



CHAPTER 72 PITTSBURGH, PA

THE ENLISTED
Association



December 2022

Dates to Remember

January 14 - Chapter 72 Meeting
1:00 p.m.

******* New Location *******
Panera Bread (meeting room)
400 Penn Center Blvd,
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

February 11 - Chapter 72 Meeting
1:00 p.m.

Panera Bread (meeting room)
400 Penn Center Blvd,
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

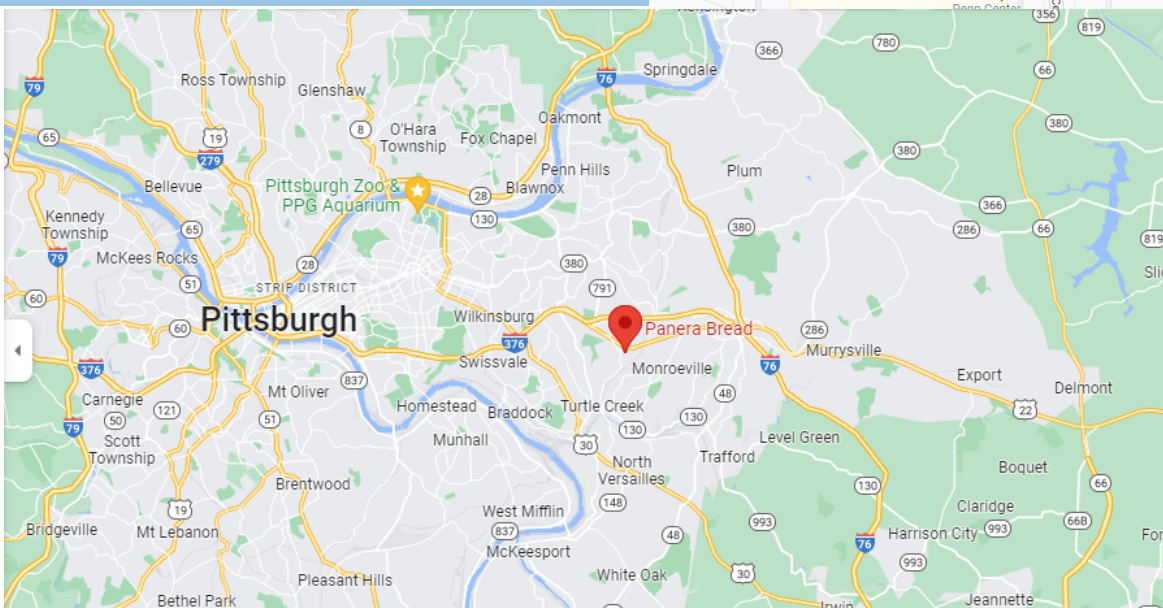
March TBD

31 - All award recommendations
due at Nationals

*****Still Looking for a meeting location.*****

Chapter 72 - 2022 Officers

President:	William Chandler	412-656-8731
1st Vice President:	Mark Mayo	412-678-0991
2nd Vice President:	Bonnie McCracken	724-422-3130
Secretary/Historian:	Lydia Williamson	412-708-2744
Treasurer:	Barbara Harmon	724-322-3918
Chaplin:	David Williams	724-457-7072
Asst Chaplin:	Eric Blair	412-600-2015
Past President:	Harry Blackwell Sr.	412-417-8251



We are still looking for a place to hold our meetings. The meeting room is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. for January's and February's meetings at the Panera Bread at 400 Penn Center Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

CHAPTER 72 PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Membership of Chapter 72 can definitely be proud to say "November is to Remember." Chapter 72's 30th Anniversary Banquet, held November 6, 2022 at Gaetano's Banquet Hall, honored Robert Covington for being the founder of the Steel City Chapter in 1992. The celebration included the presentation of six TREA Awards along with the Proclamation from Pittsburgh's Mayor Ed Gainey.



The multiple Awards and Proclamation has sent a message to TREA Nation that Chapter 72, in spite of being a Small Chapter, Reigns Supreme. No other TREA Chapter, regardless of size, was able to match our success. This is a tribute to the hard working membership.

