitted their resumes for consideration. Every Trustee plays an important part in leading the Foundation and the newer Trustees provide insights that the serving Trustees might not otherwise have.

At the convention in Las Vegas, I announced that there was another opening for a Foundation Trustee. The resumes MUST be submitted before December 1st, 2016 to be considered during the Foundation December meeting.

If you would like to help The TREA Memorial Foundation in other ways, if you do not wish to be a Trustee, the Foundation has various committees that you could volunteer to serve. There are openings on The Benevolent Assistance, Direct Mail, Disaster Assistance, Scholarship, and Vocational Educational Committees.

Again, I would like to thank all those who had submitted their resumes for consideration for the position of TREA Memorial Foundation Trustee.

On another note, The TREA Memorial Foundation provides grants to help families in need, scholarships to children and grandchildren of TREA members, helps disaster-struck families during their times of need, and offers food cards to families who just need a little help.

The Foundation also has an "Aid to Troops" area where the Foundation will provide monetary support to those individuals who are supporting our troops in various ways. This action could be as simple as paying for the postage for a shipment of care packages going to Afghanistan or for the troops in foreign conflict areas. We also help our fighting men and women as they return home from overseas areas by sponsoring Welcome Home dinners or golf tournaments. Last year we helped the Denver CPOA with their VA Homeless Vets Holiday Meal. The paragraph below is from a member of the Denver CPOA.

"Last year you helped us out with some gift certificates (Food Cards) from Target and King Soopers to purchase some food items we used to purchase food to serve homeless Vets at the VA Hospital in Denver. It was simply amazing because there was a tremendous blizzard on the day we served our meal last December (2015) and most of the homeless vets used public transportation, and we served the most ever served (over 450 homeless vets) over the past 11 years we've been doing this homeless vet holiday meal."

The TREA Memorial Foundation thanks the Denver CPOA for their actions in supporting our homeless vets and all our vets. The Foundation is looking forward to continuing our support.



Welcome to the 2016-2017
Memorial Foundation Board





CONGRATULATIONS to the 2016 – 2017
TREA National Memorial
Scholarship Winners



Alexa Lynn
Vienna, VA
Virginia Tech
Sponsor: George Cunningham



Andrew Roth
Colorado Springs, CO
University of Northern CO
Sponsor: Leslie Lundin



Autumn Leigh Dodson
Brandon, MS
Mississippi State University
Sponsor: Randy Dodson



Bryanna Mazzella
Newburgh, NY
Utica College
Sponsor: Edward Thomas



Christina Elizabeth Visciotti
Kingwood, TX
Baylor University
Sponsor: Ret, MSGT Luigi D Visciotti



Jacob Hopkins
Kalama, WA
Norwich University
Sponsor: TREA/TREA Auxiliary: Paul Hopkins



Justin Blaine Cook
Apex, NC
The Ohio State University
Sponsor: James Cook



Kiana Drummond
Bonaire, GA
University of Florida
Sponsor: Emily Drummond



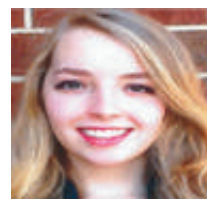
Michael Jordan Rivera
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A BIG Public Relations Greeting By Reverend Garry Turks, 2nd Vice President, Chaplain & Public Relations Chairman

Thank you to this great membership and all those who are involved in the great and dynamic organization called TREA: The Enlisted Association!

Oh Boy, what a good and fun time we had in Las Vegas in September! I don't know about you, but my wife and I had a blast. It was a blessing to see old and new faces, to rekindle old friendships, and to welcome new members into the fold. The sights and sounds of Las Vegas are still exciting and fun for all. I say OUTSTANDING to The Enlisted Association staff who worked tirelessly and unselfishly on making this convention unforgettable. Thanks to DFO Debbie Osborne, Hazel Simeon, Tanya Austin, and Susan Dunn, and all of those who worked in the background to help make our convention a success. Again, we say 'Thank You'.

We also had a great working session where we took care of a lot of good business for the upcoming year and beyond. Our election process has given us a new Director, Greg Barnett, and a new two-year President, John Adams. Welcome to both of them.

With that being said, we want to say thank you to Past National President, Larry Hyland, for his great leadership, his tenacity, and his dedication to our organization for the last two years serving as our President. I will value our friendship for life.

Our new President brings with him new visions, ideas, and new goals. President Adams has already assigned all Board members to new committees in his vision that all board members know something different and learn all aspects of all committees. This is to assure that our Board Members won't become complacent or stuck in just one area. President Adams wants us, the board members, to be flexible and knowledgeable in all aspects of this organization.

This brings me to my assignment as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee. I totally accept the challenge, the commitment, the hard work, and the great expectations this membership expects, demands and deserves. This is my mission statement: Motivation, Dedication, Communication and Publication.

This equals great expectations for an Enlisted Association marketing blitz to get our brand out to everyone who is eligible.

My goals are to increase the marketing and awareness of TREA: The Enlisted Association among Enlisted, Retired, Reserve, and Veterans across all services, to enhance TREA's image and reputation among the populous through involvement in local communities, local military bases, and all corporations who serve veterans and VA Hospitals. I want to publicize benefits and increase the membership of TREA, and assist TREA Chapters in establishing effective public relation programs. I want to develop procedures for a nationwide promotion of TREA, particularly in areas with large concentrations of military enlisted, retired and all veterans.

This would be a total marketing blitz to all parties interested in supporting our great organization and what we stand for, including TSCL, The Memorial Foundation, and our Auxiliary.

I have assembled ten of the best marketing and public relations people possible. They are all going to be dedicated, loyal, committed, and faithful to this Public relations campaign. This includes bringing me all of the angles and ways to bring out the brand name of TREA and our purpose.

