

VIETNAM VET "GAZETTE"

Issue 166

Together Then ... Together Now

July 2016



In Service to America

Chapter 862 Meetings

BOD Meeting

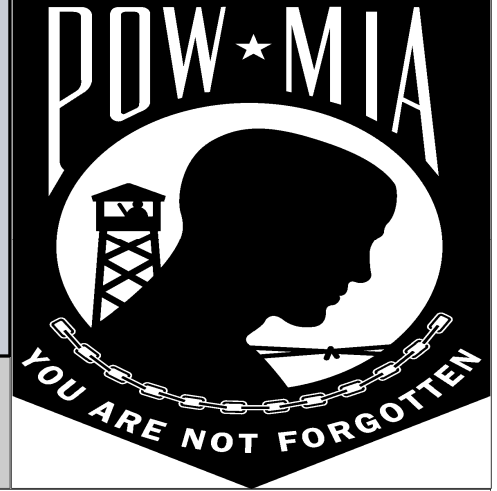
2nd Wed of the Month

Membership Meeting

3rd Wed of the Month

7:00 PM at the
ROCHESTER VFW

Be Sure To See
Important Dates to Remember
Upcoming Events— Page 8



VVA 862

August 17 — 2:00 pm until ???
Industry Park, Industry, Pa.

Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

Come on out for a fun day of food, and fellowship with good music.

Questions — Please call Philip Morris 724-643-5725 or 412-580-5817



Flag Raising Ceremony—Kokomo Vietnam Veterans Reunion

Kokomo Reunion

September 14-18

If you haven't experienced Kokomo and the camaraderie and love of your fellow veterans, now is the time. We've reserved a block of 40 hotel rooms and we still have one available for YOU!

Contact Bill Laughner to secure your reservation. wlaugh@comcast.net

Chapter 862 Officers & Directors

(All 724 Area Codes unless noted)

Officers

Larry Googins.....President 869-7090
 Bill Laughner.....Exec VP 843-6828
 Phil Morris.....1st VP..... 643-5725
 Michelle Wilcox .Secretary 847-3463
 Jake BarsottiniTreasurer 601-7293

Directors

Nick Pavkovich 3..... .847-0592
 Ron Heitzenrater.... 3..... 452-7483
 Ron Ippolito..... 3..... 869-5234
 Gary Shaffer 2..... 643-8941
 Rich Raich 2..... 412-974-6282
 Terri Carr..... 2..... 330-692-1849
 Don Villella 1..... 843-7401
 Cliff Hawes 1..... 709-7747
 Lee Corfield..... 1..... 775-3027

Chapter 862 Delegates

Larry Googins..... 869-7090
 Bill Laughner..... 601-3597
 Philip Morris..... 643-5725
 Michelle Wilcox 847-3463
 Jake Barsottini 601-7293
 Lee Corfield..... 775-3027
 Chuck Inman 709-7747
 Nick Pavkovich..... 847-0592
 Rich Raich 412-974-6282
 Terri Carr 330-692-1849
 Ray Rapp 316-6786
 John Szatkiewicz 643-8422
 Gary Shaffer 643-8941
 Dave Walker..... 794-3468
 Bob Weismantle 869-4942

Standing Committees**Agent Orange / Dioxin**

Mike Coligure..... 412-613-1810

Community Services

Chuck Inman 709-7747

Finance / Auditor

Bill Winkle 774-2626

Government Affairs

Bart Farzati..... 777-2193

Membership

Gary Shaffer 643-8941

Minority Affairs

Reuben Fuller 378-4990

POW / MIA

Phil Morris..... 643-5725

Public Affairs

Dick Pegg 412-974-9178

Veterans Affairs / Benefits Advisor

Kathy Nairn 770-4450

Chapter Service Coordinators

Michelle Wilcox 847-3463

Nick Pavkovich 847-0592

Women Veterans

Michelle Wilcox 847-3463

POW / MIA NEWS

Submitted by Philip Morris, POW/MIA Chairman

Updated July 2, 2016

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is **1,618**. Most recently accounted for was **Colonel Patrick H. Wood, USAF**, listed as MIA on 2/6/67, North Vietnam, remains returned on 12/14/15, and identified 2/29/16.