However, we can not rest on our laurels. It is a request that each member step up and increase their active participation on committees and projects. The few members who have kept Chapter 72 thriving, need all hands on deck to continue its success.

Pittsburgh's Steel City Chapter 72 has the capabilities of continuing being the top Chapter and having all the other Chapters requesting the secrets of our success. So, let's do it! It must, shall and will be done.

TREA Chapter 72's Mission Statement

- **Follow TREA National's lead by bringing together retired, separated and active enlisted military veterans to enhance the quality of life for all enlisted personnel of the uniformed services, veterans, their families, and survivors. To stop the erosion of earned benefits through our legislative and educational efforts, maintain our esprit de corps, dedication and patriotism, and to promote devotion and allegiance to God and Country.**
- **Locally help provide benevolent support for all veterans in need and to support and encourage cadets in JROTC Programs thru our Outreach and Public Affairs Committees.**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

JOIN US

What can you do to help our Chapter grow? It is everyone's job to recruit others. Good news! Our Chapter 72 Brochure is complete and available for everyone. If you have a color printer you can print your own or even email the file to potential new members. If you need a few copies please see the officers to get some.

Also, all member should now have business cards to hand out. If you need more or never got yours, please see Barbara Harmon.

We have been actively reaching out to others over the past few months. It was exciting to see everyone at our 30th Anniversary Banquet that we held in November.

We really need to get moving on helping the Public Affairs Committee create a Website/ Facebook page for Chapter 72.

CHAPTER 72 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Eric Blair

Matthew 1:23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name ‘Immanuel’, which is translated, ‘God with us’.” (NKJV)

When we think of Christmas, some things come to mind, such as dazzling light displays and other decorations, giving and receiving gifts, time spent with family, perhaps memories of seasons past. Images of these things can bring a smile to our faces, and brighten us from the inside.

Sadly, not everyone is in cheerful spirits during this season. We can become stressed from the thought of meal preparations, hectic shopping or travel. For some of us, Christmas may be a sad reminder of departed loved ones, tragic event or illness. Instead of good cheer, Christmas can bring feelings of isolation, periods of worry or bouts of depression.

David in the Old Testament wrote about his troubles a number of times in the book of Psalms. Look at Psalm 13, for example:

Psalm 13:1-2 “How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?”

Sometimes our troubles seem overwhelming in impact as well as duration. It is in times like these that God seems silent and our relief a million miles away. Guess what? *God still wants to hear from us!*

1 Peter 5:7 “[Cast] all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

David understood this, and didn’t withhold his feelings in this Psalm. Although God deserves our highest respect, He is never taken aback by our honesty. Remember that “your Father knows the things [we] have in need of before [we] ask Him” (Matthew 6:8). So instead of ignoring our feelings, we need to bring them to God in prayer – even though He already knows what we are going through.

David poured out his heart to God regarding his sorrows, but *he did not stay there*. Notice the transition that David makes in his prayer in verses 5 & 6:

Psalm 13: 5-6 “But I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

When we remember – as David did – what God has done for us in the past, we are reminded that God is bigger than any problem or struggle. As Scripture says, God is aware of our troubles, and will either deliver us from them – in His time – or take us through them. We can take comfort in the fact that God is always right there beside us – as His namesake – “God with us”.

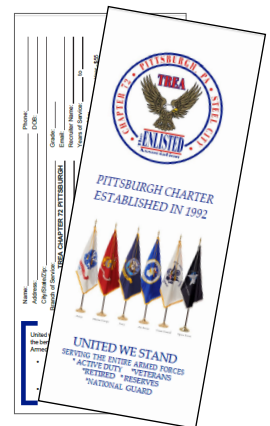


PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Good News....Our Chapter 72 Brochure is complete and available for everyone. If you have a color printer you can print your own or even email the file to potential new members. If you need a few printed copies please see the officers to get some.

Coming soon....The Public Affairs Committee is still in the process of creating a Facebook Page for Chapter 72. We are looking for anyone that can help with this.