This faithful committee includes;

- Co-Chair and Convention contact: Caroline Allen, MAL, CO – denvercallen@aol.com
- PNP Committee Representative: PNP Larry Hyland, MAL, FL – ipnp@trea.org
- Committee Advisor: PNP Rick Delaney, Chapter 94, GA – rjdtrea@gmail.com
- Committee Member: Shannon Benton, MAL, VA – sbenton@TSCLHQ.org
- Committee Member: Paul Ott, Chapter 29, SD – grando1576@yahoo.com
- Committee Member: Butch Liebaert, Chapter 119, WI – liebs3@charter.net
- Committee Member: Don Higginbotham Chapter 80, TX redleg.csm@hotmail.com
- Committee Member: Greg Barnett MAL, CO – directorbarnett@trea.org
- Committee Member: George W. McAfee, Chapter 34 AZ – gwmcafee@cox.net
- Staff Advisor: Debbie Osborne, DFO, TREA Headquarters – dosborne@trea.org

I can guarantee that each and every advisor and committee member including myself will be working diligently toward bringing ways and means to make this organization prosper again both monetarily and in membership. This will be our commitment to you and our membership.

You as members are the most important part of this public relations campaign. Please continue to be out there on the battlefield getting TREA's name out. If you see a veteran in your daily and weekly travels, tell them about The Enlisted Association. If you visit any of the VA Hospitals, tell veterans about The Enlisted Association. If you see a Disabled Veteran or Veterans license plate, take the time to talk to them and tell them about TREA. If you are at a Veterans event, stop to explain to the veterans about TREA and the value of their membership. We as The Enlisted Association need your help in getting out the good work of TREA and all or the great benefits of becoming a member of our beloved organization and everything we stand for.

So, let us all act as one unit in making this marketing effort work for TREA. Fun and exciting things are planned and I want all TREA members to be involved. Caroline Allen has been assigned the Public Relations Convention contact for the Pittsburgh planning team. Please reach out to her for ideas and suggestions for a fantastic 2017 Convention.

Ready, Set, Go. This is the start of something great for TREA. This committee and I will move forward aggressively on implementing this PR Program. This committee is ready and I am definitely ready for a new direction in this public relations department of TREA. So, lets go to work!!! And, with God on our side, who can be against us?

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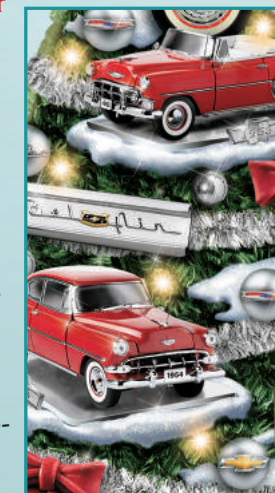
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Tree shown much smaller than actual size of 12" high. Requires 3 "AA" batteries (not included).

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TREA HQ Staff: Susan Dunn, Debbie Osborne, Hazel Simeon & Tanya Austin



Chuck Zeitvogel of Chapter 1 celebrating with the "Rat Pack"



"Sammy"



"Dean"



President Larry Hyland



DFO Osborne and "Rat Pack"



TREA Members enjoy posing for pictures with the "Rat Pack" and the Tuscany Suites Showgirls



"Rat Pack" visiting with Brian Collins & Laura Lule from USAA



CMSgt Arcuri - Opening Ceremonies Guest Speaker from Nellis AFB



CMSgt Arcuri - Opening Ceremonies Guest Speaker from Nellis AFB



Opening Ceremonies Guest Speaker CMSgt Arcuri, 2nd Vice Garry Turks, MAL Erin Trowbridge



1st Business Meeting (I-1): Paul Ott, Auxiliary PNP Sandy Ott, Auxiliary PNP Renee Keener, TREA PNP Art 'Coop' Cooper, Auxiliary PNP Marie Smith, TREA PNP George Smith



A full room - Delegates pay close attention at the 1st TREA Business Meeting



Emcee - Director Reed



Delegates from Chapter 1, Colorado Springs: Chapter President Ray Garate, Roger DeLosh, Joseph Kluck, Lonny Barrett & Melvin Yell



Auxiliary PNP Marie Smith and the lady behind the President - Mrs. Paz Hyland



Edgar Shallenberger enjoying a break with other convention delegates



Chapter 1 Delegate Lonny Barrett visits with Memorial Trustee Mel Yell



Book signing with speaker Eric Poole



President Hyland and 2nd Vice & Chaplain Turks take a moment to talk business at the President's Reception Breakfast



President Hyland discusses issues with Memorial Trustees Liebaert and O'Connell



Salute during the National Anthem to start the 1st Business Meeting



Nellis AFB Color Guard presents the American Flag



Mrs. Paz Hyland, President Hyland and Emcee Director Reed



TREA's Board of Directors - (front row, l-r): VSO Holzhauser, TSCL Chair Cates Memorial Chair Tabacheck, Director Hilinski, Director Jump, Director Rice, Director Reed, PNP Delaney. (top row, l-r): Treasurer Oelschig, Parliamentarian Flowers, President Hyland, 1st Vice Adams, 2nd Vice Turks, 3rd Vice Davis



TREA's Board of Directors



TREA's 1st Business Meeting



Memorial Chair Tabacheck, Director Hilinski, Director Jump & Director Rice



2nd Vice & Chaplain Turks opens the Bible to start the Business Meeting



Auxiliary President Cates and Auxiliary PNP Keener present Auxiliary member Sherry Eller with an award

CANDID CONFERENCE SHOTS: A great time was had by all of our delegates! So many shared smiles!



MAL Doug Osborne visits with Chapter 113 Delegate, Lanny Eller



DFO Osborne receiving an award at the TREA Awards Dinner



President Larry Hyland celebrating TREA's accomplishments at this year's Awards Dinner



Myriam & Leonard Black with Luz & Louis Arana, Sr. visit before the banquet



Paul & Sandy Ott with Cheryl & Butch Liebaert enjoying each others' company before the Installation Banquet



Rafael & Michelle Cadena attend the Installation Banquet (Michelle is President Hyland's Daughter)



The Color Guard from Nellis AFB, presents the colors.



President Hyland presents the book



Auxiliary President, Irmgard Cates, discusses her plans



Chapter 119 President & Memorial Trustee Butch Liebaert shows respect for the POW/MIA Table



IPNP Rick Delaney presents Outgoing President Larry Hyland with the traditional Gavel & Plaque



TREA's 2017 Incoming President, John I. Adams



Joining together for the signing of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA"



The 'Memory Book' - marking the names of 20,000 deceased members of TREA since 2000

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Buttons**

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Here's why.