Patrick H. Wood

DPAA DIRECTOR RESIGNS: LTG Michael S.

Linnington, USA (Ret), named as DPAA Director in June, 2015, abruptly resigned on June 16th to accept a position as CEO of the Wounded Warrior Project, an NGO headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. There had been considerable anticipation of hearing a comprehensive report on his first full year since assuming the reins at DPAA. All were looking forward to learning what has occurred, changes and improvements made, and plans for further implementing his promise a year before to be DPAA Director for at least ten years and his commitment to sustain DPAA's priority on Vietnam War accounting for at least the next 3-5 years. This unexpected reversal of his pledge changed the environment dramatically; however, all present for the League's 47th Annual Meeting (see below) were courteous and attentive to Mr. Linnington's explanation on the reasons for his abrupt departure.

PRESIDENT VISITS VIETNAM: On a trip to Vietnam from May 22-25, President Obama met with senior Vietnamese officials. During a press conference concluding his official meeting, he stated, "*On behalf of the American people, including our veterans, I want to thank the government and the people of Vietnam for the many years of cooperation to account for Americans missing in action – solemn efforts that we'll continue together.*"

47TH ANNUAL MEETING HELD LAST WEEK: At the Opening Session, **League Senior Policy Advisor Richard T. Childress** presented remarks – fully coordinated with and supported by League Chairman of the Board and CEO Ann Mills-Griffiths – assessing DPAA's first year as a DoD agency. His fair, objective, critical observations held the rapt attention of family members, veterans and all US officials present. The full text of Childress' remarks is available here, [A Glimpse into the Future](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Richard-Childress-6-23-16.pdf) (http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Richard-Childress-6-23-16.pdf). The incoming **Deputy Director of DIA, Ms. Melissa Drisko**, spelled out DIA's full and continuing support for its Stony Beach Team of specialists, now the only US Government unit focused solely on Vietnam War accounting, primarily on Last Known Alive (LKA) cases, interviewing witnesses, collecting relevant archival material and augmenting DPAA investigation capabilities, including those of DPAA Detachments in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

For full text of the Update, visit: <http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/updates-2/>

Public Affairs News

Katy Miller, Public Affairs Committee

Katy Miller has made contacts with Tom Davidson and Tom Bickert of the Beaver County Times, and wrote a Letter to the Editor entitled "Memorial Day Parade Reminded Us of Vets' Service, published 6/2/2016, and published an article in the VVA Veteran magazine for May/June 2016.

VVA 862 Committees (Cont)

Special Committees

Honor / Color Guard

Ray Litzinger378-5855

Homeless Veterans

Bill Porupsky495-7051

Hospitalized Veterans

Lon Hogue846-8857

Nominating

Lon Hogue846-8857

PX

Frank Petz774-1867

PTSD / Substance Abuse

Ray Litzinger378-5855

Scholarship

Lon Hogue846-8857

Veterans Assistance

Bill Laughner601-3597

Other Positions / Chairpersons

Chaplain

Don Vilella843-7401

Highway Clean-up

Charles Ray827-8310

Memorial Bricks

Ron Heitzenrater452-7483

Veterans Memorials

Rich Tindell336-5457

Webmaster

Lee Corfield775-3027

AVVA Chapter 862

Officers

Bobbie Morris.....President.....643-5725

Linda Szatkiewicz VP643-8422

Keith Black.....Secretary.....513-3177

Sue BridgewaterTreasurer..... 643-0731

Directors

Sandy Giordano203-4569

Carl Curtis869-0294

Rita Swesey775-7529

Parliamentarian

Veronica Grant462-3717

Chaplain

Barb Googins.....869-7090

Membership

Susan Smith728-6741

Minutes from June 15, 2016 Regular Meeting

Called to order by President Larry Googins @ 7:00 PM
Opening Prayer by Chaplain Don Vilella. Attendance was 123

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Exec VP Bill Laughner

Roll Call of Officers - 12 – Present 0 – Absent 3 – Excused

Guest Speakers - Mike Blackwood & Jay Daniels from

Blackhawk Golf Course presented us with a check for \$5,343.00. Emily Morelli & Katie Morelli from Sports Clips presented us with a check for \$2,671.00.

