



EAGLE NEWS

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

October thru December 2011

WALGREENS PHARMACY CUSTOMERS

At Express Scripts, we're committed to keeping your prescription drugs affordable and accessible. That's why we negotiate cost-competitive agreements with all of our participating retail pharmacies. Unfortunately, Walgreens' proposed 2012 prices are much higher than the other pharmacies within our network. If we accepted Walgreens' rate, their higher costs may affect your future premiums. As a result, **Walgreens* will no longer be a participating provider in our pharmacy networks effective Jan. 1, 2012.** We regret any inconvenience that Walgreens' actions have caused you. If you have any questions, please call us at 1.877.885.3409.

OFFERS FREE MEAL FOR VETS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ON VETERAN'S DAY

Each year, Veterans Day turns into a military reunion at Applebee's in neighborhoods across the country. Veterans and military from across generations enjoy great food as they share stories from their time serving our country.

This year, Applebee's is offering a Veterans Day menu that includes some of its signature and favorite items. Here are the details:

- All U.S. veterans and full and military personnel with proof of current or former military service will be treated to a free meal at all Applebee's in their respective

neighborhoods on Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11, 2011.

- Proof of service includes the following: U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, photograph in uniform or wearing uniform, DD214, Citation or Commendation.

Expiration: Oct 11, 2012

ST. CLOUD VA ANNOUNCES NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR ORDERING MEDICATION REFILLS

St. Cloud, Minn.: Starting Monday, Oct. 3, Veterans wanting to place medication refill orders with the St. Cloud VA Pharmacy by telephone should dial (Toll Free) 855-560-1724. VA prescriptions can also be refilled online if Veterans register for "My HealthVet" at www.myhealth.va.gov.

DFAS RETIRED PAY NEWSLETTER

- **Coming Soon: Monthly Retiree Account Statements.** You asked, and we're delivering. Beginning with your Nov. 1 payment, you'll get a new Retiree Account Statement (RAS) on myPay every month!
- **Need Help Getting on myPay?** myPay, the official online account management system for military members and retirees, is the fastest, easiest, and most convenient way to keep your account current. If you're new to myPay or haven't used it in a while, check out these tips to help you get started.

- **Keep Us Informed!** Life keeps you busy, so you may not always remember to let everyone know when things change. But please put DFAS Retired and Annuitant (R&A) Pay on your list of those to keep in the know.

- **Contact Us Online.** Calling isn't always convenient, and sometimes you might just want to learn a little bit more about your retired or annuity pay, so we're working on creating a stronger online presence to make it easier for you to get more information in more ways.

- **Are You Ready For Tax Season?** Tax season is quickly approaching. Please make sure we have your current email and mailing address, so you receive your 1099R, newsletter and annual account statement

MILITARY RETIREE PAY DATES TO CHANGE

CLEVELAND (AFRNS) -- Paydays for military retirees and those who receive portions of retired pay are changing for September and December, as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service changes its pay schedule to comply with the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act.

This year payments normally scheduled for Oct. 3 will be issued on Sept. 30, and payments normally scheduled for Jan. 3, 2012, will be issued on Dec. 30. For calendar 2011, this means military retirees will receive 13 rather than the normal 12 payments. For tax year 2012 and beyond, retirees will receive their normal 12 payments. For more retiree news and information, please visit www.retirees.af.mil.

A BLUE WATER CLAIMS

Veterans who served aboard U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships operating on the waters of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, may be eligible to receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation for 14 medical conditions associated with presumptive exposure to Agent Orange. An updated list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships confirmed to have operated on Vietnam's inland waterways, docked on shore, or had crewmembers sent ashore, has been posted at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/> to assist Vietnam Veterans in determining potential eligibility for compensation benefits.

10TH AFRAD AT CAMP RIPLEY

A very successful event was conducted by Chapter 115 members, under the leadership of our President Ralph Donais. We were happy to welcome 178 attendees who participate in morning and afternoon sessions. Due to a reduction in attendance over the past years, our Chapter has decided to follow the format of other local AFRAD or RAD's by going to one session. In 2012, we will begin at 0900, break for lunch and conclude in the afternoon. Thank you for your support.



A/V coordinator Rod Erickson with
Master of Ceremonies Bill Walters



Amber Herem of TriWest representing
Tricare



Tammy Hunter of Delta Dental



Lunch by AAFES Snack Bar staff



Lunch break in the Gymnasium



Attendees obtain answers from Exhibitors



Dawn Marker & Mark Aberle of St Cloud
VA Medical Center



Bob Olson of Army Traumatic
Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance



Deb St Sauver of Family Assistance
preparing ID Cards

PROSTATE CANCER UPDATE

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) is expected to recommend an update to its prostate cancer screening guidelines. They contend that healthy men do not need prostate cancer screening with prostate specific antigen (PSA) because the test does not save lives and often leads to unnecessary testing, interventions, and treatment. According to a report in the New York Times, the recommendation would be announced 11 OCT and is based on a USPSTF-commissioned study, which failed to show a clear benefit from prostate cancer screening with PSA. "After about 10 years, PSA-based screening results in small or no reduction in prostate cancer-specific mortality and is associated with harms related to subsequent evaluation and treatments, some of which may be unnecessary," concluded authors of the report, a copy of which was obtained by MedPage Today and ABC News.

