

# THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted



## IN THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: PG 3



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS:  
PG 4

WASHINGTON UPDATE: PG 5 - 7

TREA GIVES SHINES: PG 8 - 9

AUXILIARY: PG 12 - 13

TREA SCHOLARSHIP: PG 18



## TREA FOUNDERS George

Skonce, 1915 – 2000 Dean

Sorell, 1921 – 2004

## 2022-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President - Deborah Oelschig

president@trea.org

Annual Membership Meeting Committee and  
Legislative Committee

### 1st Vice President - Walt Coley

1stvice@trea.org

Nominations & Credentialing Committee and  
Information Technology Committee

### 2nd Vice President - Justin Jump

2ndvice@trea.org

Membership Committee

### 3rd Vice President - Garry Turks

3rdvice@trea.org

Public Relations Committee

### Treasurer - Kyle Carpenter

treasurer@trea.org

Finance Committee

### Two-Year Directors - Butch Liebaert

directorliebaert@trea.org

Scholarship Committee

### Mary Clarvoe

directorclarvoe@trea.org

Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee

### Parliamentarian - Charlie Flowers (PNP)

parliamentarian@trea.org

### TREA Senior Citizens League - Ed Cates, Chairman

tsclchair@trea.org

## TREA STAFF & SUPPORT

### National Executive Staff

Debbie Osborne, Executive Director -

dosborne@trea.org - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250,  
Centennial, CO 80112 - Phone: 800-338-9337, 303-752-0660;

Fax: 303-752-0835 - [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org); treahq@trea.org

### Washington Executive Staff

Phone: 703-684-1981, 800-554-8732;

Fax: 703-548-4876, 866-548-4876

legislativeinfo@trea.org

### The Senior Citizens League

Shannon Benton, TSCL Executive Director

1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314 Phone:

800-333-8725, 703-548-5568; Fax: 703-740-4017

[www.seniorsleague.org](http://www.seniorsleague.org); comments@seniorsleague.org

### TREA National Auxiliary

Audrey McCray

mccraya@aol.com

# CONTENT



## TREA GIVES

- PG 3**      **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**
- PG 4**      **CELEBRATING 60 YEARS**
- PG 5, 6, 7**      **WASHINGTON UPDATE**
- PG 8, 9**      **TREA GIVES - HOLIDAY PROGRAM**
- PG 10**      **VA UPDATES**
- PG 11**      **TSCL**
- PG 12, 13**      **AUX PAGES**
- PG 14**      **TEAMWORK**
- PG 15**      **NP OELSCHIG GETS MARRIED**
- PG 16**      **SCHOLARSHIP/BLSR**
- PG 17**      **EXCHANGE**
- PG 18**      **TREA IS NOT ALONE**

**THE VOICE is the flagship publication of TREA: The Enlisted Association, located at 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 Centennial, CO 80112**

*Views expressed in the magazine, and the appearance of advertisements, 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 magazine staff can be reached by email at editor@trea.org. Editor-in-Chief, Debbie Osborne  
Creative Director/Graphic Designer, Gabriela Schechter.

### Editorial Office

Please send all written communication to TREA Headquarters at 12200 E Briarwood Ave, Suite 250  
Centennial, CO 80112

### 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 12200 E. Briarwood Ave., Ste 250, Centennial, CO 80112. There is no guarantee that any submission will be published. Photos must be high quality in order to be printed in the magazine. Low quality photos will not be printed.

### Deadlines

For copy and photos (with captions, please) the deadline is the 15th day, two months prior to magazine release. Next deadline is March 15th, 2023.

### 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) Please send address changes to The VOICE, 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 Centennial, CO 80112 or by email to treahq@trea.org. Periodicals postage paid at Englewood, CO and other mailing offices.

# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Deb Oelschig, National President



First of all 'Happy New Year'. Here's to hoping that 2023 is filled with health and happiness for you and your families. The year 2022 certainly provided all of us many challenges. It was a tough year for so many of our military and veterans and for all of the organizations that support and serve them.

A quick recap of 2022 from TREA's perspective: Yes, our revenue was down – this was a direct result of historical inflation and the stock market decline, but success is not calculated by income alone. TREA was successful throughout 2022 in our legislative actions and our support and assistance to military members and veterans across this great county.

