VOLUME 41 | NUMBER 3 | SUMMER 2022

# THE Of The Enlisted

# IN THIS ISSUE: PRESIDENT ARTICLE PG 4 **CHAPLAIN CORNER** PG 6 **VOTE IN YOUR NEW BOARD** PG 16-17 **SCHOLARSHIP** PG 22-23 **2022 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** PG 26



#### 2022 Election - Official Ballot

To read a description of each proposed change, please visit our website – <a href="www.trea.org">www.trea.org</a>.

For instructions, please see page 16 & 17

SECTION I - Bylaws & Standing Rules				Aŗ	pprove	Disapprove		
Bylaw III, Section 3 - Chapter courtesy members can receive the VOICE magazine electronically					0	0		
Bylaw V, Section 4 - The National President may run	for, and be elected for a	second 2	2-year term		0	0		
Bylaw IX, Section 2 - Anyone running for the position the National Board. This is for continuity, consistency			current member of	on	0	0		
Bylaw IX, Section 2f - New. Adds the statement that convicted of a felony within the past 2 years.	anyone running for a Nat	ional po	sition has not be	en	0	0		
Bylaw XVII, Section 4 - Aligns the chapter bylaws wit organization.	h those of National to pre	sent a u	nified picture of the	he	0	0		
Standing Rule 7, Paragraph 11 - Any member who a will have to join as a new member, and be given a new back membership dues.	•	•	•		0	0		
Standing Rule 8, Appendix 1 & 2 - Awards are base chapter.	d on overall chapter perfo	rmance,	not the size of the	ne	0	0		
Standing Rule 9, Paragraph 9 - New. Adds the requirement of submitted confirmation of IRS 990 filing (for chapters required to file a IRS form 990).					0	0		
SECTION II – TREA National Board Position	SECTION II – TREA National Board Positions (click on the individual name to see details)							
President - Vote for no more than one (1).	O <u>Deborah Oelsch</u>	ni <u>g</u>						
1st Vice - Vote for no more than one (1).	O Walt Coley							
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice - Vote for no more than one (1).	O <u>Justin Jump</u>							
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice - Vote for no more than one (1).  O Garry Turks								
Treasurer - Vote for no more than one (1).	O Kyle Carpenter							
Director - Vote for no more than two (2).  O Butch Liebaert O Harry Blackwell O					lary (	<u>Clavoe</u>		
SECTION III – FY2021 Audit								
I have reviewed and accept the FY2021 audit as presented. Please choose one.								
		UNIQ	UE VOTING C	ODE				
Please print your Unique Voting Code found o mailing label on the front of this magazine	n your							

<sup>\*</sup>Your Unique Voting Code must be on the ballot in order for your vote to be counted



#### TREA FOUNDERS

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

#### 2020-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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president@trea.org

1st Vice President Deborah Oelschig

1stvice@trea.org

2nd Vice President Walt Coley

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## 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 September 15th, 2022.

#### 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 <a href="treahq@trea.org">treahq@trea.org</a>. Periodicals postage paid at Englewood, CO and other mailing offices.

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Justin G. Jump, National President



This will be my last message to you as TREA National President. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent this outstanding organization, its members, and its mission for these past two years. At this time, I would like to take a minute to reflect on previous actions taken during the period of this presidency and what lasting affects it has on the TREA entity for years to come.

Two years ago, September, I started my term as National President during a global pandemic. Together with our team of the National Board Members and Headquarter Staff, we ran headfirst into the unknown, prepared and determined to do what it took to ensure that TREA remains a strong, unyielding support for military retirees, veterans, active duty, Guard & Reserve, and their families. We did not skip a beat continuing to meet with elected officials, both locally and at the national levels, to push our mission. Though the meetings themselves were virtual this was

not a restriction to our passion for progress. We were present and accounted for, being seen, and heard. We did not let COVID, and its restrictions stop us from our promise to fight for your earned benefits. Our unceasing efforts were successful in achieving several milestones:

- The creation of and the IRS approval of <u>TREA GIVES</u>, TREA's charitable 501(C)(3) program. This entity will launch TREA into the corporate giving world and allow for TREA's legacy and mission to continue for many years to come.
- The passing of the <u>PAWS Act</u>. This bill requires the VA to implement a grant program for the purpose of pairing service dogs with eligible veterans. TREA was front and center on the passing of this bill.
- The advancement of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our <u>PACT Act of 2022</u>. Providing legislation that guarantees exposed veterans permanent access to VA care and establishes a list of conditions that are presumed to be linked to exposures so that impacted veterans receive their full benefits.
- The steady progress of the Richard Starr Act, allowing disabled veterans to receive both their full disability and retirement pay, regardless of how many years they served.

You may read more about all these accomplishments in articles throughout this issue of The VOICE.

I strongly encourage each of you to look back on the achievements and the progress made by this board as we prepare for this year's board elections, ensuring to vote in a way that will allow these successes and legislative gains to continue. As the world shifts, being able to respond to and control our internal changes is the key to future mission success. It is paramount to the continuation of our forward momentum to ensure TREA's achievement of success.

I promised, as your President, to hold TREA first, to fight for all members, regardless of where you live, or what chapter (if any) that you belong to all the while being true to our core values. My promise has been kept and we as a veteran service organization were true to our principles. We work hard to ensure that our politicians kept the promises that were made to all who proudly served as enlisted members in the United States Armed Forces, including their families.

TREA still has a lot of work to do. Having success will not stop our efforts. We will always have a lot to accomplish for enlisted members and their families. Washington will always look at military spending as an easy target for cost cutting. That is why it is important for you to vote onto the board, individuals that you believe are the best capable to lead us through these tumultuous times and bring TREA out successful on the other side. Candidates with in-depth TREA knowledge, solid and consistent TREA experience, passion for those who have served, who are serving and who will serve; and lastly, unparalleled enthusiasm for TREA's future.

We are not the TREA of yesterday, we are better!

United We Stand







#### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

#### **Garry Turks, National Director & Chaplain**



Hebrews 10:24, 25 - "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...."