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Say good-bye to everything you hate about cell phones. Say hello to the **ALL-NEW Jitterbug Flip.**

“Cell phones have gotten so small, I can barely dial mine.” Not the new Jitterbug® Flip. It features a larger keypad for easier dialing. It even has a larger display so you can actually see it.

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Operator Assistance	24/7	24/7
Long Distance Calls	No add'l charge	No add'l charge
Voice Dial	FREE	FREE
Nationwide Coverage	YES	YES
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TREA Rolls into Las Vegas and Commits to “Keep on Winning!” By Kim DeCoste

A strong sense of unity and devotion to TREA permeated the Convention in Las Vegas as members and delegates convened for the 53rd convention. Many arrived on Wednesday and kicked off the events with a happy hour before devoting their time and talent to the organization they love and support. As Editor-in-Chief of The Voice, it was my honor and privilege to attend with open eyes and ears.

September 14:

The Board of Directors came to the first “social” event a bit later than they expected, as pre-Convention meetings were intense, detailed, and important for the organization. While they were away, attendees heard from TSCL Executive Director, Shannon Benton, and others. Ms. Benton shared information about the work TSCL does not only on behalf of TREA, but also on behalf of all seniors. Their lobbyists work in Washington on topics most pressing for American senior citizens, including cost of living adjustments and the rising and under-noted impact of health care as a portion of income for seniors.

We also heard from the Memorial Foundation representative, Mark Tabacheck, who explained how that organization deploys funds to help those in need. If you are not familiar with the Memorial Fund or with TSCL, please take the time to look into both groups. The work they do is of interest and value to TREA members. They might be able to help you. Whether you hit a rough spot and need access to emergency funding, or you are planning to be in Washington DC and would like meetings with key people who advocate for you or represent you, both groups do tremendous work.

At kick off, Legislative Representative, Deidre Holleman and team spoke about work they are doing on behalf of TREA. Through their regular participation on key membership committees, and in leadership roles in conjunction with related organi-

zations, they are actively working for you as members and your legislative interests. Finally, Auxiliary President Irmgard Cates spoke about upcoming plans for the National Auxiliary.

September 15:

On Thursday, the convention kicked off in full with Opening Ceremonies that included an Honor Guard presentation from Nellis Air Force Base, followed by speaker, Chief Master Sergeant William J. Arcuri, 99th Mission Support Group Superintendent from Nellis Air Force Base. The Chief opened by reminding attendees that what happens in Vegas does not always STAY in Vegas and by telling a few good jokes while sharing information about the work he and his teams do to support flight operations in the expansive area for which he is responsible. It includes not only the Air Force Base complex at Nellis, but also Creech Air Force Base and the entire Nevada Test and Training Range, also known as the “NTTR”. The installation, he asserted, plays “an invaluable role in the continual work to ensure we maintain a tactical advantage in air, space and cyberspace.”

After Chief Master Sergeant Arcuri concluded his address to the group, the members of the Auxiliary left to commence their work, and the TREA delegate meeting was called to order by President Hyland.

The order commenced with a touching invocation and “Opening of the Bible” by 2nd Vice President, Chaplain Turks, who

began with Matthew 8:18-20, reminding all that they were there to do good work together. As Parliamentary Flowers held the role call, leaders prepared to present their reports and all were reminded of procedural policy by Director Jump. With a few minor updates, past convention minutes were filed and approved, nominations were invited from the floor for leadership roles and then, after one quick recess, the meeting began in earnest with the National President’s Report.

The morning ran smoothly including a brief delegate-only discussion about voting rights of some chapter members who are non-delegates in attendance and who came with the intention of caucusing with Members at Large (MALs) for voting purposes. This new question was promptly addressed and unanimously resolved by vote.

Moving on, all reports were filed and accepted with a few points of discussion that went smoothly. Notably, while TREA’s long-term financial health is concern, Treasurer Oelschig made a detailed budget available. It was approved. (Kudos to her and to the team who helped her reconcile those numbers, as this was a major point of discussion last year.) TREA does still have work to do in the improvement of its fiscal situation, but now the playing field is clear and understood.

When the meeting wrapped, there was a bit of time to rest and refuel before the evening’s festivities began. The theme, “It’s Vegas, Baby!” was clear as members filed into the ballroom that was decked out for an evening that included music, laughs, and the auction. Guests were tapping their toes and singing along when the “Rat Pack” joined them, show girl in tow! Familiar tunes, old friends, and a nice meal made for a fun time all around.

September 16:

When it was time to resume business on Friday, everyone came ready to get down to it. Once again, Chaplain Turks led with an invocation and prayer, and then the official roll call and delegate count began as some prepared for their speeches.

First Vice President Adams made a strong case for his leadership and set forth clear goals. He will continue his focus on Membership, Finances, Training, and Legislative matters. Mr. Adams talked about how important it is to be able to articulate member benefits and chapter benefits for recruiting purposes, and about partnerships with groups such as ESGR. He talked about finances, convention costs, and streamlining where possible, including perhaps merging IT and PR. He vowed to keep an eye on legislative matters, and then, in a statement that was as strong as it could be, he said, “Whatever it takes to get TREA business accomplished, including resigning from my current job, I will do.”

From there, the meeting moved forward with speeches only where there were contested positions. In the case where appointment could be made by acclamation, it was.

From that point, delegates dove into the committee reports, and into detailed TREA business, including a vibrant discussion about changing the convention. Some feel TREA should only convene in Denver, as it is central and where headquarters are. This would save significant cost. Some felt TREA should compromise and meet every other year in Denver or Colorado Springs for the same reasons.

The discussion on this question was long and sometimes emotional. Many points of view were heard. One important note is that the members at large (MALs) were a large portion of the attendees this year and many were new. It was further pointed out, that to keep those new members engaged, an annual meeting is needed so that they get a feel for the organization, its leadership, and its history. Several people pointed out, as did first time convention attendee, Walt Coley, Chapter 34, “my sense is that this is a fraternal organization first...you have to decide,” he asserted, “what makes TREA TREA? Two years is a long time for the old guys and a long time to wait to pass on information to newer members. This culture may not survive those two years.”

