



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

2 Gilbank Street

RESERVOIR VIC 3073

Telephone: (03) 9478 1073 Website: www.wraacvic.com

NEWSLETTER

March 2012 – No 1/2012

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

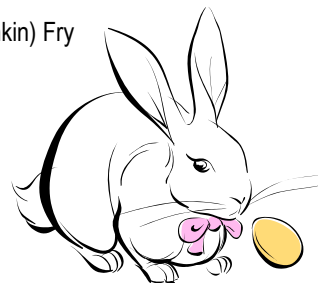
This being the first newsletter for 2012 I would like to wish everyone a Happy and safe Easter. For those who are not in good health at present our thoughts are with you and hope you are soon on the mend.

Anzac Day is now approaching and it is very heart warming to see the interest and respect shown at this time by the younger generation. I would like to take some time to reflect and remember the men who volunteered for service during WW2 but were declined for enlistment due to the type of employment they were engaged in. Their employment was referred to as 'Essential Service'.

These men worked in various fields of employment, aircraft factory, ammunition factory, some areas of farming, postal department these are some of the essential service roles. For some of these men times were very difficult as their own family and friends were enlisted and perhaps posted overseas and if they failed to return a sense of guilt remained with these men who remained at home. Sometimes they even endured negative comments from the general public in reference to the fact that they were not enlisted men. To all these men we say thank you, for a fine effort during very difficult circumstances.

Yours in friendship,

Heather (Rankin) Fry



*The President and Committee wish
all a Happy and Safe Easter 2012*

ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

President/Treasurer and Incorporation Rules.

To all members regarding the positions of President and Treasurer being held by the same person I inform you of the following:

1. When an association/organization becomes incorporated they can either adopt the Model Rules as set out by Dept of Consumer Affairs or amend the rules to suit their needs and requirements and have this approved by Dept of Consumer Affairs. Therefore what rule applies to one Association/Organisation may not apply to other Association/Organization.

2. We checked the WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. 'Statement of Purpose and Rules' and noted the following -

Sub Rule 23.2 A candidate may only be nominated for one office, or an ordinary member of the committee, prior to the annual general meeting.

In respect to this sub rule we made an error of judgment as I was nominated as president as well as treasurer prior to the annual general meeting.

3. On January 11, 2012 I sent a letter to Diane Sherry Secretary stating I was resigning as President of the WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. Therefore a casual vacancy for this position was created.

4. In the WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. 'Statement of Purpose and Rules' the following is applicable -

Sub Rule 21.5 In the event of a casual vacancy in any office referred to in sub-rule 21.1 (this sub-rule lists the four office holder positions) the committee may appoint one of its member to the vacant office and the member appointed may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of the appointment.

5. At our committee meeting on January 21 2012 the committee re-appointed me as President of the association and I will remain so until the next annual general meeting as per sub-rule 21.5 above.

I hope the above helps clarify the matter, the most important factor being what rules are applicable to one association/organization may not be applicable to another. Our rules do not state that the one person cannot hold two positions, the rules only state that one person cannot be nominated for more than one position prior to the AGM.

Heather Fry

Profile : Interstate/Country

Representative

Carol E. (Hamilton) King F32209

31 May 1970	Enlisted at 3 WRAAC Coy CMF Attached to Trg Unit, 3 Sig and 118 Sig Detachments
20 Nov 1975	On disbandment of WRAAC posted to 126 Sigs 10 RSAR South Australia
3 Dec 1980	Discharged Attained the rank of Sgt.

Whilst on a driving course with 7 Tpt Coy, met her husband Grant King. They have been married for 35 years and have three lovely children. Carol and Grant have lived in many areas of Australia, either moving with his Radio positions or later with postings within the Regular Army.

Carol comes from a military family her brother Garry CMF/ARA did two tours of Vietnam. Father Robert served in the Military during WWII and continued in the CMF. Carol's Uncle was a WWII, Korea and Vietnam veteran. He won a Military Cross during WWII. Her Grandfather was an ANZAC who also served in France where he won a Distinguished Conduct Medal. Now her son and daughter-in-law are also in the ARA – David having served in East Timor and Afghanistan.