It is God's directive to us to encourage, lift up and 'spur' each other on towards love and good deeds. This is something that we should do everyday. Before

COVID many of us met regularly, whether it was at church, at a TREA Chapter or elsewhere in our community. We were there, physically, to support, encourage and lift each other up. Since COVID, it may feel like that 'life-line' of support has faded, or in some cases, disappeared altogether. We may not be able to meet together as we once did, for many reasons, but our ability to help others, and lift them up towards love and good deeds is not confined by the walls of a church or building – it is inside each of us. We all have the ability, in ourselves, to make a difference in the lives of others, by giving. This does not mean that you must go without - it simply means that you share. Share your happiness, your positive attitude, your hope, your smile, and if you are able; you share your financial blessings with those in need. Everything that you have has been blessed by and/or provided by God – he has allowed these blessings to be delivered to you, and he has directed us to use them properly, wisely and to provide for others. Being able to share love, hope, encouragement and purpose is a true blessing.

## "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give" - Winston Churchill

Times are tough for many people right now. The military community, including veterans, retirees and active duty have been hit especially hard. A recent USDA analysis found that 11.1 percent of working-age veterans lived in food-insecure households. In an article from Military.com, 1 out of every 5 military families are experiencing food insecurity - this is up from 1 in every 8 from two years ago.

How can this be? How can someone who has served our country, fought for our freedom, be without food? They served us --- who is serving them?

We might not be able to answer that question, or fix the situation, but TREA GIVES certainly can; and with your help, will make a difference. With your support, TREA GIVES will provide food cards to veterans in need, across the country. Each food card will enable a veteran or active duty member to put food on the table.

## IN GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO SERVE



#### A Tribute to Those Who Keep Us Free

They put themselves on the line with their fearless acts of duty, risking their lives so we at home can enjoy our country's great freedoms. Show your respect and admiration for these dedicated members of the Armed Services with the "Land of the Free" Men's Hoodie from The Bradford Exchange. Crafted in a black easy-care cotton blend knit, the hoodie showcases a bold appliqué on the back featuring a proud soldier kneeling beside an American flag and the sentiment: "Land of the Free Because of the Brave" in full embroidery. Adding to the patriotic look is an American flag patch on the left sleeve and a bronze-toned metal plaque on the front that features a soaring eagle and the American flag. Custom details include a comfortable brushed fleece interior,

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#### IRS GRANTS APPROVAL FOR TREA GIVES

Deb Oelschig, National 1st Vice & Benevolence Committee Chair

In a time of backlogs, and short staffing, the IRS approved our request for our TREA GIVES as a 501(C)(3) in an unprecedented 4 months. We are taking this as a sign of great things to come from and for this new TREA affiliate.

While the TREA GIVES program was being ran as a program under TREA for the past year, it is now officially its own entity - separate in nature, but tied to TREA in its mission of supporting and aiding enlisted servicemembers and their families

(active duty, retired, veteran, Guard & Reserve).

So far this year, we have provided over \$8,000 in direct assistance to veterans in need. We have joined forces with several VA HUD/VASH programs across the country to provide funds to allow homeless veterans to secure permanent housing. We provide grocery food cards to help alleviate the high cost of groceries – no one should go hungry, especially not those who have served our country! We are creating relationships across the country with financial counselors who specialize in military/veteran specific financial issues. We have been able to secure this service to two veteran families - one, saying that it 'was such a blessing to find someone who actually cared about me and wanted to help me fix it'. That is what this program does – it makes a real difference.

We are preparing for our annual Holiday Program. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful program that provides a 'thank you' to the veterans and family members of wounded and deployed soldiers, send us an e-mail at treahq@trea.org or call us at 303-752-0660. We have so many opportunities for you to participate: donating, sponsoring, calling, shopping, wrapping, stuffing, writing, shipping – the options are endless and we would certainly welcome your assistance. You do not need to be local to National Headquarters to participate in this program.

As we move forward, with big goals and aspirations, we ask for and need your support. This program is essential to keeping TREA's legacy alive for years to come and with that in mind; we are reaching out to you – those who believe in TREA's mission – all of it – from legislative advocacy, to fraternal opportunities through chapters and social events, to assisting our brothers and sisters in times of need. It all goes together.

We have different levels of support, which provide special acknowledgements and thank yous. They are:

Guardian – for donations of \$500 - \$999. You will receive a certificate, a TREA pen and notepad and recognition in the Fall issue of The VOICE magazine.

Sentinel – for donations of \$1,000 - \$1,499. You will receive a certificate, a TREA pen, notepad and mouse pad plus recognition in the Fall issue of the VOICE magazine.

Flagship – for donation of \$1,500 or more. You will receive a certificate, a TREA pen, notepad, mouse pad and phone charger, as well as recognition in every Fall issue of The VOICE magazine.

To date, we have received over \$22K in donations. All donations are 100% tax-deductible.

Of course donations of any amount are accepted and appreciated, most of all, they are put to good use in providing support to an enlisted service member (past and present) and their family in need.

Together, we can keep TREA's legacy and mission alive. Together, we can make a difference.