The next significant discussion was that of adding “Associate membership” for family of deceased TREA members. This also let to discussion and quick research related to the charter and what is acceptable. If TREA were to do this, “Courtesy Members” (or whatever they would be called) could not be more than 25% of total national membership without a change to the existing charter and rules. PNP Delany confirmed this fact during the discussion and the decision at this time was against adding non-military or non-enlisted members at this time.

While all of this was going on, ballots were tallied and election winners were announced: The Directors that were named were Mr. Jump and Mr. Barnett. Then, the vote went on to look at tallies for future conventions. The choices were: Shreveport, LA, Ft. Walton Beach, FL, Ft. Sill, MT, or Dayton, OH. Apparently, the beach was compelling enough to most to get the votes, as it won by a solid margin. With that decided, we moved on to the Awards Luncheon.

We have noted the award winners in a separate part of The VOICE for your review. (See page 6.) Suffice it to say, it was a parade of excellence in service, as person after person was acknowledged by President Hyland. At one point, just before the TSCL Awards,

***“It is not I. It is not me.
It is we and it is team,
and together we are what
makes this organization.”***



the President said, “It is not I. It is not me. It is we and it is team, and together we are what makes this organization grow.”

After lunch, meetings resumed and Mr. Jump kicked us off and delegates discussed dues. Some adjustments due to cost / benefit and it was agreed that there would be a modification of the 3 year dues, as they cost more to administer in paperwork than they yield in benefit for TREA. This passed quickly.

The attendees discussed and declined to change the size of the committee members, as it was decided that now, when growth is needed, cutting back on the number of people doing work on behalf of TREA would be unwise and would shift the burden back to the remaining committee members, making it harder to recruit new leaders. Additional points of business were addressed and the meeting sped along quickly through the final break of the day.

When it resumed, the President made announcements and with a few other comments, we moved to what was one of the most interesting parts for a new observer to TREA conventions. That was the part of the meeting “For the Good of the Order”.

Perhaps it was because it was a full day, or perhaps it was the effect of meeting so many incredible people in the days prior, but, as a new observer and – as I try to be your eyes and ears, watching and listening on behalf of those who could not attend – I found the “Good of the Order” to be -in some ways - the heart of all that was said and done at the convention.

During this period from 4:00 until we adjourned 48 minutes later, people approached the microphones and spoke freely. We heard many points of view. We heard many kudos and some critiques. We heard several questions. Some required answers and some were rhetorical. We heard members thanking members, and we heard members expressing their heartfelt love of country, of each

other as long-time friends, and of TREA as a beacon of hope for the enlisted people who volunteer to serve our country.

Mostly we heard passion for the cause that TREA represents and ways in which a diverse and devoted membership is approaching its obligation to the organization. New members and MALs expressed their appreciation. Some who did not get elected this time doubled-down on their commitment to future leadership roles if possible.

It was PNP Smith who offered the final comments before Chaplain Turks closed The Bible and read the benediction. His emotional words of thanks were what stuck with many along with the prayer and the devoted sound of the Bible being closed. It was quite a set up for the Installation Banquet that followed.

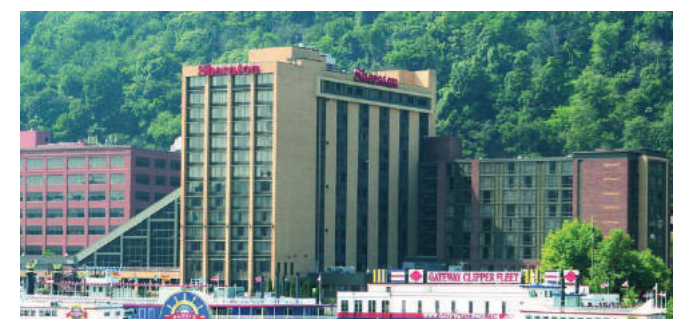
Finally, a few words about the Installation Banquet. Again, as a first time participant and The VOICE editor, I was warned that it “might be a bit emotional”. I was not at all prepared for the POW/MIA Ceremony and for the overwhelming pride and humility I felt as we held hands and sang Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the USA”. I should have had a box of tissues! The evening was well done by all who worked to plan and it was exciting to see (and now to have gotten to know) the new leadership installed. We had an interesting speaker, Mr. Eric Poole, who talked about his book, and we closed the evening with smiles and many warm embraces.

TREA has a lot to do in the coming years to ensure her vitality and increase the ranks, but if the dedication and devotion evidenced in Las Vegas this year is coupled with determination, real work, and collaboration among members and, perhaps between TREA and others, TREA can and should have a promising future for generations to come.



2017 - PITTSBURGH!

It's never too early to get excited!!



Thank you to TREA for a wonderful 2016 Convention!
Here are a few candid shots from throughout the event.
To view the full album, see pages 28-34.



Check our website (www.trea.org) for up-to-date information on this upcoming convention!



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Being Mindful of What We Eat During the Holidays

By Kim DeCoste

As we see the leaves on the ground and the retail stores starting to ramp up for the holidays, we are also reminded of one of the best things about the season to come – all of the delicious food and drink that we enjoy during the holidays. Starting with Halloween, for many of us, from the end of October until the ball drops at midnight on New Year’s Eve, we start snacking, baking, cooking, drinking, and stuffing ourselves with a lot of extra calories.

What can we do? It is easy to say “moderation is key”, but really, we need to find some effective tips to help us avoid over-eating and over snacking. Our team did some research and found the following tips we can all use from The Huffington Post recently:



1. Switch it up:

You often are thinking about the next piece of candy before finishing the one you have. To slow down and enjoy each piece of candy as you are eating it, eat with your non-dominate hand (if you are left handed, eat with your right). This will help prevent you from mindlessly popping candy into your mouth. Research indicates that this simple swap can cut down on how much you eat by approximately 30 percent. — Dr. Susan Albers, author of the National Bestseller, EatQ

2. Halloween “fairy”:

Robin Treasure, the Wellness Strategist states, “In our home (with a 5-year-old) the “candy fairy” appears at night after every holiday, takes all the candy, and leaves coins. The candy gets chucked mercilessly in the trash.