Introduction of Guests or Prospective Members – Gale Miller, Jim McCormack, Jack Swaney & Al Rodriguez.

Members Sick or in Distress - Dennis Smith & Bob Weismantle,

Secretary's Report: May Minutes: will be in the upcoming Newsletter

Communications - All communications were read.

Website – Lee went over the website and encouraged anyone to call or email him.

Treasurer's Report - read by Treasurer Jake Barsottini is approved pending audit. He explained that he could provide more details to anyone after the meeting.

Motions - recommended by the BOD to be approved by the membership:

- (1) Motion was made by Ray Litzinger, 2nd by Dave Kane to donate **\$500** to the Pennsylvania Veterans Assistance Fund. Motion carried unanimously.
- (2) Motion was made by Bill Harlow, 2nd by Wally Chevront to purchase 10 tickets from the HCVVO Organization at Kokomo at a cost of **\$100**. Motion carried unanimously.
- (3) Motion was made by Don Bucciare, 2nd by John Szatkeiwicz to give Phil Morris **\$1200** upfront money for the upcoming VVA 862 Picnic. Motion carried unanimously.
- (4) Motion was made by Chuck Schrankel, 2nd by Joe Gallagher to donate **\$500** to the Warriors Call Boxing Organization in Baden. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Agent Orange / Dioxin - Mike Coligure gave a report on what he's done lately.

Government Affairs - Bart Farzati gave an update on what the VA is doing.

Membership Affairs - Gary Shaffer reported VVA - **775** Life – **670**, 138 took advantage of life membership offer. He will miss July meetings due to knee replacement.

Community Services - Rich Kamzelski gave a short report on the Kokomo "Sandbox Reunion" that he and Rich Tindell attended.

Minutes continued on Page 4

Minutes—continued (from Page 3)

POW/MIA - Phil Morris – Report will be in the newsletter. He is working with the Rochester VFW on the POW Ride on the 2nd Saturday in September.

Public Affairs - Katy Miller stated that she has talked with Beaver County Times and Mike Keating, who is the editor of the VVA Veteran.

Honor Guard - Ray Litzinger gave report on the Honor Guard, they did the Support the Troops Rally and a funeral for a WWII Veteran this morning.

Veterans Assistance - Bill Laughner. We helped 2 veterans this past month. He and Randy Tallon explained about the mechanic at Mondo's Auto Repair on River Road toward Ellwood City that helped one veteran and how we helped another veteran from keeping his gas turned off.

Website – Lee Corfield went over how the website is working and encouraged anyone to call him or email with information. The newsletter is available on the website..

Upcoming Events – Larry went over several upcoming events.

Relay 4 Life – Rich Kamzelski gave the report. He still needs help with the midnight shift.

July 4th Parade - Pete's Petrosky's Tower needs reconstructed for the parade. It was decided to meet at Ray Litzinger's house on Monday at 5:55 PM to begin

Vice-President's reports: Bill Laughner – Hookstown Fair coming up end of August. He has Duck Tickets if anyone wants them. They come in packs of 10 @ \$5.00 each. This is our biggest Fund Raiser of the year. If every member took (1) book, it would help out immensely. Bill mentioned that this will be his last Duck Race and if we plan to continue, we will need someone to take it over.

AVVA President – Bobbie Morris – Brought 3 new members. 158 Members, 95 LIFE. She also recognized Bob Gwin for the job he did with the Support Our Troops Rally. 50/50 raffle was won by Lee Corfield which he donated back to AVVA. She thanked Linda Szatkeiwicz who filled in for her last month.

Good of the Chapter:

Larry Googins mentioned about Animal Rescue League Pamper Your Pet Program - free stuff for your pet at Kenny Ross in Zelienople on June 18, 10 AM to 4 PM

Rich Orsen spoke about not giving up on the VA. Keep on them if you have claims in the VA and you're still waiting on a claim. It could pay off later.