# PRIDE AND BROTHERHOOD

VIETNAM VETERANS ILLUMINATED TRIBUTE SCULPTURE

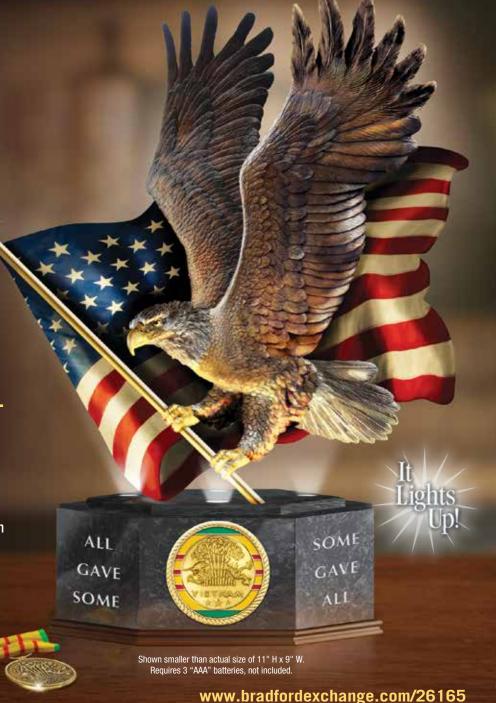
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#### **GOVERNANCE - CERTAIN REQUISITE POINTS**

Walt Coley, National 2nd Vice and Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee Chair

Requisite is defined by Webster's as – needed for a particular purpose; Essential, Necessary. I like the statement in Article 18 (National Auxiliary) section 1, which discusses certain requisite (specific) points. Some things are essential and necessary to continue the organization. I am writing this because I've noticed that some Bylaw and Standing Rule changes coming from Chapters show confusion that National and Chapters have a role to play – as a team. National focuses on National issues, and Chapters address state and local issues. Through no one's

fault, the Chapter bylaw and standing rule changes I'm seeing don't reflect the team in chapter Objectives (Object), who can hold office, and fairness – otherwise known as due process. TREA, all of us, through approval of changes, have cleaned up most of the ambiguity, duplication, and confusion with our rules over the last two years; here is your guide for changes. So we all need this guidance as we move ahead.

Our <u>Bylaws</u> and <u>Standing Rules</u> format and content are based on Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised 12th addition. The founders chose this path to ensure governance was consistent across our organization. According to Article 17, section 4, National and Chapter Bylaws must conform to the "Model" listed in Chapter 18, section 56 for Bylaws. For Standing Rules, Roberts Rules Chapter 2, section 23-24 is the reference.

Our <u>National Bylaws</u> and <u>Standing Rules</u> are written to convey the culture of TREA. Honor, Integrity, Fairness, and improving conditions for Veterans and their families are part of our DNA and are clearly stated in <u>TREA Bylaws in Article 2 (Object)</u>, <u>Article 3 (Membership)</u>, and <u>Article 17 (Chapters)</u>. In our Standing Rules (SR), it's <u>SR 1 (Code of Conduct for National Officers and associates)</u>, <u>SR 7 (Membership)</u>, <u>SR 9 (TREA/Chapter Relationship and Financial Assistance)</u>, and <u>SR 19 (Chapter Guidance)</u>. Your local Bylaws and Standing Rules must clearly meet the intent of TREA National Bylaw Article 2 (Object). It's formatted the way it is to make it easier to read and understand.

You must comply with <u>National Bylaw Article 3 (Membership)</u>. Your Chapter Officers must be Regular TREA members. Courtesy and Honorary members can serve on committees but can't be elected or appointed to a chapter office or be counted in chapter elections.

According to <u>National Article 3</u>, <u>Section 5-8 and 10</u>, your rules must provide standardized due process, with reference to <u>Article 2</u> and <u>SR 1</u>.

This is the benchmark that the Bylaws and Standing Rules committee will use to evaluate your chapter level and National changes. Those changes will be moved to your national Board of Directors for approval and returned to you for implementation or modification in the case of your chapter changes. National changes approved by the Board will be included on our national ballot for membership approval.

Your Board of Directors doesn't want to be in the position to dictate how chapters are run, but they must mandate that to identify as a TREA chapter, they must meet certain requisite standards. To assure United We Stand.

# A Milestone in Freedom!



Authentic green finish is accented with hand-applied, period-specific logos.







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steerable front rubber wheels.



#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Deborah Oelschig, National 1st Vice & Legislative Affairs Chair

As the end of the 117th Congress draws near, we wanted to share with you some of our recent legislative accomplishments on behalf of all enlisted servicemembers, veterans, caregivers, and their families. TREA leadership has also attended several in-person events in Washington, including at the White House and Arlington National Cemetery.





#### TREA in Washington

On May 30th, TREA's National President, Justin Jump represented TREA at the White House with President Joe Biden. Immediate-

ly proceeding the event, President Jump joined the President, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, VA Secretary Dennis McDonough, and members of the Veteran and Military Service Organization community at Arlington National Cemetery in honor of Memorial Day, 2022.



#### **Toxic Exposures**

On Tuesday, June 7th, TREA stood side by side with Senate Veterans Affairs Committee leadership, celebrity Jon Stewart, John Feal,

and fellow Veteran Service Organizations at a press conference in support of the "Honoring our PACT Act." Subsequently, the historic legislation passed the U.S. Senate! As we move forward in the legislative process, TREA is proud to report that our advocacy has ensured that the "The PACT Act" will be signed by President Joe Biden in the coming weeks.

We are grateful for the leadership in both the House and Senate to get this consequential healthcare legislation passed. Especially that of Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Senator Jon Tester, Ranking Member Senator Jerry Moran, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano, and Ranking Member Mike Bost for their continued support.

#### **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**

TREA has been monitoring TRICARE copayments for mental health visits, which have risen dramatically in recent years. A retiree on TRICARE Prime now faces a \$33 copay for each mental or behavioral health visit, nearly triple the \$12 copay from 2017. TRICARE Select copays are even higher - \$38 for most active-duty families and \$50 for most retirees. For these reasons, TREA has been working to secure cosponsors for "The Stop Copay Overpay Act" which would limit copays for mental and behavioral health treatments to help mitigate the financial burdens our veterans



are facing. We are proud to report that as of July 1st, the bill has 23 cosponsors and adding more each week.

#### **Concurrent Receipt and Retirement Pay**

TREA is proud to report that <u>"The Major Richard Star Act"</u> has continually made strides in both the U.S. House and Senate. Over the last several months, TREA has helped secure 58 cosponsors in the Senate and over 250 cosponsors in the House, which is an addition of nearly 50 Members of Congress this quarter!

The bipartisan legislation would finally provide full benefits to combat-injured veterans who were forced to medically retire with less than 20 years of military service. This means they would receive both their earned DoD Retirement Pay and their earned VA Disability Pay, with no offset. We need your help to get it across the finish line!