(Our team thinks this is pretty “harsh”, but we concede that throwing it all away would work. It does seem like a waste, though!)

3. Pumpkin seeds:

If you’re super-stressed and anxious you’re going to stress eat! Here is a great Halloween tip to lower your stress and sugar cravings: Enjoy some spicy, roasted pumpkin seeds. They are high in zinc and tryptophan so they’ll raise serotonin, your happy and calming brain chemical. They’re also a great snack to help keep your blood sugar stable and mood even. — Trudy Scott, author of The Antianxiety Food Solution and host of The Anxiety Summit

We also love nuts for healthy snacks. Almonds, in particular, are easy to buy in bulk raw, and then you can roast them at 350 degrees with a little bit of olive oil, rosemary, and sea salt for about 20 minutes. This is one of our favorite snacks (and easy hostess gifts) for the holidays.



4. Tahini:

Have tahini or coconut oil with any Halloween candy to cut the sugar shock, but also maintain the fatty richness of the candy. Think of adding tahini as making an instant candy-filled version of Halva and coconut oil as a decadent buffer to your sugar buzz. — Dr. Sam from tenpointwellness.com

5. Go green this Fall:

Beginning with Halloween and all the way through Thanksgiving, decorate with organic pumpkins and squash and then eat the decorations! With bellies full of nutrient-dense foods, everyone is less likely to eat the sweets and junk food snacks! — Elaine De Santos from FamilyForHealth.com

6. Protein:

If candy is still in the house post-Halloween, eat a breakfast of protein, such as eggs or turkey bacon, with healthy fat, such as avocado or almond butter, in order to prevent from being too hungry and wanting to reach for the candy. — Heather Morgan, MS, NLC, Nutrition Coach, Radio Host, Columnist Owner of Morgan Holistic Health, Sonoma CA

7. Avoid emotional eating:

With all that extra sugar around, don’t let stress and overwhelm tip the scales! If you find your hand in the treat bowl or the cookie jar, ask yourself if candy or cookies are what you need or if there is a better fix for what you are really craving. Are you actually hungry, or are you tired, bored, stressed, or looking for a quick pick me up? Make a pact not to use Halloween treats and other junk food to feed your hidden hungers. — Dr. Melissa McCreery, psychologist, emotional eating expert at TooMuchOnHerPlate.com

8. “Eat dessert first”:

To avoid big blood sugar swings that can keep you (and the kids) awake all night on Halloween and after, I recommend eating candy first and then winding down the evening with a high-protein dinner like chili or beef or turkey burgers. Keeping blood sugar more stable will calm cravings for even more sugar, and keep kids (and parents or grandparents) from waking up in the middle of the night with a blood sugar drop. — Jessica Drummond, MPT, CCN The Integrative Pelvic Health Institute

9. Sweeten your palates:

It may sound counterintuitive, but actually having healthier sweet treats keeps me away from candy and holiday baked treats. Our tradition: a bowl of homemade chili topped with avocado to keep blood sugar balanced and cravings at bay + a mug of

warm, spiced apple cider. Spiced cider comforts, warms and aids digestion while knocking out sweet cravings. Using the “switch witch” and tossing out the candy doesn’t hurt either! — Jen Witman of TheHealthyPlate.org.

Being mindful of what we are eating and drinking is more than half of the battle. It is easy to pack in a lot of extra calories without even noticing it while socializing at parties or while sitting on the couch watching your favorite holiday movies. We also recommend (from personal experience) that having candy dishes loaded is not a great idea. Do not forget all the beautiful seasonal fruit and, as we remember as it gets dry in the winter months, keep drinking water to feel full and stay hydrated as well. Have a happy, healthy, holiday season!

Adapted from the internet http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-susan-albers/9-tips-for-a-mindfully-sw_b_6051888.html on October 1, 2016.





The Washington Report

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Washington Executive Director

In September TREAs – the Enlisted Association Washington Office staff got to meet many of you and talk about federal legislation and regulation at our National Convention. We were able to hear about your desires, worries, and concerns. But many of you were not there so please do not hesitate to call or e-mail us about what you would like to focus on in next year’s new 115th session of Congress. We also have TREAs Board of Director member Aaron Reed as our new Chairman of the Legislative Committee. So it was new and interesting times before we even returned home.

It has been an exciting fall in Washington once we returned. By the time you are reading this article we will probably already have a new President –elect, a new House of Representatives and Senate and a brand new Lame duck session of Congress and a Lame duck President. (If not you will still be sitting on pins and needles!) If the Democrats lose the Presidency and/or the Republican lose control of either the House or the Senate or both Houses change there will be great storm winds over DC. But what will that last fact mean to the legislative and regulatory issues that TREAs members care about? No one really knows....

Here are some educated guesses. Both the National Defense Authorization Act and the National Defense Appropriation Act should pass and be signed into law. We are told unofficially that almost all the contentious points that we care about have been agreed to by the beginning of October. We think that is good news for stopping the proposed increases in TRICARE co-pays. Last year it was the end of December before the Senate and the Administration gave up on their proposed huge co-pay increases. So we think that is good sign.

Along with fighting the proposed co-pay increases we are continuing to urge the Congressional Conferees not to:

- Severely cut the Basic Housing Allowance (BHA) for the Active Duty. (The Senate accepted the Administration’s proposal to cover only what servicemembers actually pay in rent and also make servicemembers (whether spouses or roommates) living in one residence split the housing allowance.

- Cut back on veterans preference benefits. (Presently veterans hiring preference applies no matter how many federal jobs a veteran may have in his or her life. The Senate again accepted the Pentagon’s idea that a veteran would have preference when he or she is applying for a first federal job. But it would then be abolished when trying to move into different federal jobs. Additionally the present system gives veterans protection if his/her department is subject to a Reduction-in-Force (RIF). The Senate version would abolish that.).