One of the highlights of Carol's life was to join the CMF/Reserve. Here she met and still remains friends with many inspiring and wonderful people.

ANZAC Day

25th April 2012

NOTE! Change to Order of March.

March off point is now near Linlithgow Avenue on St Kilda Road, South Side of Shrine and will be a shorter March due to Council roadwork's and transport commitments. We will gather at 0830 hours and form up behind our sisters the AWAS who will be in vehicles for a 0850 step off. All who are marching on ANZAC Day to fill in and carry medical form see attachment #1

Women's Services will follow New Zealand Veterans.

Remember to always check newspapers for any changes.

DRESS. Blazers, Jackets and Berets as per last year with comfortable walking shoes a must. Medals and Decorations to be worn.

Following the March we will gather at the WRAAC Plaque to place a wreath in memory of those who are no longer with us.

If you do not have a designated reunion to attend Margaret Hattersley (Ex-WRANS) has suggested we meet up after the March at the Gateway Deli Bistro, 312 St Kilda Road to continue the day in the company of former Servicewomen. Menu available gatewaydelibistro@hotmail.com
A great idea.

This year the March leader being the Navy's turn will be Mr Justice Northrop, a wartime able seaman on HMAS Arunta.

PARKING

Federation Square Car Park have kindly agreed to allow Veterans to park their cars for the day for \$6. The car park is located behind Federation Square with the entrance in the Russel Street Extension. From that point the RSL will run golf carts for Veterans who need assistance to the assembly area. There will be two more Golf carts that will patrol the St Kilda Road area, from Linlithgow Avenue south to the Shrine.

NOTE! For the return journey shuttle buses will be located in Birdwood Avenue around the vicinity of Simpson and his donkey on the opposite side of the road. The buses will convey Veterans and their carers who need to be dropped off at Federation Square Car Park, the ONLY drop point.

The Medal Box Man

If you are seeking something really special to store and display precious family medals we suggest you check out the Australian timber medal boxes website, it is certainly worth a look. www.medalbox.com.au

Thank you to Brenda Walters for this information.

RESERVE FORCES DAY COUNCIL (VIC) INC.

RESERVE FORCES DAY MARCH
Sunday 1st July 2012 1000hrs.

The Reserve Forces Day March for serving and retired Reservists, Army, Navy and Air Force will be held on Sunday, 1st July 2012. As with 2011 we are required to form up at 0930hrs at Government House Drive for a short march to the forecourt of the Shrine of Remembrance in readiness for the Parade.

Last year there were seven hundred personnel taking part in the Parade therefore with the expectation of the Governor General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC and other Dignitaries in attendance should ensure an even larger crowd this year! The theme of the March is the 110th Anniversary of the end of the Boer War, a war fought by Reservists.

History reminds us that Australians participating in the Boer War were all Citizen Soldiers who would then become the first troops to serve under the Federation of the Commonwealth after the 1st January 1901. Victoria was one of the first Australian Colonies to send Militia now known as Reservists to South Africa.

The descendants of Boer War Veterans will be invited to join the Parade as an acknowledgement of their ancestor's contribution to Australia's Military History. It is expected more than 100 descendants and their families will take part in State Parades following advertisements to attract public awareness to the event.

BOER WAR COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLIONS

There will be two commemorative medallions struck, one for descendants and one in memory of those soldiers who fought in the war. The Descendants Medallion will be presented to those in attendance at an appropriate Reserve Forces Day Celebrations in 2012. Refer Website for further information and application form. www.rfd.org.au

NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

Patron-in-Chief: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

National Patron: General David Hurley AC, DSC
Chief of Defence Force

The National Boer War Association plan to have a memorial erected in ANZAC Parade, Canberra is now a reality. The site has been selected and was dedicated on the 31st May 2008 with a National Boer War Memorial Design competition launched in April 2010.

The Reserve Forces Day Council is keen to support this initiative with Parades to be held all over Australia to publicise the memorial plans.