Harry Blackwell is working with members at National to make it easier be able to view our newsletters on the TREA website without downloading them.





HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By Lydia (Green) Williamson



Once again ...let's travel down Memory Lane. This month's memory is "Basic Training - Drill Sergeant". When you hear those words, which of these feelings do they invoke about your experience? Was it Good, Bad, or Ugly? My response is UGLY!! My major "misunderstanding" was with the Drill Sergeants. Was it **really necessary** for all of the **verbal degrading** and "**in your face**" during training?

It didn't make me a better person or motivate me to do better. However, I was in my 30's when I enlisted and I didn't need that type of "motivation". Many soldiers said that in the end, the degrading and in your face treatment made them a better person, and they will never forget their Drill Sergeant.

Well, in spite of the fact that many soldiers had positive responses to this question, many did not. As a result, the army (as well as other branches) have started a new strategy where the old days of breaking down recruits with yelling and push-ups has been replaced with a more **collaborative** and **respectful** tone.

In the video, "**Why the Army is Changing How Drill Sergeants Are Trained**", The Insider Business spent a week at Ft. Jackson NC at the US Army Drill Sgt Academy. In the beginning of the video, three reasons were cited for this new training strategy: (1). the hard time recruiting, (2). being 40,000 soldiers deficient, and (3). people not wanting to stay in. From this point on, the video focuses on selection and training of the potential drill sergeant

The most interesting part of the article (to me) was the comments, so I **urge** you to read them. They contain a mix of the Good, the Bad and the Ugly about soldiers' experiences, and the relationship they had with their drill sergeant.

Where do you rank on the list of the love- hate relationship you had with your Drill Sergeant or Basic Training? Please feel free to send us a comment. You can send your comment to greenlgw@aol.com. Select comments will be published in our next newsletter.

Renew your membership

Remember you can join or renew your membership for TREA by going to www.trea.org or by calling (323) 725-0660. Or you may turn in your membership application and membership fee to the Treasurer or one of the other officers of Chapter 72.



BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

August meeting was the deadline to submit any proposed changes to the By-Laws. The committee was unable to meet due to various conflicts of the vacations schedules of the members.

The committee is currently working on compiling all requested changes to bring back to the membership to vote on.



Veteran's Recognition from the Pittsburgh Steelers

The Pittsburgh Steelers have been recognizing Veterans thru their Veterans Recognition Program, and three members of TREA Chapter 72 were selected to attend one of the recognition events at Acrisure Stadium on November 18, 2022. The lucky members were Bill Chandler, Lydia Green Williamson, and Barbara Harmon unfortunately, Bill was not able to attend.

Unbeknownst to us, our names had been submitted to Steeler Director of Community Relations with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Blayre Holmes Davis.

It started with an email from Blayre. "Todd DePastino from the Veterans Breakfast Club was kind enough to provide us with your information for a special veteran recognition program. You are one of the veterans that have been selected for this program. Congratulations, and thank you for your service."

The email continues with a request to provide your full name, photo (in uniform), branch of service, and years of service. And went on to say, "I will provide more information in the upcoming days". Needless to say, Barb and I were really curious and excited as to what we were going to the stadium for.

When we arrived at the stadium, we were greeted by a member of Blayer's staff, and assembled with about 10 other veterans, several whom we had just seen at the Veteran's Breakfast Club meeting earlier that morning at the Comfort Inn in Penn Hills.



Pittsburgh Steeler, Levi Wallace thanked all of us for our service, and one by one a banner of each of us was "unveiled" and given to us. Each person's banner was hung around the stadium where it would be on display for a week. In addition, we also received a Terrible Towel, a ticket to the Steeler's Sunday game and got to have our pictures taken with Levi Wallace. We were so excited!! The banners are so awesome!