#### **FY23 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**

With the annual defense bill passing through markup sessions in the House and Senate, we wanted to give you the highlights that TREA has been advocating for since introduction:

- Provide funding to support a 4.6% pay raise for both military servicemembers and the DOD civilian workforce
- Broadening the reach and impact of the Basic Needs Allowance by increasing the eligibility threshold and allowance size from 130% of the Federal poverty line to 150% of the Federal poverty line.
- Authorizing additional funding to address inflation and meet additional needs in recruiting and retention.
- Authorizing an increase of \$20 million in funding for the Defense Health Program to address the threat characterization and treatment of certain uniformed members, Federal civilian employees, and their family members affected by certain anomalous health incidents.
- Authorizing a servicemember whose sole dependent dies to continue to receive basic allowance for housing at the "with dependents" rate for a period up to 365 days after the death of the dependent.
- Authorizing transitional health care benefits to members of the National Guard who are separated from full-time duty, called or ordered by the President or the Secretary of Defense for a period of active service greater than 30 days, in response to a national emergency declaration and supported by Federal funds.

As the NDAA process continues, we will continue to provide you with updates.





# TO OUR AUXILIARY FAMILIES, GREETINGS TO EACH OF YOU!

Barb Coley, National Auxiliary President

Wherever you may reside, I sure hope to find you all are safe and well. The year 2022 has really flown by so fast, where has the time gone? Since TREA National made the decision not to go to San Antonio, TX, the TREA National Auxiliary elected to hold our Annual Membership Meeting in-person and via Zoom Teleconferencing at The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) Chapter 3, 1599 Dayton Street, Aurora, CO, 80010 on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. Hoping that we can complete our meeting in one day. Also, The TREA National Auxiliary will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary (1972-2022).

By the time you are reading this article, you should have received the information about the 50th Anniversary event. Included in the dissemination of that information will be the registration package for those attending the meeting, attending the dinner banquet, voting on proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules changes, and election of officers for the next two-year term. All members that attend will be responsible (for their own arrangements (travel and hotel to include any additional days you plan to stay). The Auxiliary encourages all members to please come out and support your Auxiliary. The Auxiliary will provide a free continental breakfast and lunch. In the evening there be an Installation Dinner in the Banquet Hall of Chapter 3 consisting of a Pasta Buffet. The cost is \$25.00 per person. You are welcomed and encouraged to reserve attendance of your spouse or significant other to join us for dinner.

As I had stated earlier in this article, this is an election year for our Auxiliary BOD. This is a time for us to make a difference in the future of the Auxiliary. A Call for Resumes and Letters was sent out to all our Chapter Presidents, and PNP's, to share with their members and to pass along to all friends who may be MAL's (Members at Large) of the vacancies for President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Director (3). You do not have to be a member of a chapter; we would love to have members at large serve on the BOD. I encourage everyone to please consider running for an office.

With great sadness, I would also like to acknowledge that Past National Auxiliary President (PNP) Marie Smith's dear husband, <u>George Allen Smith</u>, Jr, who was a Past National TREA President (PNP) recently passed way. On behalf of our TREA National Auxiliary, we extend our sincere prayers to Marie and her family.

This is my final article for THE VOICE as your National Auxiliary President. I must say serving on the Board of Directors as National President has certainly been one of my most valuable experiences ever. Over the last two years, a lot of achievements have been accomplished. I surely believe that working together for the betterment of our organization has been well worth the time. I am hopeful that I am leaving the Auxiliary advanced in a more secured operational standing and a positive place throughout the organization than when I started this journey. I would like to say thank you to all who helped and supported me as President and may God continue to bless each one of you.

Sincerely,
Barbara Coley
TREA National Auxiliary President
UNITED WE STAND





#### **AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER**

**Annette Harris** 

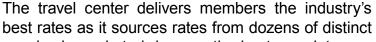
Is prayer an integral part of your daily life, or is it a hit-and-miss occasional activity? Do you "pray without ceasing," or is your prayer life an afterthought? As you consider the role prayer currently plays in your life—and the role you think it is inevitably related to the quality of your prayer life.

Prayer changes things, and it changes you. So today, instead of turning things over in your mind, turn them over to God in prayer. Instead of worrying about your next decision, pray about it. Don't limit your prayers to meals or to bedtime. Pray often about things great and small. God is listening, and He wants to hear from you. Now.

Annette S. Harris Chaplain

#### SPECIAL TRAVEL DISCOUNTS FOR TREA MEMBERS

TREA is excited to announce the launch of its new TREA Travel Center. From this one site, members can now book all their travel and enjoy discounts at over 900,000 lodging destinations worldwide and at rates up to 77% off retail. In addition, TREA members can save up to 40% on rental cars. Members can also receive unmatched rates on group lodging for events, family reunions, weddings, and more.



best rates as it sources rates from dozens of distinct supply channels to bring you the best proprietary member rates around the world. So, if you





are looking for a 4-star hotel in London, a beachfront resort in Florida, or just a comfortable place to stay along the way, you can now save big at the TREA Travel Center. You can book travel via your laptop, tablet, or mobile device, or call and still enjoy the same great user experience. So, pick your favorite destination, your favorite brand, and your best traveling companion and book your next trip with us.

https://trea.hotelplanner.com/





#### YOUR RIGHT, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY: VOTE!

Walt Coley, National 2nd Vice

Members of TREA, it's time to vote! According to our rules, YOU determine the direction of our organization and who leads it. Make no mistake, the direction the Board of Directors YOU elect and the changes to Bylaws and Standing Rules YOU approve determine the direction TREA takes going forward. The direction your executives (Headquarters Staff and Board of Directors) have taken over the last 4 years is laser-focused on giving you a voice and concentrating on supporting the enlisted and their families. We have made it easy to vote and in a way that is honest and above

board. We have created a new charity – TREA GIVES – focused on meeting the needs of those most in need. This is a challenging time when we must be nimble enough to change to meet future challenges. We want you to share your voice and your opinion with your votes.

