

# **THE VOICE**

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## TREA FOUNDERS

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

## 2022-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Nominations & Credentialing Committee

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**THE VOICE is the flagship publication of TREA: The Enlisted Association, located at 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, #170 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](mailto: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 170  
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](mailto:editor@trea.org) or by mail to 12200 E. Briarwood Ave., Ste 170, 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, 2024.

### 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](mailto:editor@trea.org) or call 303-752-0660. Postmaster (address change) Please send address changes to The VOICE, 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 170 Centennial, CO 80112 or by email to [treahq@trea.org](mailto:treahq@trea.org). Periodicals postage paid at Englewood, CO and other mailing offices.

# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Deb Oelschig, National President



As I write this, my last message, to you as the TREA National President, I think back on the past 2 years with appreciation and gratitude. I have done my absolute best to lead TREA with honor and integrity and to put in place a solid and stable infrastructure from which TREA's future can grow and expand. It has been my absolute honor to represent you, our members, and I am humbled by your support - not just for me and my efforts, but for all that TREA does, has done and will do in the future. You believe in TREA and I believe in you. We served and are warriors together and that bond cannot, and will not be broken.

As I prepare to take my place beside the respected and revered past presidents of this great organization, I make this promise to you today - to continue to fight for TREA, and for you. Our voice must not be stifled. It must be heard loud and true by those in Washington who try to make an easy target of those who so bravely and honorably served this great country. There is much work still to do, by TREA, and by all others whose mission is to support and serve the military and veteran community and their families. To ensure that this happens, I am staying on as the Chairman of TREA GIVES; the benevolent arm of TREA's legacy and mission. Between the two organizations, we have the absolute best opportunity to fulfill our missions and make a real difference to and for those who served, and their families.

Your National Board is strong and eager to continue the fight. With your support, TREA will continue to be a powerful legislative advocate to ensure that your earned benefits are not eroded away and that future bills and laws that are put into place are fair and equitable and justly reflect your dedication, service and sacrifice. TREA and TREA GIVES will always have my unwavering support and you, our members, will always have my undying respect and gratitude for your service.

Deborah Oelschig  
National President

**UNITED WE STAND**



## ADDRESS CHANGE

Please note the new address for TREA National Headquarters:  
12200 E. Briarwood Ave, #170 Centennial, CO 80112



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

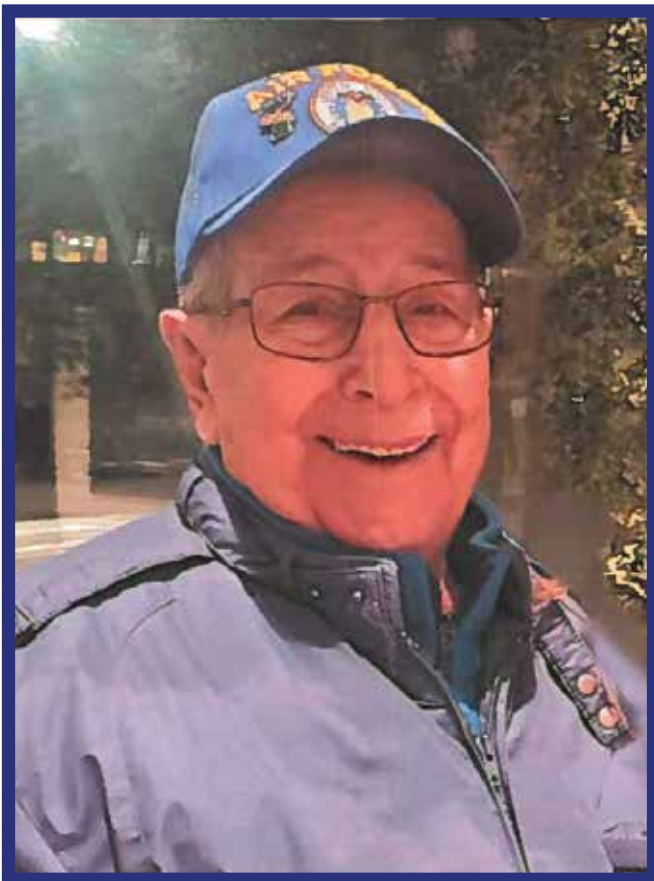
Garry Turks, National 3rd Vice & Chaplain

1 Peter 4:10 – ‘Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.’

When we think of giving, our minds automatically go to money. We think that the only way that we can contribute or help others is to donate or give money. That is not the case at all. We all have a gift that we can use to serve and benefit others. The ‘ Three ‘T’s’ is a great rule to live by and that is “Your Time, Your Talent and Your Treasurers”. Many people don’t have extra financial resources, especially these days, but maybe you have a few extra

hours a week/month where you can help a neighbor, read a book to a shut in, help paint a community building, mow your neighbors lawn – the options are endless. All of these are donations, or giving of Your Time. The ability to use ‘Your Talent’ is just as endless – for those who like to cook, make an extra meal for someone, if you are good with a hammer, help a neighbor fix a fence – the options don’t have to be physical – your knowledge and experience are talents as well. Help someone balance their checkbook, show them how to use the computer or cell phone. Everything that you know can be used to help someone else. Of course, there is ‘Your Treasurers’, give freely, if you are able, you will be rewarded in the end.

If you don’t know what or how to give, please reach out to us - between TREA and TREA GIVES, we can help find the perfect match for you and your gifts.- (treahq@trea.org)



## FRED P ATHANS, PNP

5/18/1932 – 2/2/2024

TREA National President, 1998 - 2000

## A SPECIAL INVITATION

TREA was honored to receive a special invitation from President and Dr. Biden to an invitation-only tour of the White House. This invitation was to honor Veterans and Military Families. TREA National President, Deb Oelschig was accompanied by Executive Director Debbie Osborne on a red-eye flight from Colorado to Washington DC to attend this prestigious event. The two were able to share TREA's mission and 60+ years of accomplishments and successes with many others as they all lined up waiting to move through security. It was a very productive, informational sharing experience. A wonderful opportunity that was unexpected, but well received by all.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



### VA/DOD SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

*Reimagining Suicide Prevention: Evolving  
and Innovating to Meet Diverse Needs*

TREA was invited to participate in the 2024 VA/DOD Suicide Prevention Conference that was held in Portland Oregon, July 16 – 18. This is the first VA/DOD Suicide Prevention Conference since before COVID, so it was an honor and a privilege to be able to attend this extraordinary event.