If you read the last issue of The VOICE (Fall/November 2022), you will know that we signed more than 10 Congressional letters of support, attended monthly meetings with The Military Coalition (TMC), the United Veterans Coalition, the VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, the White House Community Briefings for Veterans & Military Families and The Veterans Benefits Administration's Veterans Service Organization and Advocate meetings. In addition to our legislative efforts and actions, we supported and assisted multiple veterans and their families. You will read, on pages 4 and 5 about the TREA GIVES Holiday Program. We provided food, clothing and gifts to over 200 family members. We helped a young active duty soldier obtain a new vehicle, we secured housing for those fighting against homelessness. We partnered with Semper K9 to provide a hero suffering from PTSD a trained service dog; allowing him the opportunity for a better life for himself and his daughter. We stopped utilities from being shut off, we provided aid when aid was needed. Yes, all of these actions had a monetary value, but that is not what was/is important. What mattered most was the thought; the effort and the fact that we cared about them as people, as veterans, as heroes who served. That is not something that money can buy and it's priceless.

So that was last year - let's talk about this year.

I promised transparency and communication and that is what I plan to deliver.

It is important that you know that we continue to work hard to ensure that you are taken care of and that your earned benefits remain secure and intact. Most of the time the work we do is unseen. It's in the weekly and sometimes daily conversations and emails. It's the constant contact that keeps TREA alive and well in Washington. We need to stay relevant and in the forefront and always in the minds and on the tongues of those who make the decisions in Washington that impact you and your family. They have to know who we are and what we do and more importantly – why we do it. We do it for you - because you served for us.

We are here for all who served: past, present & future.

Deborah Oelschig  
National President

UNITED WE STAND

# CELEBRATING 60 YEARS!

February 12, 1963



We are proud and very excited to acknowledge and celebrate 60 years of successful legislative advocacy for and support of enlisted retirees, veterans, active duty, and Guard & Reserve.

There have been many strong individuals who paved the way for TREAs, and we thank them and honor their vision, their perseverance and their actions.

From our humbled beginnings in 1963 to a national organization today with members from Alaska to Puerto Rico and from Maine to Hawaii, TREAs has worked relentlessly in Washington protecting your earned benefits. Through the years, we have had many legislative successes; most notably was Tricare for Life. There have been, and continue to be many issues that TREAs, through our involvement with the Military Coalition and partnerships with other organizations, have been successful in securing, and/or continue to fight for:

- [Post-9/11 GI bill](#)
- [SBP-DIC Offset \('Widows Tax'\)](#)
- [PACT Act \(Toxic Exposure\)](#)
- [Caregivers and Veterans Health issues](#)
- [The fight for continued access to Military Treatment Facilities \(MTF\)](#)
- [Concurrent Receipt](#)
- [Basic Housing Allowance](#)
- [Major Richard Start Act](#)
- [Ensuring Guard & Reserve Retirement Age credit](#)
- [The on-going battle to secure annual pay raises and COLA for active duty and retired members](#)

In addition to our active legislative engagement, in the past 60 years, TREAs has provided millions of dollars in support through our many programs, affiliates and partnerships. [TREAs Senior Citizens League \(TSCL\)](#), created by TREAs in 1992, reaches millions of America's seniors, educating them on, and fighting to preserve the benefits and programs that they are entitled to. [TREAs National Auxiliary](#), organized in 1972, provides emergency assistance to widows and widowers and joins TREAs in our legislative fight to protect and secure the benefits that all enlisted military members earned through their service to the United States Armed Forces. TREAs's own program: [TREAs GIVES](#), provides emergency assistance for shelter, food and utilities. Our scholarship program awards the children and grandchildren of TREAs members for their hard work and scholastic aptitude.

Our past was built from the vision and dedication of our past leaders. Our present is the continuation of that vision, coupled with the commitment of our current leaders in the belief that we can truly make a difference. And our future lies in the knowledge, understanding and conviction that we need to take care of each other through our strength and experiences as enlisted service members — past, present and future.

Please click [HERE](#) to visit our Past National Presidents' page



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### Garry Turks, National 3rd Vice & Chaplain

As we enter a new year and a new beginning, I encourage each and every one of us to follow the Word of Colossians 3:13 "Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others".

Don't carry your anger and animosity from last year, or years past into the New Year. This is your chance for a new start – to awaken every day to his wonder of his blessings. To know that you are blessed and that you

are loved and that you are important and that what you do today and tomorrow matters.

Don't waste this opportunity on holding grudges from yesterday. That does nothing but hold you down and takes away your ability to be the best person that God has created you to be.

The choice is yours, it always is. I pray that you choose to be happy and blessed and that you share that with others. In doing so you give the New year hope and promise.

## WASHINGTON UPDATE

Deb Oelschig, TREA National President

The 117th Congress convened on January 3, 2021 and will end on January 3, 2023. As Washington prepares to enter the 118th Congress, TREA is proud to reflect on our legislative accomplishments on behalf of all enlisted servicemembers, veterans, caregivers, and their families over this year. TREA's relationships in Washington are now stronger than ever, and we look forward to working with the 118th Congress to ensure your voices are heard.