**United We Stand!** 

#### YOUR ORGANIZATION, YOUR BOARD, YOUR **CHOICE**



#### Important Instructions for Voting

Continuing our promise of equality, transparency and unity, you will have the opportunity to cast your vote for the new National Board of Directors, who lead our organization as well as the proposed changes to the Bylaws & Standing Rules that govern our organization.

Voting is easy – we made it that way – for you! There are no travel requirements, no events to attend – all you have to do is be a **TREA** member in good standing (make sure that your membership is current through September 14th, 2022) and use the ballot on page 2 to cast your vote - OR, you can vote securely online by going to https:// vote.yeselections.com/TREA. Sorry, Auxiliary Members are not eligible to vote for TREA National offices (unless you are also a member of TREA). Please see the Auxiliary section of this magazine for information on your voting process. As we have done previously, we are working with an independent, third-party entity with no ties to TREA,

its board or its staff. This was done to ensure absolute integrity and fairness. We have worked diligently to make it as simple and quick as possible. We are proud of what we have been able to accomplish, and we think you will be pleased with the results.

For this year's election, all 7 positions on the National Board, are all up for voting. Only one position is running with competition and that is the position of Director. We have two openings and three very qualified candidates running for this position: Butch Liebaert, Harry Blackwell and Mary Clarvoe. It is your responsibility to decide for yourself which two candidates you think would make the best choices as National Directors. As with all of our candidates, you can read their full resumes and additional information by going to our website (www.trea.org) and clicking on 'Nominees for National Office'. There you will find detailed information (resumes, speeches, letters of recommendation, etc.). Once you have made your decision, it's time to actually vote - keep in mind that even though the other 6 positions have candidates that are running unopposed, you can still show your support and encouragement by voting 'YES' on their name.

Bylaws and Standing Rule proposed changes – there are 5 Bylaw changes and 3 Standing Rule changes. You can view the detailed information on our website (www.trea.org) and clicking on 'Proposed Bylaw & Standing Rule Changes for 2022'. If you have any questions or would like further information on any of the proposed changes, please contact the Chairman of the Bylaws & Standing Rule Committee, Walt Coley at: 2ndvice@trea.org.

Important information that pertains to both mail-in votes and on-line votes: your vote is recorded and registered



using the 8-digit code that is shown on your address label. Your name alone cannot be used to cast your vote. All votes are confidential, and the individual results will not be shared. You must be a member in good standing, which means that your membership needs to be paid up through September 14, 2022. If your membership expires before September 14th, you will need to renew your membership in order to vote. In these cases, where the mailing of the magazine has already occurred, we will provide you with your unique 8-digit code that will enable you to vote. Call us at 303-752-0660 to get your Unique Voting Code.

#### For Mail-In voting:

Step 1 – Use the ballot form on the inside cover (page 2) Remember – even though someone is running unopposed, you can still show your support for them by marking 'YES'.

Step 2 – Copy the 8 digit 'Unique Voting Code' from the mailing label on the cover, (it will appear above your name) onto the ballot sheet. Your vote will not be processed without this one-time use, unique voting code. You must use the original ballot sheet. Reproductions of any kind (fax, scans, photos) will not be accepted. The original ballot, on the backside of the magazine cover, showing the original mailing label will be cross-referenced for authenticity and single code use. This prevents multiple votes from the same user.

Steps 3, 4, 5 & 6 - Answer each question, tear/cut the sheet out of the magazine, fold in up and put it in an envelope. Mail it to: TREA 2022 - PO Box 151 - Mineola NY, 11501-015.

It really is that simple. The only thing that you need to be aware of is that you must mail your response in time for it to be received in Mineola, NY by September 14th. Since USPS can sometimes be a little slow, we are recommending that you mail early. It is OK for your ballot to be received early, it's not OK for it to be received late. Late votes will not be counted.

#### For On-line voting:

- Step 1 Go to your favorite web browser it doesn't matter which one, they all work the same.
- Step 2 Enter this link <a href="https://vote.yeselections.com/TREA">https://vote.yeselections.com/TREA</a>. This will take you directly to a TREA log in page.
- Step 3 Enter the 8-digit Unique Voting Code that is on your mailing label, above your name.
- Step 4 Enter your zip code. Each Unique Voting Code is linked to its members' individual zip code. If the two don't match, the system will not allow you to continue.
- Step 5 Click 'continue', this will take you to the actual ballot page. There, you can click on an individual candidate's name to read their full resume, speech and seconds. The same thing is true for the Bylaws and Standing Rules. Clicking on an individual name or Bylaw does not count as a vote this simply takes you to detailed information. You have to actually click on the YES to vote for a Board of Director candidate and you must select 'Approved' or 'Disapproved' for each Bylaw and Standing Rule.
- Step 6 Once you complete your votes, click 'SUBMIT'. This is not voting this is a review. You will be given the opportunity to review and verify your vote. You can click 'RETURN' to change a vote or to fill in a missed vote, or you can continue to submit your vote by clicking 'VOTE'. If you return to make changes, you will once again be given the opportunity to review your decision before making it final by clicking on the 'VOTE' button. Once you click the 'VOTE' button, your vote is final, and changes cannot be made. You will receive a confirmation of your vote with the date and time that your vote was submitted.

That's it – it truly is that simple – and quick!

As always, we encourage every member to visit our national website often as updates and changes are posted regularly (www.trea.org).

If you want to participate in the online voting process, but are unsure of the process, or just want someone close by 'just in case' – give us a call. (303-752-0660). Each Headquarter staff member has been thoroughly trained in the process and can easily walk you through each step.

All ballots are received by and processed by Elections America/YES Elections. Ballots are not handled by the National Board or Headquarter staff.





#### TREASURER'S NOTE

Kyle Carpenter, Treasurer

As I present the FY2021 audit (see next page), I want to point out some things that I think are noteworthy.

- 1. Total income for 2021 was \$212,558 more than the previous year. This income included the forgiveness of the government backed Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan
- 2. Total expenses were down more than \$50K from the previous year.