TREA National President, Deb Oelschig and Executive Director Debbie Osborne were among the 2,500+ attendees at this event. The audience consisted of VSO's, Community Organizations that support military & veterans, VA and DOD employees, clinicians, military base representatives and many others – from all across the country. The three days were full of speakers, special guests, and over 120 individual break-out sessions, each one offering in depth information on the various strategies that the VA & DOD, along with others, are implementing to help decrease the rate of veteran suicide. Pages and pages of notes, in addition to an entire backpack of resource information was brought back to scour through. It is our goal to be an engaged and active resource for the prevention of Veteran Suicide. This was the first step of many that will help us achieve that goal.

Please continue to check our website, [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org) and [www.treagives.org](http://www.treagives.org) for up-to-date information on programs and resources. Decreasing Veteran Suicide is a problem that will take ALL OF US to fix.



## WASHINGTON UPDATE

President Deb Oelschig

### Memorial Day 2024

On May 27, 2024, I was honored to join President Joe Biden, First Lady Jill Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Second Gentlemen Doug Emhoff and members of the Presidential Cabinet at an event honoring our nation's fallen servicemembers and Veterans at The White House. Directly proceeding the event, I joined Executive Director Debbie Osborne to participate in ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, where we heard from President Biden and Secretary of Defense Llyod Austin. After the ceremony, we were honored to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on behalf of enlisted servicemembers, Veterans, and their families.



### The President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

On March 11, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration released the President's Budget for FY 2025. The budget proposes critical resources to help the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continue providing more care and more benefits to Veterans than in previous years. The budget requested \$369.3 billion for VA care and services, a \$33 billion (+10%) increase above the FY 2024 Budget estimate level, including a discretionary funding request of \$134.0 billion and a mandatory request of \$235.3 billion. Most notably, the proposal includes \$24.5 billion from the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund (TEF), for a total increase of \$41.8 billion (21.6%) above fiscal year 2024.

At VA, the proposed Budget aimed to expand health care and benefits for Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving our country, support the delivery of health care for Veterans across America, prioritize mental health care and suicide prevention for Veterans, support health care for women Veterans, bolster efforts to end Veteran homelessness, and invest in claims processing and benefits delivery for Veterans. To date, Congress has already appropriated the vast majority of the FY 2025 funding for VA and will now start to consider an advanced request for FY 2026.

As the FY 2025 appropriations process continues, TREA will continue to engage the White House, VA, and Congress to our priorities are heard, included, and properly funded.

### United States Congress

As the 118th Congress enters its final calendar year ahead of a Presidential election, Members of Congress and their staff are continuing to scramble to fund the government by way of Continuing Resolutions and, at times, "handshake deals." The most recent deal has funded the government through September 30, 2024, and includes roughly \$1.1 trillion in funding for the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, State, Treasury, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Despite their "kicking the can down the road" approach to FY 2024 funding, TREA has urged and will continue to push Congress to fully fund the government in FY 2024 before continuing the FY 2025 appropriations process this year.

## Key Legislation

Since August of 2023, the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs have agreed on text for an “omnibus” spending package that includes a host of TREA’s priorities, known as “The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act.” This comprehensive package includes a number of bipartisan, TREA backed proposals that would enhance and reform the delivery of benefits and care at VA, including:

- The Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act
- The HOME Act
- VA Community Care Program Enhancements
- The Revised Electronic Healthcare Record Modernization Reset Act
- Funding the VET-TEC Education Program
- Modernizing USERRA Protections
- Cutting “Red-Tape” for Student Veterans Using The G.I. Bill
- Funding a Grant Program for County Veteran Service Officers
- Modernizing DBQ Act

The total score or “cost” the Congressional Budget Office has given the package is over \$11 billion, which has led to further negotiations to find offsets. TREA will continue to monitor the progress of the legislative package and urge Congress to pass it without delay.

## Key Legislation (Continued)

In March, TREA proudly stood with members of The Military Coalition on Capitol Hill in support of S. 344 / H.R. 1282, The Major Richard Star Act, to urge Congress to include the bill in the baseline text of the FY 2025 NDAA. Under current law, service members who are medically retired due to combat-related injuries before reaching 20 years of service are prevented from collecting both their service earned retirement pay and VA disability compensation. These two benefits, established by Congress for entirely different reasons, are nonetheless subject to a statutory offset. The Major Richard Star Act will authorize concurrent receipt of DoD retired pay, for years of service, and VA disability compensation for injuries incurred in service. This legislation is another small step in correcting a larger concurrent receipt problem.

Since its re-introduction in the 118th Congress, TREA has worked hard to ensure the Major Richard Star Act has gained support on Capitol Hill, aiding efforts to secure 73 cosponsors in the Senate, and 326 cosponsors in the House, securing the majority of both chambers’ support for this critical legislation.

TREA will continue to urge Congress to pass S. 344 / H.R. 1282 The Major Richard Star Act this calendar year.

## Key Legislation (Continued)

Other key pieces of legislation that have recently passed out of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs include:

- H.R. 5938, Veterans Exam Expansion Act of 2023
- H.R. 5890, Every Veterans Claim Act of 2023
- H.R. 3722, Daniel J. Harvey, Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Service member Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act
- H.R. 1753, Jax Act
- H.R. 522, Deliver for Veterans Act
- H.R. 3738, To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration
- H.R. 5914, To improve the processes to approve programs of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs
- H.R. 5785, Edith Nourse Rodger's STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act
- H.R. 3790, Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2023
- H.R. 4016, Veteran Fraud Reimbursement Act
- H.R. 4190, Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act

These bills seek to improve the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), the delivery of education benefits to student Veterans, fix the survivor benefits process for Veterans living with ALS and their caregivers, and to modernize the overall disability claims process.

Communications

TREA has several social media platforms we use in order to keep in touch with our members and highlight our legislative and programmatic efforts, including our VoterVoice platform. If you are on Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter, make sure you are following along and subscribed to VoterVoice for important updates.

## ONE NATION – ONE MISSION

With everything going on today, we encourage you to remember that we, TREA: The Retired Enlisted Association, d/b/a as: The Enlisted Association, are required to be apolitical. This means that we do not and cannot take political sides.