Joe Maverro – made a motion, 2nd Don Villella to pay for a life membership in AVVA for Fred Steinkirchner, a 103 year old WWII Veterans. Motion Carried unanimously. Joe also thanked all those who helped with the flags on the graves at Sylvania Hills.

Larry Googins showed everyone a copy of the 2015 VVA Membership Album that was donated to the chapter. That was available for review..

Katy Miller – spoke about the free phones which had previously been discussed..

Bill Laughner spoke about wooden flag boxes to put old flags in. He had a sample of one and we may get a total of 5 for different locations throughout the county.

Bob Gwin thanked everyone who helped at the Support Our Troops Rally and Larry Googins spoke about the signs (Rita Swesey's project) that were displayed at the Rally.

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Don Villella

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted by

Lee Corfield, Acting Secretary



Associates of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 862 Meeting Minutes — June 15, 2016

A regular meeting of AVVA Chapter 862 was called to order by President Bobbie Morris at 6:00 pm with a reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the POW/MIA. All Officers and Board Members were present with Sandy Giordano and Carl Curtis being excused. New member Elayne Swift and guest Vikki were welcomed.

Secretary Keith Black read the May minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read by Judy Hage and seconded by Sue Bridgewater. Motion carried.

Treasurer Sue Bridgewater the Chapter's form 990 was accepted by the IRS and the financial report is ready to be sent. Approved pending audit.

Membership Chair Sue Smith reported that we now have 155 members and 95 life members.

VISTA Chair Laurel Beitsinger: 93.5 hours were submitted for May.

Old Business

Hepatitis C Class at State College. Linda Szatkiwicz attended along with 70 others. Reported it was a very good class and recommended it for others to attend.

Signs - Rita Swezey said the signs netted \$2140.50 after expenses.

Support Our Troops Bob Gwen reported the program was just the right mixture of entertainment. Food ran out before the rally was finished. Overall, the program was a great success.

New Business

e-Motion approved by the B.O.D. – \$200 donation to Project Friendship (Fisher House) A motion was made by Judy Hage and seconded by Marji Slawianoski. Motion carried.

All the Pennsylvania Chapters donated \$1,100 total to Fisher House of Pittsburgh.

Warriors Call Boxing - A motion was made to donate \$100 by Barb Googins and seconded by Marji Slawianoski. Motion carried.

A motion was made to donate a \$100 Walmart gift card for a VVA member who is in need by Sue Bridgewater and seconded by Sue Smith. Motion carried.

Good of the Chapter

Bob Gwin was presented Angle Award in recognition and thank you for the outstanding work he does for Support Our Troops and other work by Bobbie Morris.

Marjie Slawianowski packaged and donated the left over onions from the rally Meal on Wheels.

Relay for Life at Brady's Run Park on Jun 18th. If you wish to help out with guard duty see Cam.

Independence Day Parade meet at 9:30 in Midland at the west side of town.

Duck Tickets to be sold at Chippewa Walmart on July 30th, 9-5 and August 6th, 9-5

PA State Council Elections were held Jun 4th. No changes in the officers or board members.

National is taking proposals for changes in the Policy & Procedures.

Member of the Year, Sue Smith received a plaque.

A motion was made by Sue Bridgewater to raffle 3 \$25 gift cards at Chapter picnic. Seconded by Judy Hage. Motion carried.

August 17th is the Chapter picnic. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert. **THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST.**

Carly Koza is running for Miss Pennsylvania and is raising money for Children's Miracle Network at Children's Hospital. She is looking to raise \$1,000. The web site address is <http://missamericaforkids.org/donate/carlykoza> if you wish to donate.