Refer Website for further information. www.bwm.org.au

WRAAC Association (Victoria) Inc **Fund Raising Sausage Sizzle**

The Committee is urgently seeking volunteers to help with our fundraising sausage sizzle to be held at Bunnings Warehouse, 259 Middleborough Road, Box Hill on Saturday the 12th May 2012. **No previous experience required!**

We need your help between the hours of 8.30am and 4pm and anticipate 3 shifts x 2.5hours. Tasks include chopping onions, cooking sausages, taking customer orders and collecting money, keeping the area clean and tidy plus hosting a WRAAC memorabilia/membership table.

If you can assist the Association with a few hours of your time, contact Heather Fry 03 9795 8472

ABOUT TURN

Top End News.

It would appear the Lord Mayor of Darwin, Graeme Sawyer was unaware that a minutes silence had been called for moments before he was caught chatting with the Governor General at the Bombing of Darwin 70th Anniversary Commemorative Service on the 19th February 2012. The Prime Minister was also spotted chatting during the minutes silence leaving people wondering if the discussion was of significant importance!



Freedom of Speech

The backlash against a certain TV host and a TV Journalist whose comments regarding our recent VC recipient Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith demonstrate we still live in a democracy and anyone can make their views known without a massacre in the streets and a public beheading.

It would appear the two in question are anti-war peace loving genteel folk and how empowering it must have been for them to express their opinion in such a public arena amid laughter and smug knowing looks. They made their statement by denigrating a Victoria Cross recipient and to an extent, all service personnel.

We all despise the horrors of War they are not on their own with that thought. However, we can take comfort in the fact Australia is still worth fighting for and our freedom of speech is guaranteed with people like SAS Cpl Roberts-Smith.



The others are not worth think time.

It would appear sponsors have felt the pain as several have ended their support for the 'Chat Show' following a huge Public outcry.

Freedom of speech is a blessing and should never be taken for granted. Editor.

New Rules for Government House

Now I get it, we were far too glitzy and glamorous to have the Launch of Reserve Forces Day at Government House in June 2011. It would appear the new Governor Alex Chernov wishes to maintain the integrity and dignity of the people's house therefore fellow Reservists you need to tone down your Haute Couture fashion.

Mental Health Issues ADF

Children and Grandchildren appear to be paying the price of the Vietnam War according to many Veterans and their families. The Department of Veterans affairs has conducted a Family Study Program researching the affect deployment has on veterans and their family. A Government study in 1998 found that the children of Veterans were three times more likely to commit suicide and have significant drug issues than the wider community. The sadness of the findings suggests Grandchildren are still living with a Grandparent suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

If you watched the ABC programme Family Confidential you could sense the sadness that encompassed Ernie Dingo's estranged wife as she recalled the passing of her father a former POW and the affect post-traumatic stress had on her and her family, a telling point.

Family Studies

A Vietnam Veterans' Family Study conducted by DVA is underway to study the health and wellbeing of Veterans and their families. Later studies will then focus on families and Veterans of more recent deployments. The research will include partners, siblings, nieces and nephews with the aim to identify any common risk factors. The study is expected to take 8 years with a completion date 2016.

Suggested Reading.

On Eggshells and Minefields (Living with the psychological effects of trauma) by Moira Healy and Sue Stoeckel with Tony McHugh.

This is an easy to read resource book written from a partners perspective as it takes you on an intimate journey through lives changed forever by trauma. The book provides up to date information on the nature and psychological effects of trauma, it offers hope for healing, recovery and treatment. There is a comprehensive Resource List to help contact the appropriate services you may require. The book assures the reader they are not alone and help is available. Pennon Publishing, www.pennon.com.au

I purchased my copy through Austin Health. Editor

Female Vietnam Veteran and Civilian Health Register

Were you aware there was such a register?

DVA closed this register in 2009 with the completed register to be archived with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and will be utilised by DVA for future research purposes. DVA have stated that they are committed to provide research into the health and wellbeing of female veterans. A good move for women who intend to serve our Nation in the future as they will be assured their needs will be professionally met with knowledge provided by appropriate research material. Editor

Wellbeing of female Vietnam and Contemporary Veterans study

Australian Women who participated in the Vietnam War or have deployed with the ADF are encouraged to register with the following DVA research project. This research will identify the experience and effects of war service upon female Vietnam veterans up to forty years after the Vietnam War and women, particularly health personnel, who have been deployed more recently. To register or obtain more information contact research@dva.gov.au.