We think we have a good chance of killing all or most of those 2 proposals. Additionally, there is still pending a proposed major overhaul and recreation of the TRICARE healthcare benefit. How much will pass, we really don’t know. We don’t even have much of a guess. But some of the most dramatic proposed changes are:

- Creating Two TRICARE options: TRICARE Select, similar to TRICARE Prime, a managed care option that is centered at Military Treatment Facilities (MTF). And TRICARE Choice, which is somewhat similar to TRICARE Standard, but is really a PPO offering more choice than TRICARE Select but at a higher cost.

- Retirees and their family members under the age of 65 would have an open enrollment period and an annual “participation” fee for both TRICARE Select and TRICARE Choice. Those who do not enroll would forfeit coverage for the plan year. Copays will depend on beneficiary category (excluding active duty) and care venue. There would be no copays in MTFs.

- Fixed Co-pays for the TRICARE Choice option if patients use a provider in the network. Higher cost-shares will apply when patients see a provider out of the network.

- Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) will have a no cost share option regardless of duty location.

- Increasing the catastrophic caps for active duty families and retirees and their families and retiree participation fees would not count towards the cap.

- Prescription drug copays would also increase; however, there would still be no cost for prescriptions filled at a MTF or for generic drugs through the mail order program.

By a vote of 70 to 28, the Senate has validated that we need to move carefully and protect the EARNED benefits of our military service members and their families. This is a MAJOR success for #SaveOurBenefit.

It’s still not over yet. There are still those that would destroy this important benefit. For our Facebook family, we ask once again to help us grow the Coalition. Please forward to your family and friends. As threats increase, so must our Coalition to protect.

Stand Alone Legislation and Areas of Concern:

Concurrent Receipt: Representatives Sanford Bishop (D-GA) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) have both reintroduced their bills that would allow the remaining longevity military retirees to collect both their retired pay and their VA disability pay. Rep Bishop’s (D-GA) H.R.333 now has 81 co-sponsors while Rep. Bilirakis’ (R-FL) H.R. 303 has 121 co-sponsors. But nothing has happened and it is extremely likely that we will need to start again in the 115th Session of Congress. Senator Harry Reid’s (D-NV) companion bill is S. 271. It now has 25 co-sponsors. Next year we will need to find a new champion in the Senate since Harry Reid is retiring. If you have any suggestions please contact me at our Washington office.

Active Duty: Last year DoD changed the Flat Rate for long term TDYs (defined as over 30 days.) From day 31-180 a service member will receive only 75% of the locality rate. If the time is more that 180 days the flat rate drops to 55% of locality rate. We all know that the regular locality rates are far from generous and this is miserly. H.R. 1193 introduced by Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) would stop this nickel and diming of service members. It now has 35 co-spon-

sors but has not moved out of Committee.

Veterans: The Administration is proposing a VA budget of \$182.3 billion for FY2017. This includes \$78.7 billion in discretionary spending and is an increase of \$3.6 billion from last year. The Continuing Resolution (CR) that keeps the federal government through December 9th 2016 provides a full year appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs. That is why getting 2 year funding was so important.

Next year the House of Representative’s VA Committee will be very different. The present Chairman, Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) is retiring and the HVAC’s Ranking Member Rep. Corinne Brown (D-FL) lost a primary bid after being arrested for fraudulently using the money from a scholarship charity. So whoever wins and whoever loses control of the House the HVAC will have new Congressional leadership.

Chairman of the HVAC Jeff Miller (R-FL) has been trying for the last few years to improve and strengthen Congress’ ability to oversee the VA. He has introduced several bills to see that happens. And this is his last chance. H.R. 280 would authorize the Secretary of the VA to recoup bonuses and awards from VA employees. With only 9 co-sponsors the House passed the bill as amended and sent it to the Senate for its consideration. It “Authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to issue an order directing a VA employee to repay the amount, or a portion of the amount, of an award or bonus paid to the employee if: (1) the VA determines that such repayment is appropriate, and (2) the employee is afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing conducted by another federal agency. Makes such repayment decisions final and unreviewable. Makes this Act applicable to awards or bonuses paid before, on, or after the date of this Act’s enactment.”

Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) has a similar bill. S. 627 now has 15 co-sponsors. It has passed the Committee and reported out to the full Senate. It is still waiting for a vote.

Other bills with the same goals include S.1496 introduced by Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and H.R. 1038 the Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act introduced by Rep Ryan Costello (R-PA)

Chairman Miller (R-FL) has also introduced H.R.473 “Increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability to Veterans Act of 2015” which would grant the Secretary of the VA to lower certain SES’s retirement annuities, accept complaints and limit the VA SES employees performance ratings to:” no more than: (1) 10% of such employees may receive the outstanding level of performance, and (2) 20% of such employees may receive the exceeds-fully-successful level of performance. It now has 7 co-sponsors. While it was passed by the VA Committee it is still wasting away in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Senator Jerry Moran’s (R-KS) companion bill S.290 now has grown to 4 co-sponsors. And it has been favorably reported out of Committee. Then there is a bill sponsored by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) S.1856. It, too, would make it easier to suspend and/or remove VA employees but with more procedural protections for the employees. It has 26 co-sponsors. Chairman Miller’s H.R.571 would support and strengthen “whistleblowers” “it the VA. It has 14 co-sponsors.

Ranking member Corrine Brown has also introduced H.R. 216 “Improves the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Plan.” While it only had 4 co-sponsors they included HVAC Chairman Miller (R-FL) and Democratic House leader Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and it too passed the House quickly and sent on to the Senate. Again this shows



how important it is to try and get your bill introduced by a member sitting on the relevant Committee of jurisdiction.

S.901 the “Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015” also introduced by Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) would require the VA to create a “ national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure.” This has been a long time goal of our friends at the Vietnam Veterans of America. There has been a real push for this bill. (and a real push back) It has now grown to 40 co-sponsors. It has already had its hearing. Its companion bill in the House is H.R. 1769. It was introduced by Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI) the Chairman of the HVAC’s Health Subcommittee and has grown again and now has 179 co-sponsors and has been passed by his Subcommittee. There seems to be a great deal of wind at the back of this bill. However if it does not pass we will need to find another proponent in the House since Rep. Benishek (R-MI) is also retiring at the end of this session.