### Veterans Day Ceremonies

TREA's National President Deborah Oelschig, 1st Vice President Walt Coley, and Executive staff member, Executive Director Debbie Osborne and Membership Coordinator Melissa White, attended events at the [White House](#), [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#), [Arlington National Cemetery](#), and on [Capitol Hill](#) on November 10 and November 11, 2022. On November 10, President Oelschig was afforded the honor to read 60 names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice at the Vietnam Memorial Wall in remembrance of Veterans Day. This was a first for TREA, but definitely will not be the last – it was an honor and a privilege to be a part of such an amazing remembrance opportunity.

*TREA NP Oelschig reads aloud the names of 60 Vietnam War Heroes at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington DC.*



# WASHINGTON UPDATE (CONT.)

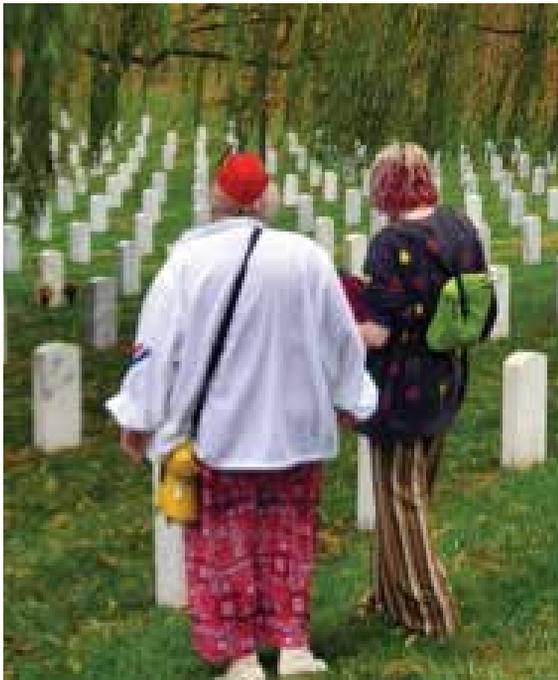
Deb Oelschig, TREA National President



L-R: 1st VP Coley, TREA Member Doug Osborne, HQ Staff Member Melissa White & National Auxiliary PNP Barbara Coley attend the Veterans Day events at Arlington National Cemetery - in the pouring rain.



L-R: Executive Director Osborne, NP Oelschig, HQ Membership Coordinator White, National 1st VP Coley visit Congressman Jason Crow's office at the Capitol.



On November 11, 2022, [President Oelschig joined First Lady Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and members of the Presidential Cabinet at an event honoring our nation's veterans at The White House.](#) Directly preceding the event, TREA attended and participated in ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, where President Oelschig laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on TREA's behalf.

A very personal moment was shared when National Staff member, Melissa White (Membership Coordinator) and her daughter, Jaimie, found and visited the gravesite of their father/grandfather. (photo left) This was the first time that Jaimie was able to visit her grandfather. It reminded us all of why we do what we do and who we do it for.

## [FY23 National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#)

We are thrilled to announce that TREA successfully advocated for and secured the largest military pay raise in 20 years! Once the NDAA is signed by President Joe Biden, active-duty troops and Guard and Reserve members will receive a 4.6% pay raise, compared to just 2.7% in 2022.

In addition to the pay raise than, there will be an 11% increase to Basic Allowance for Subsistence rates, and 8.7% increase for the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for military retirees and veterans who receive disability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the largest in over 40 years!

Among many other provisions, the \$858 billion defense bill will also bolster support for Ukraine and Taiwan, and rescind the military's COVID-19 vaccine mandate.



## WASHINGTON UPDATE (CONT.)

Deb Oelschig, TREAs National President

### Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

TREAs is in full support of [H.R. 7589, The Reduce and Eliminate Mental Health Outpatient Veteran \(REMOVE\) Co-pays Act](#), which, thanks to TREAs advocacy, passed the U.S. House of Representatives on September 28, 2022! This bill would eliminate medical care co-payments for veterans' first three mental health visits in a calendar year.

For some veterans, co-payments are a significant deterrent to seeking medically necessary care. TREAs believes that financial obstacles should not be a barrier to receiving potentially life-saving mental health services and treatment.

As such, we ask that TREAs members please contact their Senators and articulate their support for the [companion bill, S. 4951](#), which has been formally introduced in the U.S. Senate.