December's Meeting

At our December meeting, President Chandler congratulated everyone on their outstanding job at our 30th Anniversary Banquet last month. The highlight of our banquet was honoring all the members by publicly presenting them with the awards that were announced at the convention in September. Our Chapter won six national awards for 2021! We also received a City of Pittsburgh Proclamation that was presented to Chapter 72 at our 30th Anniversary Banquet. At our meeting, President Bill Chandler also had the opportunity to show off his new "Red" Jacket, which



he received for earning, President of the Year for 2021. Our banner now proudly displays the streamer for Outstanding Small Chapter of the Year for 2021.



Pictured above: Past President Harry Blackwell, presenting President Bill Chandler with the President of the Year Award for 2021. Bonnie McCracken displays Bill's Citation.



Pictured above: President Bill Chandler, representative for the Mayor of Pittsburgh and Harry Blackwell Chapter 72 receiving City of Pittsburgh Proclamation.

Only one member can receive the member of the year award, and Chapter 72's Secretary, Lydia Williamson received that honor for 2021. The Chapter also received the 2021 Newsletter Award for it's outstanding coverage of all the activities the Chapter 72 participated in. Barbara Harmon also received a certificate of recognition for her Exceptional Service and David Williams (who was unable to make the banquet) received a certificate of appreciation.



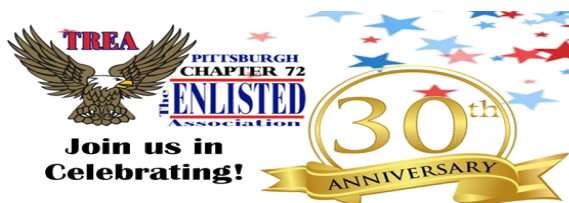
Pictured above: Lydia Green Williamson received the 2021 TREA Member of the Year Award presented to her by Bonnie McCracken, 2nd Vice.



Pictured right: President Bill Chandler presenting the 2021 Newsletter of the Year Award for the Chapter.



Members of TREA that attended the 30th Anniversary Banquet, pictured left to right: Nyoka Mollohand, Barbara Harmon, Bonnie McCracken, Lydia Green Williamson, Bill Chandler, Harry Blackwell, Olin MacIntosh, Eric Blair, Ed Stotts, Robert Mollohan, Mike Doresh, and Tom Smith.



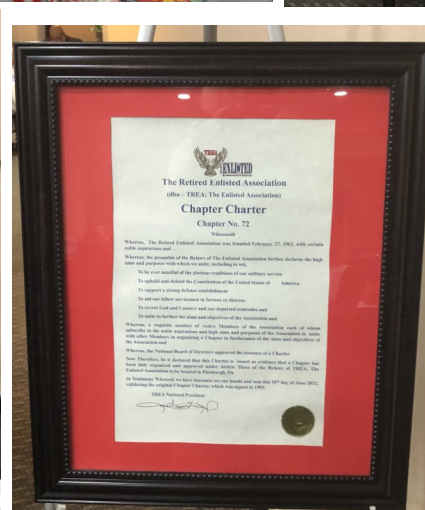
Highlights from the TREA Chapter 72's 30th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, November 6th at Gaetano's Banquet Hall in Pittsburgh.

TREA – or better known as The Enlisted Association, local Chapter 72 (Steel City) in Pittsburgh, PA held its 30th Anniversary Banquet at Gaetano's Restaurant and Banquet Hall. Members and guests were greeted by our welcoming committee and given opportunities to win prizes and gift baskets. Thanks go to Lydia Green Williamson and Barbara Harmon for the table arrangements and lively centerpieces. Appreciation also goes to Chief Mike Gasparetto of Pine-Richland Air Force JROTC and the cadets for providing the Color Guard. Banquet attendees were treated with dinner, and music provided by Bill McCoy and Don Maurer.

In addition to all the awards Chapter 72 received, the highlight of the banquet was our guest speaker Todd DePastino, founder of the Veterans Breakfast Club. The VBC was organized to bring to the forefront many stories of war veterans that would have otherwise been left unheard and unknown.

Overall, it was an exceptional evening, which illustrates what can be achieved by a small number of dedicated individuals.









Special thanks to photographer Jajuan Stieff and Barbara Harmon for sharing their photographs from the banquet.