Our mission is serving and protecting the military and those who served in it; are currently serving in it; and who will serve in it in the future. It is our hope that come this November, whichever party the newly elected POTUS is affiliated with, that they will remember the sacrifices and the service that our brave men and women, and their families have made in the continued defense of our freedom and that they make choices that honor and respect those sacrifices. We all need to be

**UNITED WE STAND!**



## OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

You may have already received an email from us (TREAHQ@trea.org) or from Member Planet, letting you know about our new membership database. We have spent a lot of time researching better, more user-friendly databases that would provide you, with a great experience, while being cost-effective for the organization. We think we found it with this new system. Like all things new, there will be a few bumps along the way, but we have tried hard to make it as simple and quick as possible. You do not need to do anything – your membership with us is not affected by your decision to create an account or not. Setting up an account in the new database just allows you to make changes yourself - like new addresses & emails. It also allows you to access our resource page that offers special discounts for TREA members. The biggest benefit is that you will have direct access to the electronic version of the The VOICE of the Enlisted Magazine, which has live links – making it so much easier to access reports and data pulled from outside sources. This is especially helpful with all the information that is in our Washington Report.

Go to: <https://www.trea.org/v2app/#/site/login> to create an account or call 303-752-0660 to speak to one of the Headquarter staff members who can help you.



**TREA Members can save big  
on hotels and travel –  
worldwide!**

<https://trea.hotelplanner.com/>

## TREA GIVES

Our K9 Team Graduated!



We are so proud of our Warrior/Dog team: Martin & Skonce. The pair graduated from the K9s For Warriors Florida campus on June 20th. TREA GIVES Chair Deb Oelschig and Executive Director Debbie Osborne were on hand to celebrate this tremendous event. (Photo: Martin & Skonce with K9s For Warriors Trainer)

Our warrior, Martin, served in the United States Army for 22 years and he lives in Florida with his wife. His trained service dog, Skonce was provided by K9s For Warriors and sponsored by TREA GIVES. Skonce was named after TREA co-founder, George Skonce. Martin & Skonce spent 21 days living together and learning to be a bonded pair.

The University of Arizona's OHAIRE Lab led a recent study in conjunction with K9s For Warriors linking the pairing of service dogs with military veterans to lower PTSD severity. The first-of-its-kind study, partly funded by NIH, compared veteran and service dog teams to veterans using care without service dogs, like medication and therapy, for PTSD-afflicted veterans.

The study, led by Maggie O'Haire, Associate Dean for Research and Professor at the University of Arizona's College of Veterinary Medicine and published in JAMA Network Open in June. It analyzed measurable PTSD symptoms and psychosocial functioning, like quality of life and social health.

A K9s For Warriors service dog is trained to stand by a Warrior's side as a battle buddy, a constant companion. They master skills like watching the veteran's back, helping the veteran feel safe in public, and providing compression therapy on the veteran's lap when feeling anxious. Some K9s For Warriors veterans have such a strong bond with their service dog, that they are often woken up by their dog during nightmares.

To us at TREA GIVES, it comes down to this – does it make the veteran feel better? Does it provide a tool that the veteran can use to get his/her life back? Does it make a difference to the veteran

and to the veteran's family? We unequivocally believe that it does. We believe that what a service dog provides to a veteran extends far beyond that of the actual veteran. It impacts the spouse, the children, siblings, parents – the entire community. When a veteran can return to school or back into the work force, everybody wins. The overall impact is too great to ignore.

TREA GIVES participates in various forms of support to veterans, food cards, emergency financial assistance, Holiday Programs, Thanksgiving baskets, and VA stand downs. All of them are wonderful programs, and are much needed by our veteran community, but we believe that the impact a service dog provides is greater and more long lasting. A gift card for food is wonderful, but it is 'in the moment.' Once it has been used, it no longer does any good. Sure, it provides temporary relief or comfort, but it is not long lasting. Very rarely does a single gift card for food or the paying of a bill get the veteran out of the situation that they are in. It provides a few minutes of relief, but not much more than that. On the other hand, a service dog is not a one-time offer of help. It is ongoing support that creates a chain reaction of beneficial assistance. Think of it this way, a service dog provides an estimated 5,256,000 minutes of comfort and support to his/her veteran. Add the family and community into the equation and you can clearly see the enormous impact a service dog has.

To show the personal impact, we recently heard a veteran make a special statement to his new service dog and that statement was, "thank you for accepting me."

TREA GIVES was created with the promise to make life better for those who served, one veteran/one family at a time. That is exactly what this did – gave Martin the ability to have a life again. This alone, is reason enough for us at TREA GIVES to continue to sponsor the service dog program. If you would like to be a part of our future service dog sponsorship, you can make a tax-deductible donation to TREA GIVES/Service Dog. You can do this online at [www.treagives.org](http://www.treagives.org) or by calling the TREA Headquarter at 303-752-0660. You can also mail in a check to: TREA GIVES, 12200 E. Briarwood Ave #170, Centennial CO 80112



*Photo L: K9s For Warriors Director of Development Stephen Carmichael, TREA GIVES Executive Director Debbie Osborne, Veteran Martin & his service dog Skonce, TREA GIVES Chair Deb Oelschig*  
*Photo R: Martin & Skonce*



## TREA & TREA GIVES, TOGETHER

Making a Difference in the Veteran Community



National Representatives from TREA and TREA GIVES have been visiting the local Veterans' home to spend time with the residents and to serve up some delicious, and much anticipated, ice cream.

The residents are always so happy to see us – and we are just as happy to see them.



They love their ice cream, but more than that, they love the ability to talk, visit and reminisce with someone from 'the outside'. It's a very rewarding afternoon.

We encourage everyone – all of our members and anyone reading this article – please reach out to your local veteran home/community and volunteer your time. It really does make a difference to those veterans (and their families) to know that they are not forgotten and that they still matter.

It is so important that we put our words into action – we can't just say that we do good things – we have to actually do them. This is just one small example of what we, as an organization, can do – together. Here's what we are doing to help promote this tremendous need. Send us a photo of you doing something good in your veteran/military community and we will enter you into a drawing for a \$50 VISA gift card. Not that doing good deeds and caring for our veteran neighbors ever has a deadline, but for the sake of this special drawing, all photos must be received by December 31st. There will be one \$50 gift card awarded for each event reported. The event can be something that you did on your own, or with a TREA Chapter. The winner(s) will be announced in the February 2025 issue of The VOICE of the Enlisted magazine



*TREA National President & TREA GIVES Chair, Deb Oelschig sits and visits with a resident*



*TREA National Headquarter staff, Misty and Melissa serve ice cream to a resident*



## **Become a Legacy Donor**

Our Legacy Donor Program enables you to leave a legacy for future military generations with planned charitable gifts through your will and estate planning. When you leave a bequest to TREA or TREA GIVES in your estate plan, your generosity secures the continued support to enlisted veterans and military members, and their families for years to come.