This was possible due to the hard work and dedication of your National Board and Headquarter staff. Granted the increased income was because our investment portfolio per-

formed so well, but keep in mind that it is managed by the board. Their actions allowed for the positive performance.

The National Board Members have taken their roles as fiduciaries seriously, as they must answer to every TREA member, as well as every donor for the justification and use of every dollar. The National Board understands its responsibility of being good stewards of the money that is entrusted to us --- for membership, for veteran support and for legislative advocacy.

Times have changed, not just for TREA, but also for all membership organizations. Membership in fraternal organizations is waning – across the country. We need to be aware and act accordingly – we need to be fiscally responsible and prepared for what may be coming. We need to understand that membership dues alone do not support our organization. We rely on donations from TREA members and non-members alike. There are many people out there that for one reason or another cannot hold membership in TREA, but who choose to support us financially. They believe in us, in our mission and in our actions. That is why we created the TREA GIVES program. Read more about this great program in other articles in this issue of The VOICE.

We seem to have survived the effects of COVID only to come face-to-face with a pending recession. While this is not good news, it does not mean certain doom. It means that we have to be vigilant in our operational spending. We will need to tighten our financial belt one more notch and ride out the storm. We are tough, we are resilient, we are the Enlisted Force and this is what we do – we turn adversity into success.

Please take a moment to review the FY2021 audit (on the next page) and follow up with a vote of acceptance on the ballot sheet. You can also vote to accept the audit report on the online ballot.

A Bylaw change that went into effect last year will save the organization approximately \$30K and that is the electronic distribution of The VOICE magazine. This was a necessary change and in my opinion a step up for the organization. The electronic version contains live links – simply click on a link and you are taken directly to an article, a post or a page. But, like all things, there is an alternative if you do not want to take advantage of this modern technology. If you want to continue to receive the printed magazine, all you have to do is contact National Headquarters and they will change your preference in the system and you will continue to receive the printed magazine. The option is yours, but keep in mind, the more members that go digital, the more TREA can save. To reach someone at Headquarters, call 303-752-0660.

#### One more thing to note:

This was the first year that we did not do a consolidated audit that included our affiliate, The Senior Citizens League (TSCL). Since this is something new, I wanted to include their basic numbers for those of you who have been following their financials in previous years:

2021 Revenue	\$3,667,103
2021 Expenses	\$3,883,299
2021 Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ (216,196)
2021 Assets at beginning of year	\$ 736,412
2021 Assets at end of year	\$ 520,216





# THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOCIATION, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR, ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 2021

		2021		2020
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total
Revenue and Other Support				
Contributions	140,479	58,940	199,419	214,625
Investment Gains	339,460		339,460	284,022
Membership Dues	110,366		110,366	129,217
Royalty Income	80,101		80,101	84,671
Life Insurance Settlements	130,207		130,207	42,703
Store Sales	4,566		4,566	7,601
Advertising Revenue	13,428		13,428	15,129
Trademark	94,052		94,052	84,330
PPP Loan Forgiveness	106,567		106,567	
Other - incl In-Kind Donations	2,825		2,825	1,135
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	89,097	(89,097)	<u> </u>	-
Total Revenue and Other Support	1,111,148	(30,157)	1,080,991	863,433
Expenses				
Public Education	40,195		40,195	54,606
Government Affairs	119,829		119,829	172,644
Membership Services & Retention	250,328		250,328	220,233
Membership Education and Training	35,322		35,322	44,326
VOICE Magazine	89,924		89,924	38,917
Total Program Services	535,598	-	535,598	530,726
Supporting Services				
Management and General	146,754		146,754	171,422
Membership Recruitment	17,901		17,901	18,227
Fundraising	82,818		82,818	119,770
Total Supporting Services	247,473	-	247,473	309,419
Total Expenses	783,071		783,071	840,145
Net Proft / (Loss)	328,077	(30,157)	297,920	23,288
Net Assets, beginning of year	3,142,200	311,436	3,453,636	3,430,348
Net Assets, end of year	3,470,277	281,279	3,751,556	3,453,636





## **ATTENTION ALL TREA: The Enlisted Association MEMBERS**

We Want You as part of TEAM TSCL!

By: Richard "Rick" Delaney, Chairman

TREA Senior Citizens League (TSCL) was created in 1992 as a special project of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA).

In September 1994, TSCL was incorporated in Colorado as an independent citizens' action and education non-profit organization. It received recognition from the Internal Revenue Service as a taxexempt section 501(c)(4) organization in June 1995.

TSCL is registered to conduct grassroots fundraising, public education, and lobbying activities in nearly every state. Unlike many other organizations, no government or grant money is accepted or used by TSCL. This keeps the organization completely out of the hands of special interests.

TSCL consists of hundreds of thousands of active senior citizens concerned about the protection of their Social Security and Medicare benefits. These senior citizens have participated in thousands of grassroots advocacy efforts led by TSCL.

Although long time influential on Capitol Hill, TSCL has recently grown into an information powerhouse whose analysis and input 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.

TSCL is governed by TREA Members and will have two openings on TSCL's Board this September. Would you be interested in working with a <u>highly efficient and effective Board of Trustees</u> and staff? Would you like to <u>make a difference in the lives of millions of senior citizens</u>? If so, please submit your resume on <u>TREA Form 100-3</u> to Chairman@seniorsleague.org!

**Requirements**: Candidates must have been a member of TREA for at least three years and be at least 18 years of age. No elected member of TREA or TREA National Auxiliary Board of Directors may serve concurrently as a Trustee except TREA's Treasurer, who shall be exempt from all other qualifications. **Term Length**: 3 Years

Interested TREA members should submit resumes on TREA Form 100-3. Resumes will be accepted until the day prior to TSCL's annual meeting in September.