S.398 “Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act of 2015” also introduced by Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) The bill would enlarge chiropractic care in the VA by requiring the VA provide “chiropractic care and services to veterans through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and clinics to be carried out at: (1) no fewer than 75 medical centers by December 31, 2016, and (2) all medical centers by December 31, 2018.” It still has 13 bi-partisan co-sponsors. While its companion bill, H.R. 1170, now has 24 co-sponsors. It was introduced by Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL). Mr. Grayson left the House to run for the Democratic nomination for Florida Senator, which he lost. So we will need to find yet another champion.

H.R. 2067 the “Cold War Service Medal of 2015” has been introduced by Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) and has 23 cosponsors. Rep. Israel has introduced similar bills in previous Congresses. If this is important to you please contact me with your story. We are working to get a companion bill introduced in the Senate.

Survivors: Representative Joe Wilson’s (R-SC) bill to end the SBP/DIC offset, H.R. 1594, now has 202 co-sponsors. Senator Bill Nelson’s (D-FL) companion bill, S.979, now has 29 bi-partisan co-sponsors. This is a cause that I have been working on for over a decade. We successfully got rid of the SBP/ Social Security “Offset” but then this worthy cause has ground to a halt. We did get a partial success with the SSIA program but now we need to lengthen that program (it ends in 2017 if we do nothing) get the rest of the payment and make it permanent. On December 9th of last year the House Armed Services Committee Personnel Subcommittee held a hearing on this issue. The problem however is always the same. The increase in funding would have to be from mandatory DoD funding rather than discretionary funding. This means that Congress needs to find dollar for dollar cuts in another defense program. And of course that is very very hard. On the other hand it is clear that there is an enormous amount of money sloshing around the Department of Defense and it is about time that DoD or Congress find this small amount to help these long suffering widows and widowers.

The House’s version of the NDAA extended the SSIA program 1 year. The Senate’s version made the program permanent but froze the amount to only \$310 forever! Both provisions are totally insufficient.

Representative Alan Grayson (D-FL) has just submitted a bill, H.R. 4519, that would expend SSIA for 5 more years while increasing the payout. When nothing was happening on this issue Rep. Grayson tried to end the offset completely for 1 year by baring the use of any money to implement the offset in the National Defense Appropriations Act. The



rules committee bounced it but we were grateful for his hard work on this. Again, Rep. Grayson will not be in the 115th session of Congress next year.

H.R. 2531 is a bill that Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) first introduced in the 113th session of Congress. It makes the widows/widowers of any member of the Armed Forces who died between September 11, 2001, and December 31, 2005 eligible for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry scholarship. It has 25 co-sponsors. It was included in the Veterans Omnibus bill, as we had hoped. And then the Omnibus bill itself

died; and everyone is trying to start again. We still are hopeful that this will survive conference this year.

H.R.2539 introduced by Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-MA) would set the monthly DIC rate 55% of the payment granted to a veteran who has been found to be 100% service connected disabled. This would put the DIC widow/widower in a similar position of the spouse of a civilian federal employee who dies while working. It has 12 co-sponsors. This is a push that will surely go into next year (or very likely much longer.)



It's NOT Too Late for an Emergency COLA! By Jessie Gibbons, Senior Policy Analyst

When this year's Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was announced over one year ago, TSCL's members and supporters flooded our office with concerns. Alan of Nevada told us, "No COLA means I will be going to the doctor less, going some nights without food, and I will probably have to let my car go ... No COLA is an insult to all of us who depend on Social Security for our income."

For Social Security beneficiaries like Alan, the passage of an emergency COLA would provide much-needed relief at a time when Social Security benefits are simply not keeping up rising costs. Just weeks remain in the lame duck session of the 114th Congress, but The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) and many others in Washington are not giving up the fight for an emergency COLA.

The inflation index that's currently used to calculate COLAs isn't doing the job for retired and disabled Americans since it's based on the way young, urban workers spend their money. It leaves out rapidly rising costs like Medicare premiums, while giving more weight to items like gasoline and electronics, which are currently deeply deflated. In fact, had the COLA been based on a more accurate measure of inflation for older Americans, Social Security beneficiaries would not have received a zero COLA in 2016.

That's why we're urging Congress to pass an emergency Social Security COLA in the 114th Congress, which comes to a close on January 3, 2017. The deadline may be approaching quickly, but it is not too late for Congress to take action.

Introduced by Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA) and Representative Tammy Duckworth (IL-8), the Seniors and Veterans Emergency (SAVE) Benefits Act (S. 2251, H.R. 4144) would provide Social Security beneficiaries with a one-time emergency COLA of 3.9%. It would cover the cost responsibly by closing a corporate compensation loophole that provides million-dollar tax breaks to CEOs of top corporations. For the average retiree, the

emergency COLA would amount to around \$580 dollars.

With so little time before the end of the 114th Congress, TSCL needs your help to build support for emergency COLA legislation. Here's what you can do...

Call your Members of Congress toll free today at 844-455-0045 to request their support for the SAVE Benefits Act. Write a letter or email to your Members of Congress. Many offices respond directly to each piece of mail they receive. Contact top leaders in the House and Senate as well to urge them to bring the SAVE Benefits Act up for a vote before the end of the 114th Congress.

Sign our urgent petition, which we'll personally deliver by hand to each of your elected officials. You can find the petition on our website, or in mail packages that you receive from us. Send a letter to the editor of your local paper urging others to support the SAVE Benefits Act.

We hope you will consider aiding our efforts by contacting your elected officials and urging them to act as soon as possible. For contact information or tips on communicating effectively with your Members of Congress, you can call our office any time at (800) 333-8725. For more information about the SAVE Benefits Act, be sure to visit our website at www.SeniorsLeague.org.

The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) mission is to promote, to assist, to educate and alert the general public about their rights and freedoms as U.S. Citizens. TSCL works diligently to protect and defend the benefits U.S. citizens have earned and paid for. TSCL consists of vocally active citizens who are concerned about the protection of their Social Security, Medicare, and veteran or military retiree benefits. Learn more about The Senior Citizens League at www.SeniorsLeague.org, an affiliate of TREA: The Enlisted Association.