This is probably not something that you have thought about, but it is a wonderful, safe and easy way to ensure that TREA can continue to legislatively advocate for, fight for and provide assistance to enlisted military members who served with you, before you and after you.

There are many options available: 'In Memory Of', 'In Honor Of', 'In Appreciation Of' and anything else that you can think of.

Through our Legacy Donor Program, you will be able to pass on the pride and honor that you have for your military service and your respect for those who also served, and their families who support them.

The military has always been a family and this is a great way to take care of your brother-in-arms. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Donations to both TREA, and TREA GIVES are 100% tax-deductible.

The following link has been created to make this process quick and easy.

<http://voice.trea.org/pdfFiles/Legacy-Donor-web-page.pdf>

## TREA NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Butch Liebaert, National Director & Scholarship Committee Chair

The Scholarship Committee worked hard reviewing and scoring the 27 applications that were received. The committee awarded 14 scholarships totaling \$16,000 this year. We also approved two alternates.

I would like to thank the individuals who served on the committee this year with me, Paul Chamberlain, Doug Osborne, and HQ staff member, Melissa White.

Congratulations to all of the 2024/2025 Scholarship winners.



Hector Aponte  
\$2,000 George Skonce Award  
Norwich University  
Sponsor: Timothy Aponte, FL



Adele Bosma  
\$2,000 Dean Sorell Award  
Concord University  
Sponsor: Robert Bosma, TX



Karina Danet  
\$1,500 Dottie Holmes Award  
Baylor University  
Sponsor: Rebecca Danet, TX



Alice Pickett  
\$1000 Purdue University  
Sponsor: Jeffrey "Craig" Pickett, IN



Samantha Price  
\$1000 University of North Dakota  
Sponsor: Lanny Eller, CO



Zekiah Strickland  
\$1000 Southern Magnolia University  
Sponsor: Aaron Strickland, AR



Matthew Wong  
\$1000 University of  
Texas at Tyler  
Sponsor: Richar Watley, AL



Meadow Mikrut  
\$1000 Grand Canyon University  
Sponsor: Michael Mikrut, AZ



Haven Lysell-Stewart  
\$1000 Oklahoma Baptist  
University  
Sponsor: Moses Stewart, KS



Gannon Mohr  
\$1000 University of Wisconsin  
Sponsor: Brian Mohr, WI



Isabella Forbes  
\$1000 University of Georgia  
Sponsor: Richard Forbes, GA



Nick Marigo  
\$1000 Santa Rosa Junior College  
Sponsor: Ken Marigo, CA



Elizabeth Worden  
\$1000 Coastal Carolina  
University  
Sponsor: Lanny Eller, CO



Isabel Fleming  
\$500 University of Florida  
Sponsor: Michael Fleming, FL



## TRICARE & MENTAL HEALTH

TRICARE covers certain outpatient and inpatient mental health services, as detailed in the [TRICARE Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services Fact Sheet](https://tricare.mil/Publications/Fact-Sheets/mental_health_substance). ([https://tricare.mil/Publications/Fact-Sheets/mental\\_health\\_substance](https://tricare.mil/Publications/Fact-Sheets/mental_health_substance)).

### Outpatient Services

Outpatient treatment is available at some military hospitals and clinics. You can also get care from TRICARE-authorized civilian providers. Appointments may be in person or via [telemedicine](#).

Some types of covered outpatient treatment include:

- **Psychotherapy:** Discussion-based therapy in individual, family, or group settings
- **Psychological testing and assessment:** Covered when medically or psychologically necessary, or during the assessment process under the [Autism Care Demonstration](#)
- **Intensive outpatient program:** Therapy and medication management where patients go to a treatment center for several days a week, a few hours at a time
- **Partial hospitalization program:** Daytime treatment, where the patient lives at home and commutes to get treatment for six or more hours per day, up to seven days a week

### Inpatient Services

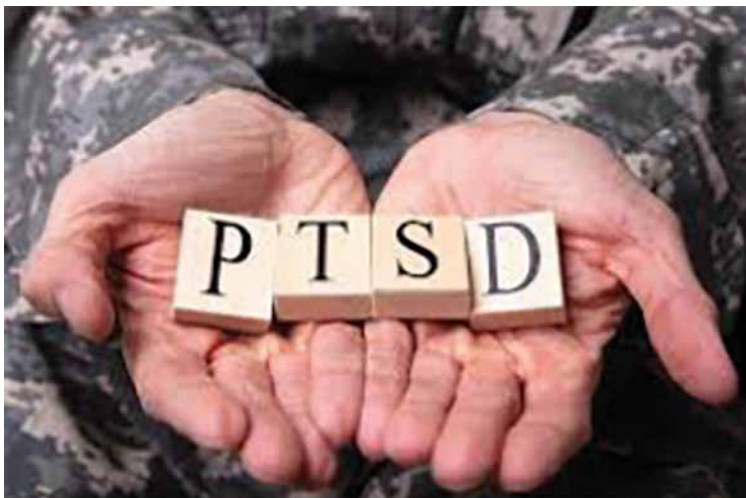
You may need more intensive treatment that requires you to stay in a hospital or treatment center. If so, TRICARE covers:

- **Inpatient hospital services:** Treatment for concerns that require inpatient hospitalization (like psychiatric emergencies or substance use withdrawal symptoms)
- **Psychiatric residential treatment centers:** Extended care for children and adolescents who need 24/7 treatment in a therapeutic environment

Looking for a full list of covered mental health services? You can find more information on [covered treatments](https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices?category=mental) (<https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices?category=mental>).

**Mental health is health—and it's an important part of your overall wellness. Looking for a [mental health provider](#)? Check out the [Find a Doctor](#) tool. You can also find more resources and information on TRICARE's [Mental Health Care](#) page.**





Merriam-Webster defines Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as: a psychological reaction occurring after experiencing a highly stressing event (such as wartime combat, physical violence, or a natural disaster) that is usually characterized by depression, anxiety, flashbacks, recurrent nightmares, and avoidance of reminders of the event. Many with PTSD experience disturbing thoughts, feelings, or dreams related to the event(s), mental or physical distress, difficulty sleeping and changes in how one thinks and feels.