### [The Consolidated Appropriations Act](#)

TREAs was proud to support The Consolidated Appropriations Act, which included a charitable deduction to non-profit organizations like TREAs of \$600 for married couples filing jointly and a \$300 deduction for single taxpayers, without itemizing.

We are proud to report that the U.S. Senate is negotiating reinstating the Universal Charitable Deduction for the 2022 tax year and will likely be included in an end of the year package coined "tax extenders." Please consider making a charitable contribution to TREAs and claim your tax deduction in 2022!

### Concurrent Receipt

TREAs has remained steadfast securing cosponsors for [H.R. 1282 and S. 344, "The Major Richard Star Act."](#) Currently, the bills have 66 cosponsors in the Senate, and 335 cosponsors in the House. If the legislation is not considered by the end of the year, it will likely be included in the House Conesus calendar for a vote in the 118th Congress. Despite the good news, we still need your help to get this important legislation across the finish line, so please contact your Representatives and urge them to sign onto the bill as soon as possible.

As you may know, this bipartisan legislation would finally provide combat-injured veterans that were forced to medically retire with less than 20 years of military service their full benefits, meaning they would receive both their earned DoD Retirement Pay, and their earned VA Disability Pay, with no offset. This legislation is a very positive step in correcting the larger concurrent receipt issue.

### Social Media

TREAs has several social media platforms we use in order to keep in touch with our members and highlight our legislative and programmatic efforts. If you are on Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter, make sure you are following along.

**As always, please contact TREAs National Headquarters at 303-752-0660 with any questions or concerns!**

## TREA GIVES SHINES AGAIN

Debbie Osborne, National Executive Director



In spite of record inflation, high prices and the plummeting stock market, TREA GIVES rose to the occasion and provided holiday gifts to more than 164 family members of wounded or deployed service members. Hundreds of gifts were purchased, wrapped and shipped to families across the country in honor and thanks for their unselfish sacrifice to our great country.

This year was our 6th year in partnership with Soldiers' Angels and our second in collaboration with Buckley Space Force Base to provide gifts, holiday cheer and genuine kind words of hope, thanks and gratitude for service – not just of the military member, but for their family members as well. They say pictures speak a thousand words, so here you go –



The first of many shopping trips



Many hours of wrapping. Here NP Oelschig lends her wrapping expertise to the group. Volunteers from Parker Senior Center L-R: Helen Suggs, Sherri Anderson & Kathleen Ekins



National HQ staff deliver gifts and food to families of deployed soldiers at Buckley Space Force Base.

## Some happy families



I would like to thank you on behalf of myself and my family from the bottom of my heart for helping our family this holiday season. Your generous donation was absolutely appreciated, and we feel very blessed to have found an organization that was able to help us so graciously. Our son was so excited to receive the Jurassic Park Dinosaurs that he had on his Christmas list. Our youngest daughter is into babies now and she has rocked her new baby for hours. Changing her pacifier and feeding her. Our other daughter has been busy playing with her princesses and Barbies.

Again, thank you so much for your generous gifts, time and love that was put into making this magical for our family.

The Bundrum Family

Merry Christmas!

Thank you for making our Christmas a little brighter!

Thank you for all that you do for Veterans!

The Shepherd Family

Thank you so very much. We appreciate it more than I can say.

~ Hubbard Family ~

This program, and all the efforts and actions from TREA GIVES really do make a real difference.

You can be a part of ensuring that this program, and others, are able to continue for years to come. Make a tax-deductible donation today. ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org))



## UPDATES FROM THE VA

All Veterans enrolled in VA health care will be eligible for new toxic exposure screenings - Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and clinics across the country will offer enrolled Veterans a new toxic exposure screening. These screenings are a key part of the PACT Act, a new law that empowers VA to deliver care and benefits to millions of toxic exposed Veterans and their survivors. (11/7/2022)

Paxlovid reduces risk of Long COVID - On November 6, 2022 the VA released a study showing the medication Paxlovid can reduce the risk of symptoms of “Long COVID,” which affects millions of people in the U.S. and around the world. In the interest of public health, the study, “Nirmatrelvir and the risk of post-acute sequelae of COVID-19,” was released before peer-review on the pre-print server medRxiv.