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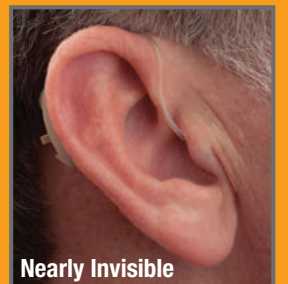
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The POW/MIA Ceremony By Hazel Simeon

For those of you who attended the 2016 TREA National Convention in Las Vegas in September you will have witnessed a very solemn ceremony by “Butch” Liebaert and narrated by PNP Rick Delaney. You may have witnessed the ceremony at other conventions or other events and, although your soul was touched and you honored the prisoners and the missing you may not have known what the elements of the ceremony are and what they represent, or why we even have such a ceremony. Maybe you had comrades in your unit who were lost and are not yet found, maybe you don’t know if they have ever been found and returned to their families.

I will be writing a column for each issue of the VOICE magazine about the POW/MIA situation and try to update you on current progress or events. For this issue I simply want to look at the Missing Man Table Ceremony because we recently performed one and it touched me deeply.

These are the elements and the meanings of each:

- Table is set for one, is small, symbolizing the frailty of one isolated prisoner. The table is usually set close to, or within sight of, the entrance to the dining room. For large events of the Missing Man Table is set for six places: members of the five armed services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard) and a sixth place setting reminiscent of the civilians who died during service alongside the armed forces or missing during armed conflict. Table is round to represent everlasting concern on the part of the survivors for their missing loved ones.

- Tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country’s call to arms.

- Single red rose in the vase, signifies the blood that many have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith, while awaiting their return.

- Yellow ribbon on the vase represents the yellow ribbons worn on the lapels of the thousands who demand with unyielding determination a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us tonight.

- Slice of lemon on the bread plate: represents the bitter fate of the missing.

- Salt sprinkled on the bread plate: symbolic of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait.

- Inverted glass: represents the fact that the missing and fallen cannot partake.

- Lit candle: reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation.

- Empty chair: the missing and fallen aren’t present.

May we never forget our missing and fallen comrades and may God bring them home to the arms of their families.



Harry Able, IL
Member at Large

Frank Borowitz, WI
US Air Force
Member at Large

Edwin H Allen, NC
US Air Force
Member at Large

Charles Branson, CO
US Air Force
Chapter 1

Dan Barger, MI
US Army
Chapter 41

Alvin Brown, MD
US Air Force
Chapter 105

Frederick F Bartlett, SC
USAF
Member at Large

Alvin Bryant, MN
US Air Force
Member at Large

Richard Baylor Sr., NY US
Air Force
Member at Large

Franklin Burnett, MA
US Air Force
Member at Large

John Bell, CO
US Air Force
Chapter 3

John Burke, WA
US Air Force
Member at Large

Robert a Bermudes, WA US
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Member at Large

Harry Butler, FL
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Member at Large

Nancy Biehler, OK
US Air Force
Member at Large

Andrew Chando, VA
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Chapter 070

Ronald Black, SC
US Army
Member at Large

Richard Childers, GA
US Air Force
Member at Large

Richard Blount, FL
US Army
Member at Large

Francis Cirino, VA
US Navy
Member at Large

James Boatman, TX
US Air Force
Member at Large

Denver Clayton, SC
Member at Large

Francis Coen, OH
Member at Large

Bernard Gorda, MD
US Air Force
Member at Large

Eugene Coombs, TX
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Member at Large

Robert Gorke, AZ
US Air Force
Member at Large

William A Coup, SC
US Air Force
Member at Large

Joseph Hagans, VA
Member at Large

Jesus Davila, MD
US Army
Member at Large

Alger Hardnett, NC
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Clifford Day, CO
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Member at Large

Ray Hay, SC
US Air Force
Member at Large

Henry G Ducœur, TX
USAF
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Patrick Henkelman, CO
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Clifford Fancher, AL
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	Michael Petrosh, LA US Air Force Member at Large	Benjamin Smith, VA US Air Force Member at Large	



Prepare Now for the Next Opportunity By TREA President John I. Adams

Now is the time to prepare for our next opportunity. While we are employed, it is tempting to sit back and coast in relation to our professional development. Each day we work, we gain experience, but then, so do those who will compete with us as to future opportunities.

The question we should always have on our mind is, “What is the next best use of our time through which we can learn and grow?” An area to examine are the job descriptions of opportunities for which we have an interest. We should evaluate how our skills and credentials match up. This gap analysis will allow us to set goals which will enable us to become ever more competitive for advancement or for a potential career change.

In this evaluation, we should consider evidence of our education and experience. If we lack an element of experience, we should assess how we might gain such from our current position. We can enhance our experience by volunteering for projects within our current employment or through volunteer projects which might be available through professional associations or in support of non-profits or community service organizations. The contacts we make through such endeavors may also expand our personal network through which we may discover opportunities within the hidden job market.

When we evaluate education credentials, we must remember an additional degree is not always the answer. Sometimes an employer may look more for professional certificates. Certificates provide a means of study and testing which generate a confidence level to a hiring manager that we have a certain knowledge set.

If we are up to date in formal education, we must not consider our learning as done. In such situations, we must develop a self study program from which we will continue to learn, grow and modernize our technical, academic, policy and practical knowledge.

Our gap analysis and goal setting must be periodic and revised as appropriate. Something of which we must be very careful to guard against is procrastination. It is tempting to tell ourselves we can start the program next week, but next week never comes. Instead, we must develop the discipline to carve out time today. If we reserve a portion of our work day for purposes of professional development, even if only 20 minutes a day, our investment will grow and we will advance beyond those who are complacent.



Exchange Retiree Advisory Council (ERAC) By Larry Hyland, Immediate Past President

I have been appointed to the Exchange Retiree Advisory Council (ERAC) for AAFES as a representative for TREA. I will be the direct conduit for exchange issues and updates and will provide appropriate feedback from our members who utilize the Army Air Force Exchange system. This is an excellent opportunity for TREA to be involved in an avenue that is utilized by so many members, and veterans alike. **Stay tuned for more information.**

WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

TREA CELEBRATES ALL OF THE BRAVE MEN & WOMEN WHO SERVE
THE UNITED STATES