Tim Fischer seeks greater use of Military Attaches

Tim (The Hat) Fischer in calling an end to his extensive public career of over 30 years, left us with the idea of placing more defence attaches in Australian Embassies around the world. Tim, a former member of the Army devoted the core of his speech in February 2012, at the National Press Club by highlighting the need to spend more dollars in this area.

Tim selected an appropriate time to draw attention to this as the Gillard Government is considering plans to cut the number of its military attaches, advisers and support staff as part of a \$20 billion cut back over the next 10 years. Defence has confirmed it is reassessing its foreign defence attaché posts.

So what would it mean for Australia's security if these cutbacks become a reality, will this compromise our ability to provide the Australian Government with valuable intelligence. This is relevant considering the rapid expansion of China's influence in our region.

Tim singled out Defence attaches for special recognition who at times face direct danger all in the name of their country and the critical role they play in support of our defence and foreign policy objectives. They support smaller Embassies when they are under pressure when say a regime collapses, not an easy task. He considers Australia's Military diplomats have performed well in places such as East Timor but there are simply not enough of them. He suggests placing more Military Officers into Embassies where they could serve a more useful purpose than sitting at Headquarters in Australia. Good call Tim.

About Tim

Tim Fischer was conscripted into the Army in 1966 and following graduation from the Officer Training Unit served as a Platoon Commander (2nd Lt), Transport Officer with 1st Bn RAR, served in South Vietnam 1968-69. Tim is now 65 years young and intends to return to farming following his recent retirement.

Defence Attachés role 2012

The main role of the DA is to represent his/her country's Military authorities and liaise with those of the host country and is an advocate for his/her country's military and security needs.

Diamond Jubilee Medal

We noted with great interest that the British Government has agreed that a Medal should be issued to Members of their Armed Forces (Regular and Reserve) who have completed five full calendar years of service on 6th February 2012 in celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee year.

The Canadian Government has also announced it will issue 60,000 Canadians with a Diamond Jubilee medal.

And Australia!

Well, the Government is still thinking about it under the leadership of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Senator Kate Lundy with the criteria yet to be decided!

AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service

On Sunday the 20th May 2012 at 1100hrs a combined service will be held within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance to commemorate the strong bond of friendship shared between our services. Last year we joined together with the Navy, WRAAF, VADS and Nurses to commemorate our significant milestones.

Following the success of last years' service we will be inviting the Associations to join with us once again.

If you wish to attend the commemorative service please contact Jude Pinkerton-Treloar on 03 9874 7915 for catering purposes.

The WRAAC Association under the leadership of Catering Sergeant Margaret Jager will once again ensure we enjoy the day by not going hungry or thirsty.

Ex WRANS ASSOCIATION (VIC)

Annual Birthday Luncheon

Legacy House
293 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000

The Annual Birthday Luncheon will be held on Thursday 3rd May at 1200hrs at a cost of \$35.00.

The Ex WRANS Luncheon is a great day and we all look forward to catching up with our Navy mates.

Cheque or money order to be forwarded to Treasurer, Mrs Carol Paddock, 41 Harrison Way, Pakenham. Victoria, 3810 by the 19th April. Telephone: 03 5940 8323



'Go Girls'

Martha RAYE



Loved this story from the USA about the late Martha Raye (Singer/Actor Nurse/Honorary Green Beret) who just happened to be a Nurse with surgical experience in the US Army Reserve and made a point of frequently visiting her boys during the Vietnam War. Martha travelled to some of the most dangerous parts of Vietnam without a TV camera following her around, not seeking publicity.

When she visited a Field Hospital Martha would often cover for a Nurse on a surgical shift thereby giving a nurse a well-deserved break. Such are the skills of a Reservist.

Martha Raye was an honorary member of the Special Forces and received her prized Green Beret and the title of Lt Colonel from President Lyndon B Johnston (LBJ). Martha Raye pictured wearing her Special Forces beret and fatigues is the only woman buried in the SF cemetery at Fort Bragg.