If you have any questions, call **703-682-5836 or email** –

Executive Director Shannon Benton
Shannon.benton@seniorsleague.org

Chairman Richard "Rick" Delaney Chairman@seniorsleague.org





# IN MEMORY - TREA PNP GEORGE ALLEN SMITH, JR. 1930 - 2022

Born on October 28, 1930 in Jackson, Louisiana, George Allen Smith, Jr. was a naturally gifted child who grew into an extraordinary man. When offered a free college education by two educators at McKinley High School, George chose the United States Army instead and enlisted in 1948. He served for 21 years and retired as an MSgt, E8.

George became involved in The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) in Colorado and became president of Chapter 3 in Aurora. He quickly moved up to the National Presi-

dent position in 1987 to 1989. George was instrumental in securing Tricare for Life. He was also responsible for the action that lead to the purchase of TREA's National Headquarter building in Aurora, Colorado and was called upon as an advisor on various projects and committees.

George served as Chairman of TREA's The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) Board of Trustees in 1997 and again from 2001 – 2005 and as an advisor from 2005 – 2007. His involvement with TSCL earned him the Congressional Achievement Award.

George was an amazing man and he will be missed by many.

#### TREA CHAPTERS ARE STAYING BUSY

With so many chapter activities going on all the time, it's hard for us to showcase everything in our magazine, so we encourage you to check our website frequently to see everything that is happening at your local TREA chapter and in your community.

We know that our chapters are staying busy and we ask that you send us your photos, flyers, activities and events. We will post them to your chapter page on the TREA website for everyone to see. Some examples of recent activity:

Chapter 3 (Colorado): https://www.trea.org/TREA/Chapters/Chapter\_3.aspx
Chapter 39 (Colorado): https://www.trea.org/TREA/Chapters/Chapter\_39.aspx
Chapter 72 (Pennsylvania): https://www.trea.org/TREA/Chapters/Chapter\_72.aspx
Chapter 76 (Wisconsin): https://www.trea.org/TREA/Chapters/Chapter\_76.aspx
Chapter 94 (Georgia): https://www.trea.org/TREA/Chapters/Chapter\_94.aspx
Chapter 119 (Wisconsin): https://www.trea.org/TREA/Chapters/Chapter\_119.aspx

"Most people don't want to be part of the process; they just want to be part of the outcome. But the process is where you figure out who's worthy of being part of the outcome."



### **CONGRATULATIONS 2022-2023 TREA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**



**SPECIAL AWARD** In Memory of TREA Co-**Founders** Haven Lysell-Steward Attending: Oklahoma **Baptist** University



**SPECIAL AWARD** In Memory of TREA Co-**Founders** Jeremy Buss Attending: University of Wyoming



**SPECIAL AWARD** In Memory of all **TREA & Auxiliary Past National Presidents** Marissa Danauskas Attending: University of Nebraska -Omaha



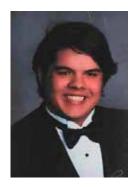
**SPECIAL AWARD** In Memory of **Frank** Cusimano Arden McCoy Attending: Misericordia University



**SPECIAL AWARD** In Memory of Dorothy 'Dottie' **Holmes** Ethan **Fleming** Attending: University of Florida



Kayla McDonald Attending: Southern West Virginia University



Matthew Wong Attending: University of Texas at Tyler



Donovan Castillo Attending: Texas A&M -Corpus Christi



Celina Henn Attending: Wheaton College



Kaitlyn Greene Attending: Black Hills State University



Myla Castillo Attending: St. Edward's University



Samantha Visciotti Attending: Louisiana State University



# CONGRATULATIONS 2022-2023 TREA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Jordan Hazelman Attending: East Carolina University



Samantha Price
Attending:
University of
North Dakota

We received 26 applications this year, and awarded 14. All applications were reviewed and scored by the Scholarship Committee. The Committee was made up of five TREA members and chaired by Director Liebaert. Applications were scored on the following: Grade Point Averages, Scholastic Achievement/Involvement (Valedictorian, Honor Roll, etc.), School Sponsored Extra-Curricular Activities (debate team, sports, clubs, JROTC, etc.), Non-School Sponsored Extra-Curricular Activities, to include community volunteer activities, (4-H state champion, Boy/Eagle scouts, Girl Scouts, volunteering at a local senior citizen's home, hospital or volunteering at a food bank, etc.), Work Experience and Written Essay. All applicants must be the child or grandchild of a TREA member. The child or grandchild of a TREA member who has passed is still eligible, provided that member was active at the time of his/her passing.

The Scholarship recipients received a total of \$17,000 for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The 2023-2024 Scholarship Application will be posted on our website (<a href="www.trea.org">www.trea.org</a>) on January 1, 2023.



#### TREA'S SERVICE DOG IS GRADUATING!

It is great when a plan comes together. It is even more special when that plan serves and makes a positive difference in the life of a veteran. This is the case with Wiley – TREA's sponsored service dog.

After a yearlong extensive training program, Wiley is scheduled to meet his 'veteran partner' and graduate from the Semper K9 Service Dog program this month.

TREA plans to be there to meet and congratulate the new 'team' in person. Make sure to read the next issue of The VOICE magazine to see the photos and all the details from this life-changing event.



# LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM COMING JANUARY 2023 FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE CONNECTION DISABILITY

Coming January 2023, VA will launch a new **life insurance** program called Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife), which provides guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage to Veterans age 80 and under, with any level of service-connected disability. Some Veterans age 81 and older may also be eligible.

#### What is Guaranteed Acceptance Whole Life Insurance?

Guaranteed acceptance is a whole life policy that does not require a medical exam or ask health questions. It also does not have a limited two year window to sign up. Whole life insurance provides coverage for the entire life of the individual policyholder, provided that premiums are always paid. Premium rates are locked in for the life of the policy, and unlike term policies will not increase as the policy holder ages.

#### What benefits does it offer?

The new program meets the needs of service-connected Veterans who may not have previously qualified for life insurance with VA. VALife offers guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage that lasts for an individual's entire life and provides the following benefits:

- All service-connected Veterans age 80 and under with 0-100% VA disability ratings are eligible.
- Fully automated online enrollment with instant approvals.
- Coverage comes in increments of \$10,000, up to a maximum of \$40,000, and premiums are competitive — or better — than what's available in the private sector. There is a two-year waiting eriod for full face value coverage to take effect.
- No medical requirements for enrollment.
- Cash value that builds over the life of the policy after the first two years of enrollment.
- Rates are best the earlier you sign up. Once locked in, premiums will never increase.