[LINKVET](#)

The Veterans Linkage Line (LinkVet) is a toll free, one stop customer service line and website for all Minnesota veterans and their families. The service connects Veterans and their families to important services and resources.

Calls are answered Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Veterans can call LinkVet at 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838) and TTY at (800) 627-3529.

WOMEN VETERANS SUMMIT

MDVA will host a Women Veterans Summit that will be held Saturday, Oct. 29 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the College of St. Catherine in the Rauenhorst Ballroom. For more information and to RSVP email barb.oreilly@state.mn

MINNESOTA VETERANS

For a complete listing of events across the state of Minnesota, visit <http://calendar.mdva.state.mn.us>.

RETIREES INFORMATION
LOCALLY

934 Airlift Wing Retiree Activities Office - Our direct telephone numbers are (800) 231-3517, or (612) 713-1516/1517, or DSN 783-1516, Fax (612) 713-1033. E-mail: msp934rao@yahoo.com. Write us at: Retiree Activities Office, 760 Military Highway, Minneapolis, MN 55450-2100, or visit us in Building 727, Hours 1000 - 1400 Mon - Fri (except holidays).

TREA CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER 115 MEETING MINUTES – 27 AUGUST 2011

Call to Order by Chapter President
Ralph Donais

Invocation by Dell Fuller

Pledge of Allegiance by Ralph Donais
Membership Report - Mark Davidson:

At June 30 there were 266 members and 1 new member. About 120 packets were passed out between the Rosemount and Camp Ripley RADs.

Military service plaques were sold



Eleven military service plaques were sold during the AFRAD. We also Received a \$30 donation for the newsletter at the Camp Ripley RAD

Treasurer Report - Dennis Rock - \$2,069.37 in Savings and \$1,717 in Checking. Income was from our AFRAD and membership check from National and expenses were the AFRAD.

Legislative Report – Nothing much is going on. The Tax Exception will be on the table again for next year.

Old Business
The National Convention is being held in Reno, NV. Due to scheduling issues there might not

be anyone attending from Chapter 115.

New Business

Camp Ripley AFRAD: The date for next year is 25 Aug 2012. Looking at doing only one session. There is also a meal issue being looked at.

Motion by Jim Gray (second Dennis) for any member on official business to be paid mileage. Motion passed.

Ripley RAD Counts: Registrations – 178 (121 AM / 57 PM); 12 no shows (8 were lunch). Good comments were received from attendees.

Respectfully submitted,
David Hammer

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Web sites

Chapter 115:
www.trea115.org

National HQ:
www.trea.org

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promote the well-being of military retirees and/or the community in general; credit must be given to TREA, Chapter 115.

TREA Chapter 115 is a nonprofit organization, nonunion, nonpartisan and nonsectarian. Views expressed in this publication are not the official views of TREA, Chapter 115, or any governmental agency.

The editor reserves the right to revise or reject any article due to length or opinion, and no articles discriminating based on race, sex, political stance, religion or age will be accepted for publication.

The absolute deadline for articles is the 5th of January, April, July & October to dennisvictoria@usfamily.net

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 12, 2011
Saturday, February 11, 2012
Saturday, May 12, 2012
August 25, 2012 at Camp Ripley after the Saturday
AFRAD

All meetings begin at 11:00 am and are held at the VFW Sports Complex 7350 Quaday, Otsego, MN 55330. Phone 763-241-5225. Spouses and guests are always invited to attend.

From I-94 in Rogers: Go north on highway 101 towards Elk River to CR 42/River Road. Turn Left at the light. Second road on the Left is Quaday Ave NE. Turn Left. Follow Quaday until you see several brown buildings, which is the VFW Sport Complex on your Left.

From Highway 10 in Elk River: From Elk River, take Hwy 101 South towards Rogers, exit on CR 42/River Road, turn right at the light onto River Road. The next road on the left will be Quaday Ave NE. Turn Left. Follow Quaday until you see several brown buildings, which is the VFW Sport complex on your Left.

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The Retired Enlisted Association
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Elk River, MN 55330

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**AARP Driver Safety Program
Veterans Promotion**

To recognize and thank veterans for their dedication and commitment to service, the AARP Driver Safety Program (DSP) is proud to offer a FREE classroom course to ALL veterans, regardless of age, from November 1 through November 30, 2011.

To get the AARP Driver Safety Flyer with more information, go to <http://www.aarp.org/>



The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force will host the State of Minnesota Veterans Day Program Friday, Nov. 11 at the Veterans Memorial Community Center, 8055 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, Minn. The program begins at 10 a.m., with a free breakfast from 8:30-9:30 a.m. If you would like your local Veterans Day event added to the calendar please email MDVA.Communications@state.mn.us with details.

If your mailing label contains incorrect information, or if you are not receiving the Chapter e-mail announcements, notify Mark Davidson at ldavidson77@msn.com