The thought of Brittany Spears, Pink or your average activist being able to do this would be quite a stretch of the imagination!

Binge Drinking in Vietnam

Alcohol abuse and Diggers, these words appeared to scream at me from the Newspaper I was reading suggesting 6 cans of beer per day for each soldier in Vietnam circa 1969 was excessive. This is all recorded in the final chapter of the official history of the conflict in Vietnam with alcohol playing a huge part in the final years of the war as stressed and fatigued soldiers sought solace in drink thus leading to the breakdown of Military discipline and perhaps mental illness. History depicts our soldiers drinking to excess with the daily struggle with alcohol a huge problem. The fact is all we owe to history is the truth, as unpalatable as it may appear to some if there was a problem let the lesson be an example to future generations of Service personnel and correct it.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of Fighting to the Finish: the Australian Army and the Vietnam War, 1968-1975 go to; www.awm.gov.au/histories.

The Bombing of Darwin-70th Anniversary

AWAS Association member Pauline Priestley (HQ 5th Aust Movt Control) joined several thousand Veterans family and friends to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin and here is her account of the day. Editor

The 19th of February 2012 is the Seventieth Anniversary of the bombing of Darwin. At 09.58 on that day, 188 Japanese planes attacked ships in the harbour, the wharves, the township and the aerodrome and RAAF base. Many were killed. A Mission station on Bathurst Island had reported a large number of planes coming towards Darwin but the message was ignored. As the Mission was subsequently bombed, the identity of the planes could not be verified and it was assumed that they were allied planes returning from the islands up North. Further raids continued across the Northern coast and Queensland until November 1943.

For the last ten years or so this important date has been commemorated by the Darwin City Council and many of the civilians, airmen, soldiers and sailors have returned each year to remember those days and to catch up with old comrades.

In early 1944, members of the Australian Women's Army Service went to the Territory, first to Adelaide River then on to Darwin. It took three days to travel 'up the Track' from Alice Springs to Larrimah, stopping each night at Staging camps along the way. A small train nicknamed Leaping Lena

carried them from Larrimah to Winnellie, then they went by truck to their barracks in Darwin. They had to be 21, single and volunteers. Able bodied servicemen were needed in New Guinea to fight the Japanese and the girls took their places as drivers, signallers, stenographers, cooks and searchlight operators.

I was fortunate to be one of the 200 or so AWAS to make this exciting journey at the time when our country was attacked and I spent 15 months in Darwin, coming home after the war ended. My good friend Norma Burns, Kelly as she was to us, was with me on that first adventure, so together we made the nostalgic journey back to the Territory to be with those remaining friends and commemorate those dark days of Australia's history.

This year I missed my friend Kelly being with me when I had the privilege of laying a wreath on the Cenotaph in Darwin for the AWAS who served in the Territory during the War.

In the past, the veterans have been the focus of the Remembrance Services, meeting old friends and visiting the sites that were bombed during the war, including the Cemetery at Adelaide River where there is a special corner for the nine members of the Post Office who lost their lives when it was bombed.

However, this year was different. As we went to the Cenotaph on the beautiful Esplanade, most veterans with walking sticks or in wheelchairs, the main block of seats nearest the official stand was roped off for VIPs' and the veterans were left to find seats for themselves where they could. The main stand was occupied by the Governor General, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, all of whom made speeches, together with the Chief Minister and the Darwin Lord Mayor and other dignitaries. We wondered why Ray Martin was given the role of MC.

The veterans and their carer's were invited to various functions including a Ball, a dinner at the RAAF Sergeants' Mess, a concert at Myilly Point and a day's trip to Adelaide River. The veterans enjoyed meeting each other and talking about old times. I only met three AWAS who had served there in 1944 and I missed the usual "Do you remember" as few of my particular friends are still alive. But somehow it wasn't the same – many felt that in a way they were part of some political agenda they didn't quite understand.

As it seemed that this important event had been overlooked by subsequent generations, even those living during the days of WW2 knew little of what had happened in the Northern Territory, the 19th of February has been dedicated as another Day of Remembrance, with the direction that the History of the Bombing of Darwin take its place in the school curriculum.