New data shows 11% decline in Veteran homelessness since 2020 - the biggest drop in more than 5 years - In November, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness announced preliminary results of the 2022 Point-in-Time Count showing an 11% decline in Veteran homelessness since early 2020, the last time a full count was conducted. This is the biggest drop in Veteran homelessness in more than five years. (11/3/2022)

VA announces funding opportunities to help Veterans experiencing homelessness - As a part of ongoing efforts to end Veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs published three grant opportunities for Fiscal Year 2024 that will help Veterans who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. (10/27/2022)

VA invites the public to dispose of unused medications and prescriptions during nationwide ‘VA Medication Take Back’ days - The Department of Veterans Affairs is inviting the public to participate in the annual VA Medication Take Back Days, to safely and securely dispose of unused or expired medicine — including controlled substance prescriptions. (10/24/22)

VA extends delay of upcoming electronic health record deployments to June 2023 to address technical and other system performance issues - The Department of Veterans Affairs announced it is delaying upcoming deployments of the Oracle Cerner electronic health record (EHR) until June 2023 to address challenges with the system and make sure it is functioning optimally for Veterans and for VA health care personnel. (10/13/22)

VA closes gap in benefits for LGBTQ+ Veterans and their survivors - Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is closing a gap in survivor benefits for certain survivors of LGBTQ+ Veterans — specifically, for those who were unable to wed until the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court decision, and who, therefore, were not married to their now-deceased Veteran spouses for long enough to qualify for survivor benefits. (10/13/22)

VA awards \$16 million to help Veterans and service members participate in adaptive sports - The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded nearly \$16 million in grants to qualifying organizations to help more than 13,000 disabled Veterans and members of the Armed Forces participate in adaptive sports. (10/6/22)



The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) is an affiliate of TREA: The Enlisted Association (TREA), governed by TREA members and consisting of hundreds of thousands of active senior citizens concerned about the protection of their Social Security and Medicare benefits.

### Did You Know?

Ed Cates, TSCL Chairman

Did you know the proceeds from the taxation of Social Security benefits are credited to the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds? These taxes currently form a growing portion of the income received by the programs. In 2023, the Social Security Trust Fund is estimated to receive \$48.8 billion in revenues, accounting for 4.5% of total program income. Medicare is estimated to receive \$34.9 billion accounting for 8.5% of the funding for the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

In 2020, the average federal income tax liability on Social Security benefits was an estimated \$3,200 per taxpayer household. Approximately half of Social Security beneficiaries pay federal income taxes on a portion of their Social Security benefits — roughly double the number of Social Security beneficiaries affected by the tax since 1998. A report from the Congressional Research Service says that the number of households affected by the taxation of benefits will continue to rise over time because the income thresholds to determine tax liability are fixed, and never adjusted for inflation. In addition, the report says that when “non-Social Security income” remains constant as Social Security benefits increase due to cost-of-living adjustments, the taxable amount of Social Security benefits increases.

The calculation of taxable Social Security benefits depends on the benefits received and other income.

- Taxpayers with “provisional” income of less than \$25,000 (single filers) or less than \$32,000 (joint) do not pay federal income taxes on their Social Security benefits.
- Up to 50% of Social Security benefits are taxable when “provisional” income is between \$25,000 and \$34,000 (single filers), or \$32,000 and \$44,000 (joint filers). The proceeds from this tier are credited to the Social Security Trust Fund.
- Up to 85% of Social Security benefits are taxable when “provisional” income is greater than \$34,000 (single filers), or \$44,000 (joint filers). Proceeds from this tier are credited to the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

Should Congress change the taxation of Social Security to allow beneficiaries to keep more of their income? Let us know whether you support or oppose ideas to adjust income thresholds and how to ensure continued funding for Social Security. Click [HERE to take TSCL’s new 2023 Senior Survey](#).

TSCL is an information powerhouse whose surveys, analyses, and opinions are sought out by hundreds of media sources each year. The results of its annual surveys - The Seniors Survey and The Loss of Buying Power Survey, are widely reported in the press.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Audrey McCray, National Auxiliary President



Greeting Members, and Happy New Year in the magnanimous name of our Lord and Savior. Joining the Auxiliary of The Enlisted Association (TREA) was fascinating due to the purpose of serving a nonprofit military veterans' organization. Subsequently, this was the primary representation of the rights and interests of enlisted veterans' (spouses). I am an esteemed proud spouse of a retired enlisted veteran who is deceased. As your honored newly elected National Auxiliary President, I am truly interested in what you are interested in and how I will assist

the membership moving forward in 2023. The Board of Directors (BOD) are here to assist and aid with any attributes you may have, please do not hesitate to reach out. The Auxiliary is calling all individuals who are not members to join at your leisure, we welcome you to join the TREA Auxiliary. Once again, I encourage that your interests are sincerely important, please reach out to any member on the BOD or you are welcome to reach out to me via [mccraya@aol.com](mailto:mccraya@aol.com) or 303-921-2548. If you aren't a member of TREA Auxiliary come join us. Point of Contact for the upcoming year will be Director Sheldria Wallace and she is eager to support any of your endeavors. Contact [deebillupswallace@gmail.com](mailto:deebillupswallace@gmail.com) or 602-432-2924 for detailed information