70% of adults in the U.S. have experienced some type of traumatic event at least once in their lives. This equates to approximately 223.4 million people. 20% of these people go on to develop PTSD. As of today, that equates to approximately 44.7 million people who were, or are, struggling with PTSD.

An estimated 8% of Americans – 24.4 million people – have PTSD at any given time. That is equal to the total population of Texas.

Military members and veterans have a higher percentage of experiencing PTSD over the average American. This is due to the job that they are given by our government and the tasks associated with performing that job. When ‘we’, meaning our government, puts someone into a situation that causes PTSD, it is our (again, meaning our government’s) responsibility to take care of them after the fact. That is a fight that TREA has fought for many years, and we promise to continue that fight until all who served with honor and integrity are taken care of.



There are many great articles on PTSD and the military that are backed by scientific research and factual analytical results. There isn’t enough room to include all that information here, so here are a few of the links that provided the data that was used above. Please take the time to visit them to learn more about PTSD and the military/veteran.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5047000/>

<https://www.hillandponton.com/resources/veterans-statistics-ptsd/>

<http://www.ptsdunited.org/ptsd-statistics-2/>

<https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>



## FROM THE NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Audrey McCray

Greetings National Auxiliary,

I hope with God's prayers, I have fulfilled my obligation to the National Auxiliary. This has truly been an honor and a privilege serving as your National Auxiliary President. Words will not ever express the humble joy I am feeling right now as I write this article. The TREA National Auxiliary Membership Meeting will be held on September 17, and 18, 2024 at TREA The Retired Enlisted Association, Chapter 3, 1599 Dayton Street, Aurora Colorado, 80010. Please note the September Membership meeting will also

be streamed on Zoom. Please reach out to me at my email, [mccraya@aol.com](mailto:mccraya@aol.com) if you plan to participate, so that you are included. A friendly reminder for all members that all reports are due by August 31, 2024, to my email at [mccraya@aol.com](mailto:mccraya@aol.com). The following offices will be filled by election at the 2024 TREA National Auxiliary Membership Meeting in Aurora, Colorado, September 17, and 18, 2024.

- National Auxiliary President
- National Auxiliary Vice President
- National Auxiliary Treasurer
- National Auxiliary Directors – Three (3)
- A Secretary and a Parliamentarian will be appointed.

*\*Note: All positions are for two-year terms\**

Candidate Criteria: Any Auxiliary member who will be seeking the candidacy for an elected office on the National Auxiliary Board of Directors must follow Standing Rule #2, Paragraphs 1- 4 under National Officers, and Board of Directors.

The Auxiliary encourages all members to please come out and support your Auxiliary. For questions, concerns, or further details please contact President McCray [mccraya@aol.com](mailto:mccraya@aol.com).

In closing, as I write this article, I have been elated to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD) as your National Auxiliary President. I will say serving on the BOD as the National President has certainly been a valuable experience and an awesome task. Over the last two years, great achievements and accomplishments were deemed to be a job well done. I will confidently say working together for the betterment of a phenomenal organization has been worth the time and effort. I will surely say this has been bitter-sweet, but the joy of serving the needs of the Auxiliary has been a world wind pleasure. This journey has gained a great deal of friends, confidants, and respect from my peers as I served as President of the National Auxiliary. I would like to say thanks to all of you who helped and supported me as President and may God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Peace and Blessings,

Audrey H. McCray  
Auxiliary National President



## **AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN**

Barbara Coley

Greetings members. Hoping to find our members across the country safe and sound. It is a beautiful day here in Goodyear, AZ where I reside. I am writing to inform you that this will be my last article in the "VOICE" as your TREA National Auxiliary Chaplain and Past National President. I have enjoyed my time here on the Board of Directors (BOD) for the last 8 years and I will miss everyone on the BOD. I am incredibly grateful to all that supported me and gave me this beautiful opportunity to serve. In closing, may God bless you with good health and happiness and blessings for a beautiful and fulfilling life. And may God's love and grace be with you every step of the way and grant you strength in your daily tasks, wisdom in all your decisions, favor in your labors, and provision for your daily needs.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Coley

## **VA MAKES MENTAL HEALTH CUTS**

Positions for psychologists, clinical social workers and others have been cut, and some job offers have been rescinded in recent weeks and months as the agency seeks to address a budgetary shortfall and shave its workforce by 10,000 positions.

The job reductions come at a time when some veterans continue to face extended wait times for service and as suicides among veterans remain disproportionately high.

The cuts have ranked rank-and-file VA employees as their department has been embroiled in a scandal for improperly awarding about \$11 million in bonuses to senior VA executives last year, according to the Inspector General's Report from May 2024. VA Secretary Denis McDonough said the VA cancelled the bonuses and began recouping them after realizing the error.

"The recent VA strategic hiring initiative has placed considerable strain on all our services and disciplines across our facility, both clinical and non-clinical," wrote Dr. Mark Kadowaki, the chief of staff for the VA medical center in Iron Mountain, Michigan, in a May email to staff that was obtained by news channels.

Dr. Harold Kudler, a psychiatrist and associate professor at Duke University who has four decades of experience serving veterans through the VA, questions the decision to rescind offers for frontline positions and said, "It's very simple. If you remove access to expert care – if you remove access to the largest suicide prevention program in the county, if not the world – then that's not good for veterans."

## VA MAKES MENTAL HEALTH CUTS - CONT.

Dr. Kudler and others expressed particular concern about cuts involving mental health care. William Hazel, a clinical social worker who has worked for the federal government for years has experienced one of the cuts, having a job offer rescinded due to ‘budgetary issues that the Agency is experiencing and other unforeseen circumstances’, according to an email that he shared with the news.

Hazel shared his disappointment “They say that mental health is a critical element to them, yet we were cut. The motto of the VA is to care for him who has borne the battle. Are they doing that? I respectfully submit, no.”

“It’s actually direct-care staff that’s being eliminated,” said Tiffany Roman of Pueblo, Colorado, a nurse who works as the vice president of a local chapter of the American Federation of Government Employees union.

Asked about the staffing cuts at a Senate hearing in May, VA Secretary McDonough said that the federal budget “does force some choices” on his department, though he said that the agency’s retention of employees has been at “historic highs” and that it is “better sourced with clinicians” due to spikes in hiring in recent years.

A Government Accountability Office Report published in June found challenges with the VA’s ability to provide timely care and noted that many VA facilities last year took more than two weeks to even schedule a mental health appointment in the private sector, an option used when veterans have to wait long to travel too far for VA care. The VA said in response to the report that it was seeking to improve the timely scheduling of such appointments.