#### Who is eligible?

All Veterans age 80 or younger with a VA disability rating of 0-100% are eligible for VALife, with no time limit to apply.

Veterans who are 81 or older may apply for VALife within two years of receiving a new service-connected disability rating if:

- They applied for VA disability compensation before age 81, and;
- They received a new service-connected disability rating after turning 81.

#### Where can I learn more?

To learn more about VALife and whether it's the right choice for you and your family, please visit the webpage here: <a href="https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp">https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp</a>.





# ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE SHOPPERS GENERATE \$205 MILLION FOR MILITARY COMMUNITIES IN 2021

DALLAS – Army & Air Force Exchange Service shoppers make life better for military communities around the world and, in 2021, they did their part to generate \$205 million for critical Quality-of-Life programs.

100% of Exchange earnings are re-invested in military communities, with about 60% historically going to support on-installation Quality-of-Life programs and remaining earnings used to further enhance the shopping experience at PXs, BXs, Expresses and online at ShopMy-Exchange.com.

"Thank you to Airmen, Soldiers, Guardians, Marines, Sailors and military families around the world for shopping their Exchange and making our military communities great places to live and work," said Exchange Director/CEO Tom Shull. "When you shop the PX or BX, fill up at an Express, pick up a meal at the Exchange food court or place an order at ShopMyExchange.com, you help bolster vital support to Warfighters and their families."

In the last 10 years, the Exchange has provided \$3.5 billion in earnings for critical military Quality-of-Life programs.

"It matters where you shop," Shull said. "Choosing the Exchange makes a difference for our Nation's military communities."

#### Make a real difference to a deserving military family this Holiday!

#### TREA GIVES HOLIDAY PROGRAM

It's not too early to start thinking about how you can make a difference to the family of a wounded or deployed servicemember and their family this holiday season. Although it may be hard to think about the holidays in the middle of August, they will be upon us before you know it. TREA Headquarters is already preparing for the task at hand and we need your support.

Times are tough for a lot of people right now - imagine how tough they are to the family of a deployed or wounded service member.

You can make a difference, TREA is making a difference. Our Holiday Program, coming up on it's  $7^{th}$  year is a 'thank you' to the deployed or wounded servicemember and his/her family. It's a very small way to let them know that they are appreciated and that we thank them for their service and their sacrifice.

You can sponsor a family (many levels available), make a donation (all amounts matter) or, if local to headquarters, volunteer your time to help us organize, contact, wrap and ship packages.

It's a wonderful and hands-on way to make a real difference for a soldier and his/her family.





# 2022 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 15th & 16th, 2022

Registration is required for all attendees. This is to ensure that everyone who is in attendance is a TREA member. If you are not a TREA member and would like to be a part of this meeting, please contact TREA Headquarters at 303-752-0660 or email your request to TREAHQ@TREA.ORG.

All registrants will receive an electronic version of the Meeting Book, which includes the agenda, special rules of order that will be followed for the meeting and the committee reports.

In order to complete the agenda, it will be important that the agenda and timeline is followed. Any discussions not germane to the topic currently in discussion will be moved to Good of the Order.

The results of the voting for the new National Board as well as the results of the proposed Bylaws & Standing Rules will be announced at the end of this meeting.

Deadline for registering is Wednesday, September 14th, 2022. If you are not registered, you will not be allowed entry into the meeting.



#### MEMBERSHIP SURVEY FOR 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 2023 – Las Vegas

We really want to hear from you. All TREA members are encouraged to participate in the linked survey to tell us your thoughts on a 60th Anniversary event in 2023.

Sixty years is a great milestone and one that deserves recognition; however, taking into account the current economic situation: inflation, cost of food, gas and other

goods, the extraordinary high cost of travel and lodging and COVID still lingering in the background, not the mention the continued decline of membership participation, the TREA National Board is concerned about the effects of trying to plan a large-scale social event for next year. With so many details unknown at this time, is it the right thing to do?

TREA is a membership organization. You are our members, and as such, you control the course of action, understanding that the Board members have the legal responsibility to do what is in the best interest of the organization as a whole and to always act fiscally responsible.

With reduced revenue from memberships and donations on the decline, the question remains, should we be planning a celebratory event? Is it the best way to spend TREA's funds?

To this end, we are reaching out to you for your input, suggestions and feedback. Please take a minute and go to: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TREA60-2023">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TREA60-2023</a> to answer 5 simple questions. They will help us in determining what course of action we should take in regards to an in-person Anniversary event in September 2023.

Your time and participation is greatly appreciated. The TREA National Board





#### **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 Nu	mber:		_
Name:				Birthdate:	
Address:	C	city:	State:	Zip Code:	:
Phone Number:		E-Mail:			
Spouse:	You	r Grade/Rank:		Years Served: from	to
Recruiter Information: Name	:	Membership	Number:		
Chapter Affiliation: I wish to b	e assigned to Chapter #_	, I wis	h to be a Memb	per-at Large (MAL)	
Service: Air Force	☐ Army ☐ Navy	y Marines	Space F	orce Coast Guard	Guard/Reserve
I am : Retired	☐ Veteran ☐ .	Active Duty S	pouse/widow/w	vidower of a veteran	
Membership Dues (Does not in  ☐ One Year - \$30  ☐ Two Years - \$55	nclude Chapter dues, if a	pplicable)			
☐ Three Years - \$75  Payment:  Visa  Master Card  Discover  American Express		d Number:		:V:	
Make checks payable to	r: TREA)				
TREA:	Please ro The Enlisted Association	eturn your comple - 12200 E. Briarwo E-mail: <u>treahq@</u>	ood Ave, Suite 2		0112
		303-752-0660 80	0-338-9337		

www.trea.org