Get ready, get ready this year's midterm meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado May 3, 2023

Take a mere few minutes to notice that this year's Scholarship application for 2023 is now available on the [TREA website \(www.trea.org\)](http://www.trea.org). Director Rose Milon will be the guiding Chairperson for the Scholarship. The information regarding Scholarships will be posted until June 1st, 2023. Contact [rose.milon@aol.com](mailto:rose.milon@aol.com) or 720-448-1675 for detailed information. Other exciting programs that are available to widows/widowers is the WEF/Benevolent Program funds which supports widows/widowers of deceased service members. The WEF supports dental, vision, hearing, and other medical needs. APNP Barbara Coley is the Chairperson as well as the point of contact. Contact Barbara Coley via email: [barbcoley@cox.net](mailto:barbcoley@cox.net) or 402-578-5292.

In closing, I believe the upcoming year will be exceptional and I look forward to serving as your National Auxiliary President for 2023. I plan to devote my time and efforts to the obligations and duties of this position. My goal for this year includes making a difference for the community. The theme this year is "Encouraging Excellence Throughout the Community."

Audrey H. McCray  
National Auxiliary President

**UNITED WE STAND**



## **BLESSINGS FROM THE AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN**

Hello members, I hope you all had a wonderful Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's season with your family and friends. And most of all, I hope you are excited and looking forward to a New Year (2023). There is one word that has stuck in my mind for the start of this New Year and that word, my friends, is blessings.

In case you did not know, there are blessings all around you. As you wake up each day, just look all around you and you see the world is full of beauty. Choosing to embrace your blessings allows you to witness all the good that you have around you. Life can be hard. But being thankful for the blessings in your life will fill your heart with peace, joy, and hope. Most importantly, you should be thankful every single day of this New Year, so you can remain energized to press on in your daily journey and remind you that there are so many special moments to celebrate.

Whether it is your family, your job, retirement, or that hot cup of coffee in the morning, there are so many things to be grateful for. Even during the storms of life, you should decide to focus on God's goodness. When some things go wrong, take a moment to be thankful for the many things that are going right. Remember to focus on your strengths, not your weaknesses. Focus on your character, not your reputation. Focus on your blessings, not your misfortunes. God wants to help and see you through, "With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26. It is possible to have strong faith in tough times. So, let your impossible meet God and watch what He will do in response. Remember, He is on your side. Just let Him in your heart and you will be glad you did.

TREA National Auxiliary Chaplain & Past National President  
Barbara Coley

---

## **AUXILIARY BYLAWS & STANDING RULES**

### **Reta Ward, Auxiliary Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee Chair**

Any proposed amendments or additions to the existing subjects need to be submitted to the TREA National Auxiliary Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee for review. Please submit your suggestions on TREA Auxiliary Form 100-6A, which can be found on our website at:

[http://trea.org/TREA/About\\_Us/National\\_Auxiliary\\_Publication\\_Forms.aspx](http://trea.org/TREA/About_Us/National_Auxiliary_Publication_Forms.aspx).

Deadline for submissions, according to TREA National Auxiliary Standing Rule 8, item 3, is 45 days prior to Mid-Term Meeting, scheduled for May 3, 2023. Submit by Mail or E-Mail, no later than March 17, 2023.

Reta Ward,  
TREA National Auxiliary Bylaws/Standing Rules Committee Chairperson

For questions, please contact me by phone at 303-870-5403 or E-Mail at [wardreta@hotmail.com](mailto:wardreta@hotmail.com).

Note: All recommendations need to be presented to Board of Director (BOD) at Mid-Term Meeting for consideration and vote.



## IT'S ALL ABOUT TEAMWORK

Debbie Osborne, National Executive Director

***“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much”*** – Helen Keller

TREA put that time honored quote to use when it teamed up with members of the American Legion, Purple Heart, VFW and the Sons of the American Legion to lay wreaths at the Colorado Freedom Memorial in Aurora, Colorado.

A last minute phone call from the American Legion State Commander, Annette Johnson with one hour notice, prompted an immediate response from the local veteran organizations.

We gathered at the memorial and laid wreaths and placed American flags at both the Freedom Memorial and the Gold Star Families Memorial. The group then decorated the lonely pine tree with yellow ribbons and holiday flare.

It was a great experience seeing separate, independent organizations come together for the shared goal of honoring and respecting those who died for our freedom.