“Any time you impact staffing, any time you lower the potential for one-on-one care, any time you lower that area of need – mental health, primary care, surgeries – that always poses a risk,” said Jeff Shapiro, the president of the VA council for the National Federation of Federal Employees Union. “It’s a managerial problem.”

For the complete article, go to: <https://www.cnn.com/2024/06/10/politics/va-job-cuts-frontline-worker-invs/index.html>.

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## VA NEWS RELEASES

### VA extends presumptions of service connection for three new cancer types

Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is including three new cancer types in the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposure under the PACT Act. This announcement marks the continued commitment under the Biden-Harris administration’s Unity Agenda and the Biden Cancer Moonshot to support the nation’s Veterans.

### More than 50,000 women Veterans enrolled in VA health care over past 365 days, marking the largest enrollment year ever for women Veterans

Today, on Women Veterans Recognition Day, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that more than 53,000 women Veterans enrolled in VA health care between May 2023 and May 2024, marking a 20% increase over the previous year and the largest enrollment year for women Veterans on record.

## **VA announces updates to help Veterans using VA home loan benefits remain competitive in the housing market**

Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that eligible Veterans, active-duty Service members, and surviving spouses who use the VA-guaranteed home loan benefit can pay for certain real estate buyer-broker fees when purchasing a home.

## **Age 45 or Older? Screen for Colorectal Cancer With TRICARE**

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer among men and women in the United States—and it's on the rise among people under age 50, according to the National Cancer Institute.

## **TRICARE and Marriage: What You Need To Know**

Getting married is an exciting time in your life. If you're a military spouse, you probably have questions about your TRICARE health coverage. There are certain things you need to do to enroll in a TRICARE health plan.

## **Q&A: What To Know as New TRICARE Contracts Begin in 2025**

New TRICARE managed care support (MCS) contracts, known as T-5, will start on Jan. 1, 2025. MCS contractors manage administrative support services for the TRICARE benefit. This includes managing enrollment services, maintaining civilian healthcare networks, operating call centers, and processing TRICARE claims. The new contracts will improve health care delivery, quality, and access for beneficiaries living in the United States.

## **Mental Health Is Health: How To Get Mental Health Care With TRICARE**

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org. This resource connects you with trained counselors who can help you get the help you need, 24/7.

## **Q&A: Moving and Your TRICARE Coverage**

As summer approaches and permanent change of station (PCS) season kicks into high gear, many military families find themselves preparing to move to a new duty location. Amid all the packing and planning, it's important to make sure your TRICARE coverage is ready to move with you.

## **Recent Graduate? Learn How TRICARE Covers Young Adults**

Did your child recently graduate high school or college? Congratulations! While you help them get ready for their next steps, you may have questions about how their health coverage options will change.



## TREASURER'S NOTE

Kyle Carpenter, Treasurer

The FY 2023 Financial Audit is posted on the next page. Here are some highlights:

- Fundraising income was up from 2022 by \$26,388
- Membership Dues were down from 2022 by \$19,339
- Investments performed well in 2023, showing a \$841,293 positive swing from 2022
- Total income was up from 2022 by \$116,679
- Total expenses were down from 2022 by \$28,341

The National Board Members have been diligent in their efforts in capturing every opportunity to decrease expenses. If you have been following our annual reports through the years, you know that our efforts are not in vain. Our total expenses in 2019 were \$927,460. In 2023, they were \$665,598. This is a decrease of over \$261,800 – a 28.23% savings.

As a membership organization, membership should be our top income source – it is not. Knowing what we know of the past several years, and with no reason to believe the societal shift away from membership organizations will change any time soon, we must change our way of thinking and bring in another revenue source. How we will do this, we do not know.

What we do know is that our mission is clear – to protect the earned benefits of those who served and to enhance and make better the lives of those who served and that of their family members. Our desire to be successful in fulfilling this mission is strong – we will do what we need to do to make sure that we do not fail those who we have promised to take care of.

There is no denying that it takes money to run a successful business. It is not as simple as not spending, but rather ensuring that all spending is done so wisely and in a smart, calculated and beneficial manner. That is what we are doing, and I think we are being successful in our efforts.

Thank you for your support – we could not do this without you.

Affiliation with The Senior Citizen's League (TSCL) -

TREA is no longer doing a consolidated audit with TSCL, but since we have a financial control affiliation with them, we want to provide their basic financial standings to our membership.

TSCL Financial Standing for FY 2023:

2023 Revenue	\$ 3,355,723
2023 Expenses	\$ 2,892,547
2023 Investments	\$ 49,753
2023 Net Profit/(Loss)	\$ 627,366
2023 Assets at beginning of year	\$ 84,647
2023 Assets at end of year	\$ 712,013



## THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOCIATION

D/B/A - THE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION



### Statement of Activities

January 1 , 2023 - December 31, 2023

	without donor restrictions	with donor restrictions	Total
<b>Revenue &amp; Other Support</b>			
Contributions (Fundraising)	135,721	7,933	143,654
Trademark (TSCL)	141,670		141,670
Employee Retention Tax Credit	76,274		76,274
Membership Dues	58,844		58,844
Life Insurance payouts	51,753		51,753
Will & Bequests	750	40,000	40,750
Royalty Income	30,640		30,640
Store Sales	9,873		9,873
Other	7,430		7,430
Advertising Income	1,800		1,800
Assets released from donor restrictions	84,970	(84,970)	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>599,725</b>	<b>(37,037)</b>	<b>562,688</b>
Investment Gain	338,354		338,354
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>938,079</b>	<b>(37,037)</b>	<b>901,042</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Program Services:</b>			
Membership Services & Retention	157,740		157,740
Government Affairs	128,413		128,413
VOICE Magazine	49,921		49,921
Public Education	42,363		42,363
Membership Education & Training	35,801		35,801
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>414,238</b>		<b>414,238</b>
<b>Supporting Services:</b>			
Management & General	130,253		130,253
Membership Recruitment	7,825		7,825
Fundraising	149,391		149,391
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>287,469</b>		<b>287,469</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>701,707</b>		<b>701,707</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>236,372</b>	<b>(37,037)</b>	<b>199,335</b>
Net Assets, beginning of year	2,830,152	171,535	3,001,687
Net Assets, end of year	3,066,524	134,498	3,201,022

Ed Cates,  
TSCL Chairman



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

## THE PROJECTED SOLVENCY OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND PROPOSALS TO FIX IT

In some good news/bad news, the 2024 Social Security Trustees Report projects that the program will be able to pay 100% of total scheduled benefits until 2033, unchanged from last year's report. At that time, the fund's reserves will become depleted, and the continuing program income will be sufficient to pay 79% of scheduled benefits. The bad news is that it's another year Congress will likely kick the can down the road.