\$20 towards a flower basket and a card to Wendy Walker motion by Linda Szatkiwicz. Seconded by Judy Hage. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Keith Black, Secretary—AVVA Chapter 862



*Happy Birthday
To our Members!*

Tom Preston..... Aug 1	Vincent Heider Aug 17
David Walker..... Aug 1	Jack Jamison Aug 17
Franklin Pettit Aug 2	Jacob Sokolowski..... Aug 17
James Wolfe..... Aug 2	Larry Tanner Aug 19
Jay Alstadt Aug 3	Bill Manners..... Aug 20
John Haas..... Aug 3	Lee Corfield Aug 21
Lon Hogue Aug 3	Dante Decanini..... Aug 21
Edward Moore Aug 3	Earl Lee Aug 21
Gary Palyszeski Aug 3	Louis Steff..... Aug 22
Henry Rousseau Aug 4	David Allen Aug 23
Theodore Rutkowski..... Aug 4	Luther Burrows Jr. Aug 23
Chuck Rittle Aug 5	William Lloyd Aug 23
Maitland Fraser..... Aug 6	Bob Hardman Aug 23
Rich Hogue Aug 7	Dave Mehera Aug 23
Ginger Muns Aug 7	Dan Reznik..... Aug 23
Nick Pavkovich..... Aug 7	Harold Travis Jr Aug 23
Carl Rectenwald..... Aug 7	Don Cripe..... Aug 24
Carl Vincent..... Aug 8	Bob Reott Aug 24
Joe Bemnowski Aug 9	Joe Grimm..... Aug 25
Rose Kelly Aug 9	John Klimovich..... Aug 25
Rich Webster Aug 9	John Yeck..... Aug 25
Dean Carte Aug 10	Rudy Zetz Jr Aug 26
Linda Moore Aug 10	Mike Oakey Aug 26
Al Mixon..... Aug 10	Herman Clingenpool Aug 27
Al Martin Aug 11	Dave Kost..... Aug 27
Mike Kidder..... Aug 12	Ray Rapp..... Aug 28
Richard Sutton Aug 13	Dave Sciaretta Aug 28
Roger Scatton..... Aug 13	Duilio Bonazza..... Aug 29
Jim Reardon Aug 14	Deb Bowers..... Aug 29
George Gillin Aug 15	Sam Giordano Aug 29
Dan DeFloria Aug 15	Dan Neal Aug 30
Roger Chabot..... Aug 16	Bob Harding..... Aug 31
Jim Dowarth..... Aug 17	

**THE 16TH ANNUAL
VVA 862 DUCK RACE
Sat., Aug. 27**

We need YOUR help to make this event a success. Here is what you can do:

- **Sell Tickets** on your own
- **Sell Tickets at Chippewa Walmart** Please consider a 2-hour shift 9 am—5 pm **Sat, July 30 or Sat, Aug 6**
- **Bring your heavy-duty weed whacker** to the fair grounds to get the creek ready for the race **Thurs, Aug 18, 5 pm**
- **Man (or Woman) the VVA Booth at the Fair** (metal building) **Aug 23—27**

Contact Bill (Duckman) Laughner to sign up wlaugh@comcast.net



FREE CARFIT CHECK

**August 10, 1-3 pm
313 Bridge Street
Bridgewater, Pa.**

Trained professionals will complete a 12-point CarFit checklist. Drivers will leave with recommended car adjustments and adaptations.

For reservations, call Senator Vogel's Office at 724-774-0444

*Next VVA 862 Meeting
Sept 21 - 7:00 PM
(NO MEETING in August!)*

Legislative update July 2016

Bart Farzati, Government Affairs Chairman

On May 12, **S.2921** was placed on the US Senate Legislative Calendar, for a floor vote. However, if this bill does not move, it is unlikely that the Toxic Exposure Research Act and other veteran's issues in the bill will pass this term. The bill expands Caregivers' benefits to Vietnam Veterans and provides leasing authority for the West LA Veterans Affairs Campus to provide housing for homeless veterans. The bill also reforms the process for removing VA executives after the administration decided not to defend recent legislation allowing employees to be fired. **S 901 which is supported by VVA and AVVA has been rolled into this bill.** This bill currently has 43 cosponsors including Sen. Casey (PA), but not Sen. Toomey (PA). Please call Senator Toomey at (202) 224-4254 and ask for his support. Adapted from "VVA policy initiatives 2016" VVA.org.