## “LOVE IS THE GREATEST GIFT WHEN GIVEN. IT IS THE HIGHEST HONOR WHEN RECEIVED” – Fawn Weaver



Congratulations to TREA National President, Deborah Oelschig and Chip Melick on their recent wedding. A small ceremony, held in the glorious Colorado outdoors, after a recent snowfall, surrounded by nature and friends, was the perfect background for the beginning of their journey together.

And in typical Navy Chief fashion – it ended with a friendly snowball fight – just to make sure he knows ‘who is in charge’.



## WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU -

As you know, TREA is a multi-generational, non-branch specific organization. As such, we deal with issues from all military eras and genres.

In order for us to be more effective for you, we are reaching out to our members asking for your input to tell us what is important to you. We are not going to provide a pre-filled out form, forcing you to pick one of our choices. We truly want this to be about you and your wants/needs.

There are two ways for you to provide this information to us:

Use this link to enter your information electronically:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TREAMembership>, OR

2. Send us a note with your information. Send it to: TREA - Member Input - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, #250 – Centennial, CO 80112.

You can remain anonymous in both instances. If you want a reply or to engage in discussion, please provide your name and contact information.



## TREA NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP 2023/2024 APPLICATIONS OPEN

Butch Liebaert, National Director & Scholarship Committee Chair

TREA is slated to give away up to \$20,000 in scholarship awards this year.

TREA Scholarships are open to the children and grandchildren of all TREA members (in good standing), including those who are no longer with us, provided they were members in good standing at the time of their passing.

TREA Scholarships are based on the following criteria:

Grade Point Average (GPA), Extra-Curricular School activities, Extra-Curricular Non-School Activities, Community Service (especially veteran related) and a written essay.

This year the essay topic is the Southern US border. We are asking applicants to tell us their non-political opinion on the issue.

All applications must be postmarked by March 31st.

[Click HERE for an application.](#)



## BYLAWS & STANDING RULES

Mary Clarvoe, National Director & BLSR Committee Chair

Without rules, there would be chaos.

Rules are a good thing - they are in place to help govern, protect, and lead. But, sometimes, rules need to be reviewed, updated, even changed, in order to be current, relevant and in line with the mission and focus of the organization.

This is where you, our members come in. You have the ability to update the existing Bylaws & Standing Rules.

Please review the current Bylaws & Standing Rules and if you see something that you think needs to be looked at, or changed, submit that on TREA Form 100-16. [Click HERE for the fill able form.](#) [Click HERE for the printable form.](#) All submissions for Bylaw or Standing Rule Changes need to be received at TREA National Headquarters by March 31, 2023.

The current Bylaws & Standing Rules, as well as TREA Form 100-16 are both posted on our [homepage \(www.trea.org\)](http://www.trea.org).

If you want to go a step further – the Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee is always looking for TREA Members to join the committee – to help maintain the current Bylaws & Standing Rules and to ensure that submitted changes are processed and put into place properly.

Want to join us? If so, reach out to one of the National Headquarter staff members and they will make sure that the Committee Chairman receives your contact information.

Don't forget, this is YOUR organization, and these are YOUR rules.



## EXCHANGE HELPS KEEP SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS BE FIT

By Tom Shull, Exchange Director/CEO

Service members know that it is critical to maintain readiness and resiliency while on active duty— and keeping healthy habits during retirement is essential for Veterans and retirees too.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service offers everything active-duty service members, retirees and Veterans need to maintain a BE FIT lifestyle and meet their New Year's resolutions—from better-for-you meals to athletic gear and apparel—in PXs, BXs, restaurants and at ShopMyExchange.com.

As a partner in the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Operation Live Well initiative, the Exchange nourishes military members and families with better-for-you options at its restaurants. All of the Exchange's 1,600 restaurants serve better-for-you options, and participating restaurants worldwide also offer \$2 off entrée salads every Wednesday. Exchange diners can also look for "Build a Better You" signing and videos in PX and BX food courts to identify better-for-you choices.

Service members and retirees can also enjoy tax-free shopping and military-exclusive pricing on athletic apparel and footwear, digital fitness accessories, watches, fitness trackers, hydration accessories and more in PXs, BXs and at ShopMyExchange.com. More than 75 Exchanges worldwide feature BE FIT concept shops—these one-stop shops have the look and feel of major sporting goods stores.

The Exchange also offers wellness services, many of which accept TRICARE and most insurances, including optical and optometry clinics, durable medical equipment shops and dental offices. Cryotherapy offices and chiropractic care clinics are opening too.

Service members, retirees, Veterans and family members can visit the [BE FIT page](#) on the Exchange's online community Hub for fitness, nutrition and wellness information, including strength and resiliency tips, links to essential gear, nutrition tips, deals and workout videos.

