



TREA - NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT at the Hyatt Regency Hotel - Riverfront Jacksonville Florida September 19 - 22, 2012

By: 2nd Vice President Harry Johnson

The Delegates arrived on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 in Jacksonville, site of the 49th National Convention of the Retired Enlisted Association. Thursday morning, the opening ceremonies began in the Grand Ball Room. The guest speaker was Peter H. Dougherty, Associate Director and Senior Policy Advisor of the Department of Veterans Affairs. At 12:30 p.m. the first business meeting was held. At this session, President Cooper was reinstated as President after a dismissal by the TREA BOD earlier and by a vote of the majority of the delegates, the action of the TREA Board of Directors overturned that decision.

At 6:00 p.m. there was a social hour followed by the President's Dinner. The theme was Pirates of the First Coast. A video of site presentations for 2015 was shown of Denver, Colorado, St. Louis, Missouri, and Branson, Missouri.

The TREA business meeting opened at 8:00 a.m. on Friday. Candidates were given an opportunity to say why they should be elected for the next term. After a time to caucus, the election was held. While the votes were counted, we were reminded that next year 2013 is our 50th National Convention in Colorado Springs, CO., on September 23, 2013. President Cooper gave the results of the election: Richard J. Delaney, National President of TREA. The rest of the positions were mainly unopposed. St. Louis, Missouri was chosen as the site for the 2015 convention.

At 12:00 noon we were at the River Terrace for the Joint Awards Luncheon. Chapter 58 President Louis Arana received the "2012 Medium Chapter President of the Year" award. Our newsletter (The Trooper) received a 1st runner-up award thanks to a great job by Juanita Anspach. Juanita also received a "Good Service Award" for her vital role in maintaining Chapter 58-a viable operating chapter. 2nd VP Harry Johnson received a "Community Service Award".

Saturday evening began with a hosted bar before the Installation Banquet. The theme was Southern Nights. Thanks to Hermon Sharpe, the table for Chapter 58 was in a good location. The newly elected officers were installed, and a very impressive ceremony for the POW/MIA was conducted with the son Proud to be an American. The delegates had a very good time and looking forward to being at Colorado Springs for the 50th National Convention.



© Photography by Cyrus Tookes

The Chapter 58 delegates and their wives at the Installation Dinner. (left to right) Mrs. Luz Arana, President Louis Arana, Mrs. Agatha Johnson, 2nd VP Harry Johnson, Mrs. Reiko Sharpe, Past President Hermon Sharpe, Jr., Director Harold Atwood, Mrs. Emelia Atwood and 1st VP Leonard Black.



© Photography by Cyrus Tookes

(Left to Right) Mrs. Reiko Sharpe, PP Hermon Sharpe, 1st VP Leonard Black and Mrs. Luz Arana enjoying the President's Luncheon.



(left to right) 2nd VP Harry Johnson, President Louis Arana and Secretary Juanita Anspach