President's Message:
By: Paul Hiott, E-8, NAVY, (Ret)

Hello members of the FL1 Chapter. It is an honor to serve as your President for the next year and I appreciate your continued support. I'm looking forward to continuing the growth of FL1 chapter and promoting AMRA in Florida. As military retirees, we face many issues impacting our future benefits. As your President, I will work with our National President to ensure our voice is heard. Please feel free to contact me and share your views. Hope everyone has a great summer and look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings. Best Wishes! Paul

New FL1 Officers being sworn in by National President Catherine LaValle: (right to left)
President: Paul Hiott, V. President: Kelly Pollino, Treasurer: John Lavin, Chaplain: Roy Brewer, Sergeant at Arms: Jim Masterson, not present Secretary: Sylvia Andrews

National Convention Elections: (left to Right) Deborah Smith (Dir), Kirk Bennett (Dir), Mavis Jock (Sec), Jeremiah Arbogast (2nd VP), Bill Knepshield (Sergeant at Arms), Donald Waterworth (Past President), Cathy LaValle (Pres), Ron Knepshield (1st VP), Richard Kramer (Tres), David Cook (Dir), and Sylvia Andrews (Dir).

On Line Medicare, Tricare and TFL Resources

Following online resources are provided for your information/use:
TRICARE4U Web Site https://www.tricare-4u.com/apps-portal/tricareapps-app/static/register.htm (create an account to view claims, etc.)

Welcome FL1 New Members for 2011

Wendy Coursney - West Palm Beach, FL
Jennifer Collopy - West Palm Beach, FL
Shane Covelle - Orlando, FL
James Dove - Port St. Lucie, FL
Tom Duckworth - West Palm Beach, FL
James Durante - Port St. Lucie, FL
Joe Eisel - West Palm Beach, FL
William Faller - Inverness, FL
Daniel Chaisson - Port St. Lucie, FL
Jessica Cheatham - West Palm Beach, FL
Joshua Chafin - Port St. Lucie, FL
Richard Cordier - Port St. Lucie, FL
George Kubik - Wellington, FL
Upcoming Events!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 July Independence Day</td>
<td>4 July</td>
<td>Birth of our Great Nation!</td>
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<td>18 July @ 1900—AMRA FL1 Chapter meeting</td>
<td>18 July</td>
<td>Information to Peg Bergeron at HQ AMRA on Veteran SCAMs</td>
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<td>8 August @ 1900—AMRA FL1 Chapter meeting</td>
<td>8 August</td>
<td>5 Sept Labor Day!</td>
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<td>19 Sept @ 1900—AMRA FL1 Chapter meeting</td>
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<td>24 Sept RAD at MacDill AFB</td>
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Mark your calendars!

Veteran SCAM Update: PEG BERGERON

Hi Everyone,

I was contacted by a Producer of Chris Hansen’s Dateline NBC. I called the Producer the next day while I was at my convention and he wanted to know if any of our members have been subjected to any of the scams going around that are directed at active duty and retired military. Let me know if anyone in AMRA has a story they would like told.

I have no idea if we will get our name mentioned on the show – it will probably depend on whether one of our members responds and gets chosen for comment and he/she might say that they were warned off the scam by an email from AMRA. Peg

WEB SITES OF INTEREST FOR VETERANS

2. www.va.gov
3. www.floridavets.org
4. www.military.com/benefits
5. www.militaryhire.com
6. www.hnfs.net/bene/home
7. www.shopmyexchange.com
8. www.archives.gov/veterans

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Effective July 11, 2011 Florida veterans will have the option of adding a “V” for veteran to their driver license or identification card.

- The blue V will be added to the lower region of the veteran’s credential.
- Veterans should visit any of the driver license issuance offices statewide and:
  - Present their DD-214, which shows their honorable discharge from active duty
  - Pay a one-time $1 fee, plus the normal new card fee
- Veterans who come into an office also will need to come prepared to present the other documents that Florida now requires. They can find create a personalized checklist at www.GatherGoGet.com.
- Please note that to replace a license or ID card, the fee = $25. A renewal fee = $48. If they go to a tax collector’s office that offers driver license services, the tax collector will charge a $6.25 fee. Floridians may renew their credential up to 18 months early.

Inside Story Headline

Florida Governor Passes HB0465 on June 17, 2011

Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame: Establishes Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame; provides for administration by DVA; designates location; provides procedures for nomination, selection, & induction. Effective Date: July 1, 2011
REMEMBER BINGO EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT!!  1900 HOURS DAV Hall, 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie

Jensen Beach HS Cadet Nikki Homan receiving her award from AMRA National President Catherine LaValle

CHECK THIS OUT:  St. Lucie (West) VA Clinic AUDIOLOGY 128 SW Chambers Court, Port St Lucie, FL 34986, 1-772-344-9288

AMRA at Patrick AFB RAD: Doc Holloway, Jim Masterson

TRICARE begins home delivery education initiative

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) - TRICARE beneficiaries who still get two or more maintenance prescriptions from a retail pharmacy should start checking their mailboxes. TRICARE Management Activity and Express Scripts Inc. are mailing out home delivery education “alert” letters to promote pharmacy home delivery.