The Exchange is all in to make it easy for members of the military community to meet their fitness goals and lead a BE FIT lifestyle. Whether active-duty or retirees, military heroes deserve a full slate of health-focused products and services at their PX or BX—and that's the experience the Exchange delivers.

### **Veteran for Life!**

Tom Shull, a former infantry company commander, served as Military Assistant to Robert C. McFarlane, National Security Advisor to President Reagan. Currently, he is the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Director/CEO and has served as CEO for retail and consumer packaged goods companies.

## TREA IS NOT ALONE -

### Fraternal, service groups battle declining membership

Statements taken from an article written by Taya Flores - [tflores@jconline.com](mailto:tflores@jconline.com)

“Everybody has seen a decrease in their membership — whether it’s Mason or Moose,” said Jack Streicher, exalted ruler of the local Elks lodge. “The fraternal organizations have certainly seen a pretty steady decline. It’s a continuous concern — not only recruitment but participation in activities. A lot of people join but don’t really volunteer time or really participate in what’s going on. They are members in name only, passive.”

**The ‘Greatest’ goodbye** – Streicher said younger people have time constraints and prefer “one and done” charity events, such as running a 5K. “They don’t really want to be involved in running the organization,” he said.

Other experts say the decline is more indicative of cultural shifts.

It was the “Greatest Generation,” or World War II veterans, who triggered the major boom in many organizations after the war ended in 1945. “They were ready to own this society, to be a part of everything,” said **Duane Vaught**, deputy grandmaster of **Grand Encampment of Knights Templar**, a Christian-oriented fraternal organization open only to Freemasons. “Unbelievable numbers of them joined everything. Our membership skyrocketed starting in the mid-’40s until the mid-’60s. Our membership was huge in the ‘50s. Everybody wanted to be a member.” But their grandchildren — baby boomers who came of age around 1970 — were not joiners, he said. “We are taking in a pretty decent number of members each year, but the deaths among the WWII generation offset the people joining every single year,” he said. “That’s the unfortunate part.”

**Glenn Sparks**, professor of communication at **Purdue University**, said changes in technology also play a role. He said younger people are fulfilling one of the main functions of socializing in a different way.

“They are managing their relationships and feeling of being close to people through electronic technology,” he said. “They probably don’t feel as much of a need to go and physically congregate in a place.”

Another factor, he said, is that many groups organize meetings that focus on an informational event or a speaker. “In the age of technology, where we move information at the speed of light, an informative event is not nearly as competitive or attractive an event to go to because we have information at our fingertips,” he said. “It’s really got to be special. It has to have something we just can’t get otherwise.”

There will always be something special about meeting in person. Being able to see an old friend, face-to-face is priceless. Being able to share a smile or tell a story means so much more in person. In recognition of that, and to celebrate TREA’s 60th Anniversary, an in-person event is being planned to coordinate with the Annual Membership Meeting in September. The two (meeting and celebration) will be held in Las Vegas either the 2nd or 3rd week of September, 2022. Details are still being worked out and will be shared in the Spring/May issue of The VOICE and on our website, [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org). This event can only be successful with your participation, so let us know that you are interested in attending and we will make sure that you get all the details.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- **Membership:** Any honorably discharged enlisted person – retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve, or the spouse/widow/widower of an honorably discharged enlisted person - retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve shall be eligible for membership. Membership entitles the person to all privileges of membership including attending business meetings, making motions and holding office.

New Member       Renewal      Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Grade/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Served: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter Information: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation: I wish to be assigned to Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_, I wish to be a Member-at Large (MAL)

Service:     Air Force     Army     Navy     Marines     Space Force     Coast Guard     Guard/Reserve

I am :         Retired         Veteran         Active Duty     Spouse/widow/widower of a veteran

By submitting payment, I acknowledge that I am an Enlisted U.S. Armed Forces Veteran and as such qualify to be a member of TREA: The Enlisted Association (if joining as a veteran spouse/widow/widower, your payment acknowledges the veteran status of your spouse).

Proof of eligibility falls on the applicant and not TREA

Membership Dues (Does not include Chapter dues, if applicable)

- One Year - \$30  
 Two Years - \$55  
 Three Years - \$75

Payment:

Visa  
Master Card  
Discover  
American Express

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: TREA)

**Please return your completed application to:**

TREA: The Enlisted Association - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 - Centennial, CO 80112

E-mail: treahq@trea.org

303-752-0660 800-338-9337

www.trea.org



# **WE EARNED OUR STRIPES**

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