Looking ahead, the report paints a sobering picture for Social Security recipients, projecting a potential 21% decrease in benefits after 2033, which would substantially impact the monthly payments of many Americans. In 2023, Social Security's income stood at \$1.351 billion, primarily from net payroll tax contributions (91%), with an additional 4% from benefit taxation and the remaining 5% from interest. That same year, Social Security paid \$1.379 billion in benefits, about 2% more than its income.

Social Security's combined trust fund asset reserves earned interest at an effective annual rate of 2.4% in 2023, compared to 24.2% for the S&P 500 in the same year.

Lawmakers have numerous options to address Social Security's long-term funding issue. A myriad of legislative solutions have been introduced and not acted on.

A recent survey by The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) found that -

- 62% support Congress enacting proposed legislation to establish a Fiscal Commission to find bipartisan support to stabilize the finances of Social Security and Medicare trust funds.
- 81% support raising the payroll tax above the current level of \$168,600 to reduce the Trust Fund shortfall.
- 64% support increasing Social Security revenues by taxing net investment income, including dividends and interest, of taxpayers with incomes higher than \$200,000 (individual) or \$250,000 (joint filers).
- 44% oppose investing Social Security payroll taxes in private equities, such as stock and corporate bonds, rather than special interest government bonds, as under current law.
- 60% oppose raising the full retirement age above the current age.
- 79% oppose using the Chained Consumer Price Index to determine the annual Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA).



Social Security is deeply ingrained in the fabric of American society and has been a cornerstone of retirement planning for decades. It's unlikely to completely go away for several reasons:

1. **Political Support:** Social Security has broad bipartisan support. While there may be debates and discussions about ensuring its long-term solvency, politicians from both parties generally recognize its importance for retirees and people with disabilities.
2. **Voter Dependence:** Social Security benefits millions of Americans, including retirees, disabled individuals, and survivors of deceased workers. Any significant attempt to dismantle Social Security would likely face strong opposition from these groups, making it politically risky for lawmakers.
3. **Social Safety Net:** Social Security serves as a critical safety net, especially for retirees who may not have other sources of income. Eliminating Social Security without a viable alternative would leave many vulnerable populations without financial support.
4. **Interdependence with Retirement Planning:** Many Americans rely on Social Security for retirement income. Eliminating it would disrupt the retirement plans of millions, leading to widespread economic consequences.

While changes to Social Security will be necessary to ensure its long-term sustainability, the program is unlikely ever to disappear entirely.



## 9 VA HOSPITALS RECEIVE HIGH GRADE

The VA is proud to announce that nine military hospitals have received an “A” in the recently released Spring 2024 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades, demonstrating the Defense Health Agency’s commitment to safe, high-quality health care, and transparency.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is a letter-grade program that focuses exclusively on a hospital’s patient safety measures through more than 30 national performance indicators. Each indicator reflects errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent patient harm.

(to read more, go to: <https://health.mil/News/Dvids-Articles/2024/05/03/news470221>).

The nine hospitals that received an “A” grade are:

- 96th Medical Group, Eglin AFB, Florida
- 673rd Medical Group, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska
- Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Fort Cavazos, Texas
- Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado
- Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Florida
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland
- William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Fort Bliss, Texas
- Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Liberty, North Carolina
- Wright-Patterson Medical Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio



## VA HELPS VETERANS USING VA HOME LOAN BENEFITS REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN THE HOUSING MARKET

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that eligible Veterans, active-duty service members, and surviving spouses who use the VA-guaranteed home loan benefit can pay for certain real estate buyer-broker fees when purchasing a home beginning Aug. 10, 2024.

This will help ensure that Veterans remain competitive and are not disadvantaged on the homebuying market due to changes that may result from a key class-action settlement involving the National Association of REALTORS®, which is slated to take effect later this summer. Previously, Veterans could not pay their buyer-broker fees when using their home loans benefits.

The VA home loan program, which celebrates its 80th anniversary later this month, is a critical benefit for eligible Veterans interested in becoming homeowners. Created in 1944 as part of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act — also known as the “G.I. Bill of Rights” — this program has provided over 28 million loans to Veterans to date. Last year, Veterans obtained over 400,000 homes loans through this program.

“We always want to put Veterans and their families in the best possible position to buy the homes they want, and that’s what this update is all about,” said **Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs**. “Veterans using VA home loan benefits can now pay reasonable and customary amounts for certain charges — including commissions and other broker-related fees — thus ensuring that they remain competitive in the rapidly changing housing market.”

The temporary measures announced today will help ensure that Veterans are not negatively impacted by the class-action settlement. VA will continue to monitor how the settlement affects the brokerage market and looks forward to pursuing a rulemaking.

VA encourages Veterans using the VA-guaranteed home loan benefit to remember that they can and should still negotiate their buyer-broker fee. In addition, nothing in the settlement prevents Veteran home-buyers from asking sellers to pay the fees at closing, which has long been and continues to be, a viable practice under VA’s rules. In addition to other safeguards, all buyer-broker fees charged to Veterans using the home loan benefit must be reasonable and customary within local markets. As the landscape of the real estate market evolves, VA will continue to monitor for changes, as well as new models of realtor commissions that may emerge and help lower costs, boost competition, and increase avenues to home ownership.

For more details about this new update and its impacts, visit this [FAQ](#) in VA News and [Circulars: Calendar Years 2021 to Present – VA Home Loans](#). More information on the VA Home Loan Program, loan volumes by [state](#) and [county](#) and a [video](#) are available through these links.



## 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 25th, 2024) and use the ballot on the next page 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).

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; however, we only have resumes for 5 of them. That leaves the positions of 1st Vice and Director open. The new board will follow proper procedure in filling these two open positions. Only one position is running with competition and that is the position of President. Obviously, there is one President position, and we have two very qualified and eligible candidates: Justin Jump & Walt Coley. It is your responsibility to decide for yourself which candidate you think would make the best leader for TREA moving forward. As with all our candidates, you can read their full resumes and additional information by going to our website ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)) and clicking on 'Nominees for National Office'. There you will find detailed information (resumes, speeches, letters of recommendation, etc.). If you are viewing this electronically, click on the candidate's name and it will automatically take you to their information page. Once you have made your decision, it's time to actually vote – keep in mind that even though the other 4 positions have candidates that are running unopposed, you can still show your support and encouragement by voting 'YES'.