The alerts focus on the convenience and lower cost of home delivery versus retail pharmacies, and include information on how to switch prescriptions over. The alerts also seek to alleviate possible concerns about home delivery by highlighting safety measures and 24/7 access to a pharmacist.

The alerts are targeted to TRICARE beneficiaries who purchase two or more maintenance medications for chronic conditions at a retail pharmacy. These beneficiaries stand to benefit most from switching over to home delivery. The education alerts will be mailed starting in July.

“Providing service members and their families with an affordable, quality prescription drug benefit is a vital part of TRICARE’s mission,” said TRICARE Deputy Director Rear Adm. Christine Hunter. “When beneficiaries choose home delivery, they are using their benefit wisely.”

Switching from retail pharmacy to home delivery spares beneficiaries the inconvenience of picking their prescriptions up from the pharmacy and saves them 66 percent per prescription. Home delivery is also cheaper for TRICARE. Beneficiaries switching from retail to home delivery saved the Department of Defense $30 million in 2010.

TRICARE and ESI are engaged in an aggressive campaign to promote home delivery with great success. Growth in retail pharmacy prescriptions covered by TRICARE is only 3.4 percent in 2011, down from the historical average of 5.2 percent. Home delivery prescriptions have grown 9.8 percent in 2011, almost double the historical 5.8 percent rate.

“The more TRICARE beneficiaries learn about pharmacy home delivery, the more they take advantage of its benefits,” Admiral Hunter said. “The alerts are the next step in spreading the word.”

For more information about home delivery, visit www.tricare.mil/homedelivery

Helpful Patrick AFB numbers:  RETIREE ID CARDS 321-494-6144/4536
Retiree ACTIVITY OFFICE 321-494-5464; FAX 321-494-2904; rao@patrick.af.mil
(All Volunteer Staff 1000-1400 Mon-Fri), Art Fetslos—Director, Gene O’Dell
TRICARE BENEFITS COORDINATOR—Ashley Smith 321-494-8106; Ashley.smith@patrick.af.mil
SPACE AVAILABLE TRAVEL—Space A Terminal Info 321-494-5631
TRICARE Increases Looming

Military Retirees under 65 are facing TRICARE increases of 13% for next year, and automatic annual increases tied to Retired Pay COLA. The first increase is projected to take in $45 million in 2012.

This is happening despite the fact that the House-approved National Defense Authorization Act 2012 contains provisions to transfer $330 million of “under-executed” TRICARE funds to fund 22 programs, specifically requested by members of Congress for medical research through the Defense Department (DOD). Unfortunately the directed medical research has nothing to do with military issues, and duplicates research already being conducted under the National Institutes of Health.

If the DOD has over $300 million in under-executed TRICARE funds, then why on earth do our fees need to be raised? An additional $45 million per year over six years is less than the $300 million being diverted away from TRICARE. Why not use the “under-executed funds” for this purpose?

The legislation to increase our TRICARE costs had already passed the House of Representatives, and the Senate Armed Services Committee. The final vote comes on the Senate floor, probably in a matter of days. AMRA strongly urges you to contact your senators now, via email, fax, and phone, to defeat the proposed increase. Tell them to vote against HR 1540, the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, as long as this legislation provides for increases to our TRICARE fees. The DOD is awash in fiscal fraud, waste and abuse, as is the Federal government as a whole. Military retirees should not be faced with increased costs until everything has been done to eliminate the billions already being misspent.

Booster Supporters—

Make your donations by sending a check to AMRA Treasure Coast Chapter FL1 at 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953. We have 111 members and send the newsletter by first class mail to members without electronic mail (e-mail) capability. Your donation will help keep our newsletter coming.


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LOCAL Veterans Services:

7 - 13 July 2011, St. Lucie County Commissioners, County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator and all County Department Directors attended a Strategic Planning Session to discuss the proposed budget cuts. St. Lucie County Administrator, Fay Outlaw has shared that plan with employees and portions of it have been published in local newspapers. It is a three part plan, and it is the third part that concerns the Veteran community.

The proposal for our current Veteran Service office and the Veterans Transportation program is to PRIVATIZE. This means to put it out to bid to local veteran organizations to provide these services, thereby eliminating County Service Officers, staff, and drivers. The County will no longer provide the service.

The proposal concerning Veteran Services and Veteran Transportation is on the agenda for July 8, 2011 and your AMRA FL1 Leadership will attend this meeting. If we want to save our County Veteran Services Office, we will want maximum veteran participation to help avoid losing what we have. Your Chapter leadership will keep you advised as more news is available. If you should have any questions, feel free to contact any of your Chapter Officers.

Supporting Veterans’ Homes

Your purchase of the Florida Salutes Veterans or one of the approved Army, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard license plates directly helps veterans.

The $15 surcharge goes into a trust fund for the operation and maintenance of Florida’s veterans’ homes.

A portion of the Marine Corps and Support Our Troops license plates also supports the State Veterans’ Homes Program.

Anyone can purchase these plates.

You may also support the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund by making a $1 contribution when renewing your Florida Driver License.

AMRA Department of Florida is now on FaceBook as is the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs. Follow both organizations on FaceBook and receive all the updates.