BISTRO News

Frankston RSL

183 Cranbourne Road, Frankston
Phone (03) 97832288.

The Frankston RSL has a fine collection of memorabilia showcased and easy to view if you are visiting the area over the Easter break or any weekend.

The Bistro is open 7 days a week from 12-2pm (Lunch) 5.30-8pm (Dinner)

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

THINKING OF YOU

Marna Sandford and Margaret Roberts
Brenda (Henderson)Johnson and Ron, Toddy and John

SICK PARADE

To all our members who are not feeling well at this time our thoughts and prayers are with you. If you wish to have a chat please do not hesitate to contact a committee member (telephone numbers on front cover) or our Chaplain Rev. William (Bill) Pugh – Editor



Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Helen Littlejohn on the passing of her much loved son?
Our thoughts and prayers are with Helen and her family at this time.



Amy in the Bunyip suit.

Did you know the cheeky Bunyip featured in Decembers Newsletter was our Honorary member, Ms Amy Jager

VALE

WO2 Vivienne (Viv) Hulley

Viv passed away in December 2011 peacefully in the comforting arms of close friends. She was a former member of the AWAS and WRAAC. Viv is fondly remembered as a member of the Cadre staff 3 WRAAC Coy serving with the late Major Jessie Perkins and Captain Gwenda Walker

Bruce Carlyle Ruxton AM OBE

VX94379 1926-2011



A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of the late Bruce Ruxton was held on Wednesday 18th January 2012 at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.

The service was well attended by members of the Veterans Community with the AWAS and WRAAC Associations represented by Captain Gwenda Walker, President of the AWAS Association Victoria and a member of the WRAAC Association Victoria.

The Right Reverend Dr Peter Hollingsworth AC OBE KStJ conducted the service. On behalf of Bruce's comrades of the 2/25th and 2/31st Battalion Association Mr Keith Hearne delivered a heartfelt eulogy, Keith is the husband of AWAS Association member Ruby (Greenway) Hearne. Major General David McLachlan AO on behalf of the RSL delivered an address followed by the reading of The ODE.

At the conclusion of the Service refreshments were offered at ANZAC House, Collins Street Melbourne.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Deborah Kelly	ARA	1981-2	6 Sig
(nee Smith) F323495		1982-3	Army Health Records
Life Member		1983-4	32 Sup Bn
		1985-6	11 Sup Bn

Two new Honorary Members:
Miss Amy Jager and Mrs Emma Jager- Willey

MEMBERSHIP

We would like **YOU** to contact any ladies whom you may know who were in the Army (ARA, CMF/ARes) regarding joining the Association.

Please contact our Membership Officer Diane Sherry on (03) 9478 1073 or email at dishe1946@yahoo.com.au and she will post out the appropriate form.

Could you let Diane Sherry know if you have an Email address and if you are able to access the Newsletter on the website? Her contact details are listed above.

Can You Help

We have lost contact with some of our life members. Can you help us to locate the following members:

CPL Dorothy Berry
Ms Shirley Brown
Ms Marilyn Dell
Ms Robyn Gibson (nee Vincent)
Ms Pamela Hunt (nee Walsh)
Ms Angela Jones
Mrs Joyce Payne
Ms Debbie Umpleby
Ms. Sallyann Welton

Please contact Diane Sherry on telephone (03) 9478 1073, mobile 0408 553 412 or email: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au.

FOR THE DIARY JANUARY – MAY 2012

25 th April 2012	ANZAC Day	See page 2
3 rd May 2012	Ex-WRANS Birthday Luncheon	1200hrs Legacy House 293 Swanston Street Melbourne.
20 th May 2012	AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service	Shrine of Remembrance,

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment #1 - RSL Medical Identification Card



**ANZAC Day 2012
Medical Identification Card**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Brief Medical History: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications: (name, dosage, and frequency)

Next of Kin:

1. Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Home _____ (Mobile) _____

2. Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Home _____ (Mobile) _____

TO BE RETAINED BY MEMBER