S.2896 - Care Veterans Deserve Act of 2016 Sen. McCain (AZ). A bill to expand the use of the Veterans Choice Card is being debated by the Senate and is opposed by most veteran's organizations including VVA. This bill would expand the Choice Program to give most veterans the choice to use VA care or the choice card to access private health care. The bill would also require the VA to contract with a national walk-in clinic for walk-in non-emergency care. It would also let doctors treating veterans under VA contract to practice across state lines. VA pharmacies would also be required to have weekend and night hours. VVA is opposed to this bill because it could drain money and patients from the VA Health Care System. This bill has caused a rift in the veterans' community because an organization of veterans advocating for the bill is seen as partisan and has questionable funding in the eyes of many organizations. While we are officially opposed to the bill, I encourage all members to read it at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2896/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22s2896%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=1>

The administration has announced a "**Cancer Moon Shot**" program designed to be a major push for the **research and treatment of cancer**. The VA will be a big player if this happens. The Departments of Defense and the Veterans Affairs are increasing their investments in cancer research, including through funding Centers of Excellence focused on specific cancers, and conducting large longitudinal studies to help determine risk factors and enhance treatment. "The Whitehouse Briefing room online Feb 2016". The Microsoft Corporation will allow the VA to use their supercomputer to analyze vast amounts of data. This would require additional funding and is not likely to be approved soon.

In Memoriam



Ronald A. Benson — 69 of New Brighton, Pa. Ronald passed away on Saturday, July 2. He was the brother Sue Tindell, who is the wife of VVA 862 Life Member Rich Tindell.

Elseth D. DeOld — 68 of Fair Lawn, New Jersey. Elseth passed away on Sunday, July 3. She was the wife of VVA 862 Life Member Louis DeOld of Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY VETERAN WHO SERVED ANYWHERE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR ERA

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Birthday ___/___/___

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

_____ I served in the US military (for other than training purposes) between 8/5/1964 & 5/7/1975, **OR**

_____ I served in the US military in Vietnam between 2/28/1961 & 5/7/1975

_____ DD-214 enclosed

_____ NEW MEMBER

_____ RENEWAL - Membership Card # _____

_____ One (1) Year Membership \$20.00

_____ Three (3) Year Membership \$50.00

_____ Life Membership \$75.00



[Mail completed form, copy of
DD-214 and check to:](#)

**VVA Chapter 862
P.O. Box 26
Rochester, PA 15074**

_____ I did not serve in the military during these times, but I wish to join the
Associates of the Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) - \$20.00 / Year

Please Note:

The views and opinions are solely that of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions or policies of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (National, State or Chapter).

All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise stated. Submissions will be gladly accepted by the editor. We reserve the right to edit submissions as space allows. Please send your comments or questions to Susan Fudurich at print@myinkstar.com with the Subject: VVA Newsletter Comment

Upcoming Chapter 862 Special Meetings & Events

- Jul 19-23 - VVA Nat'l Leadership Conference, Tucson, Ariz.
- Aug 17 - NO MEETING—Chapter Picnic, Industry Park
- Aug 19-21 - Beaver County Regatta, Bridgewater, Pa.
- Aug 23-27 - Hookstown Fair & Duck Race
- Sep 10 - POW/MIA Memorial Motorcycle Run
- Sep 21 - BOD Meeting 5 pm; General Meeting 7 pm
- Sep 29 - Gold Star Mothers Dinner
- Oct 29-30—PASC Conference, State College, Pa.
- Nov 11—Veterans Day Parade **in Beaver,**
Agent Orange Balloon Release

Other Fun Events

- Aug 3 - Veterans Breakfast Club, Seven Oaks CC**
contact Todd DePastino 412-623-9029
- Sep 14-18—Vietnam Veterans Reunion, Kokomo, IN
- Nov 7—Veterans Recognition Event,
New Brighton Methodist Church
- Sep 30-Oct 1 – Autumn Leaf Festival, Clarion, PA

Red text indicates updated information from previous month