Bylaws and Standing Rule proposed changes – there are 8 Bylaw changes and 6 Standing Rule changes. You can view the detailed information on our website ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)) and clicking on 'Proposed Bylaw & Standing Rule Changes for 2024', or if you are reading this electronically, you can simply click on the title of the proposed change and it will take you directly to the full description. 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: [1stvice@tre.org](mailto:1stvice@tre.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 - this is known as your 'Unique Member Identifier (UMI)'. 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 24, 2024. If your membership expires before September 24, 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 Member Identifier.

## For Mail-In voting:

**Step 1** – Use the ballot form on the next page. 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 Member Identifier’ 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 Member Identifier. You must use the original ballot sheet. Reproductions of any kind (fax, scans, photos) will not be accepted.

**Steps 3, 4, 5 & 6** - Answer each question, tear/cut the sheet out of the magazine, fold it up and put it in an envelope. Mail it to: TREA 2024 - PO Box 1566 - Mineola NY, 11501-1566.

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 noon on September 24. Since USPS can sometimes be a little slow, we recommend that you mail early. It is OK for your ballot to be received early, it is not OK for it to be received late. **Votes received after the deadline of noon on September 24, 2024 will not be processed.**

## 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 <https://vote.yeselections.com/TREA>. This will take you directly to a TREA log in page.

**Step 3** – Enter the 8-digit Unique Member Identifier that is on your mailing label, above your name.

**Step 4** – 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 5** - 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.

If you have an e-mail on file with us, you will receive an e-mail from YES ELECTIONS with a direct link for electronic voting.

As always, we encourage every member to visit our national website often as updates and changes are posted regularly ([www.trea.org](http://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. DO NOT send any ballots to TREA National Headquarters as they will not be processed.



## 2024 ELECTION - OFFICIAL BALLOT

For details, please visit our website homepage - [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)

For instructions, see page 27 & 28

<b>Bylaws &amp; Standing Rules</b>	Approve	Disapprove
<b>Article I</b> - Acknowledges 'The Enlisted Association' as a d/b/a	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Article III, Section 1</b> - Clarifies membership for spouse members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Article III, Section 1, (new)</b> - Adds emeritus membership for members who have been with TREA for 15+ years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Article III, Section 7</b> - Clarifies expulsion/suspension process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Article IX, Section 2 a,b</b> - Qualifications for President and Vice Presidents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Article XVI, Section 7</b> - What happens to chapter funds upon dissolution/closure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Article XVII, Section 10, (new)</b> - Change name of section and adds Action Teams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Article XXII</b> - Modifies the dissolution process for TREA National	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Standing Rule 8, Para 6, (new)</b> - Eliminates JROTC awards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Standing Rule 9, Para 6 (new)</b> - Adds Action Teams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Standing Rule 14, (new)</b> - Strategic Planning Process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Standing Rule 18, Para 2a</b> - Changes the dress code to reflect current conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Standing Rule 18, Para 2a</b> - PNP Ring changes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Standing Rule 18, Para 2a</b> - PNP Name Tag change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Standing Rule 18, Para 2a</b> - Adds options to TREA uniform	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### National Board Positions

<b>President</b> - Choose One (1)	Walt Coley <input type="radio"/>	Justin Jump <input type="radio"/>
<b>2nd Vice</b> - Unopposed	Garry Turks <input type="radio"/>	
<b>3rd Vice</b> - Unopposed	Doug Osborne <input type="radio"/>	
<b>Treasurer</b> - Unopposed	Kyle Carpenter <input type="radio"/>	
<b>Director</b> - Unopposed	Ron Buatte <input type="radio"/>	

**Unique Member Identifier- REQUIRED**

(this code can be found on the address label of the magazine)



## MORE WOMEN VETERANS ARE ENROLLING IN VA HEALTHCARE

As of June 12, 2024, the VA announced that more than 53,000 women Veterans enrolled VA health care between Ma 2023 and May 2024, marking a 20% increase over the previous years and the largest enrollment year for women Veterans on record.

### PACT ACT DASHBOARD

1,082,424	Total PACT Act Claims approved (8/10/2022 – 6/29/2024)
1,443,118	Cumulative Total PACT Act Related Claim Complete (8/10/2022 – 6/29/2024)
75%	Approval Rate for PACT Act Related Claims (as of 6/29/2024)
5,606,708	Total Toxic Exposure Screenings (9/6/2022 – 6/30/2024)
167.3	Average Days for PACT Act Related Claim Completion (6/29/2024)
28%	PACT Act Claims Electronically Submitted (8/10/2022 – 6/29/2024)
72%	PACT Act Claims Submitted by Mail (8/10/2022 – 6/29/2024)
\$500 Billion+	Allocated to PACT Act Toxic Exposure Fund (TEF)
2,699,805	Cumulative Total Non-PACT Act Related Claims Submitted (8/10/2022 – 6/29/2024)
2,656,55	Total Non-PACT Act Related Claims Completed (8/10/2022 – 6/29/2024)
128	Average Days for NON-PACT Act Related Claim Completion (6/29/2024)

Top 5 Most Frequent Conditions on PACT Act Related Claims				
(As of 6/29/2024)				
Condition	# of Claims	# of Issues	% Granted	% Denied
Hypertensive Vascular Disease	369,397	375,423	70%	30%
Allergic Rhinitis	251,858	255,717	79%	21%
Maxillary Sinusitis	123,972	125,006	52%	48%
Bronchial Asthma	118,842	121,033	47%	53%
Chronic Bronchitis	68,782	70,626	22%	78%



## 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.***

I agree to abide by the TREA National Bylaws & Standing Rules as written. X \_\_\_\_\_

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 170 - Centennial, CO 80112

E-mail: [treahq@trea.org](mailto:treahq@trea.org)

303-752-0660 [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)

# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT -

We are in this together – fighting to  
protect your earned benefits.

Veterans Protecting Veterans



[WWW.TREA.ORG](http://WWW.TREA.ORG)

[TREAHQ@TREA.ORG](mailto:TREAHQ@TREA.ORG)

303-752-0660

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