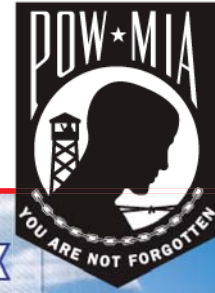


Vietnam Vet Gazette



Sept 2017

Issue 179

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 862, Southwestern Pa.

www.vva862.org | PO Box 26, Rochester, PA 15074

★ ★ **Upcoming Meetings** ★ ★

held at Rochester VFW, 179 Virginia Ave, Rochester, PA 15074

Board of Directors: Sept. 20, 5 pm

General Membership: Sept. 20, 7 pm

In Service to America®

Recap: VVA National Convention - August 8-13, 2017

Larry Googins, President

Eight delegates from our chapter attended the 18th VVA National Convention in New Orleans.

Three members: Larry Googins, Lee Corfield, & Jake Barsottini, were delegates from, and compensated by, the VVA PA State Council, five members: Ron Heitzenrater, Ron Ippolito, Philip Morris, Gary Shaffer, & Michelle Wilcox were delegates from our chapter. Bobbie Morris and Sue Smith attended as delegates from AVVA.

Over 880 VVA members/delegates attended the convention.

Throughout the conference, several outstanding guest speakers talked about the role that VVA played in helping all veterans, and praised both members and leadership in that endeavor. There are four main objectives of each National Convention, educating the delegates, electing the National Officers & Directors, updating the National Constitution, and reviewing/adding/amending/deleting the current National Resolutions.

John Rowan was reelected to a seventh term as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America; Marsha Four of Springfield, Pennsylvania, was reelected as Vice President; Bill Meeks, Jr., of The Woodlands, Texas, was reelected as Secretary; and Wayne Reynolds of Athens, Alabama, was reelected as Treasurer. Nineteen Directors were elected. Unfortunately, Jake's bid for a position on the National BOD was unsuccessful this time, but they'll be another time. Ted Wilkinson from NY was also reelected to serve as our Region 2 Director.



VVA 862 Delegates to the National Convention in New Orleans (l-r) – Philip Morris, Gary Shaffer, Larry Googins, Lee Corfield, Ron Ippolito, Michelle Wilcox, Ron Heitzenrater, and Jake Barsottini

Several days were dedicated to discussion of the constitution and resolutions. We discussed and voted to accept a few proposed changes/amendments to the National Constitution. One change was renaming the "Veterans Incarcerated" Committee to the "Veterans Incarcerated and in the Justice System" Committee, which would include support for the Veterans Treatment Courts. We also discussed and voted to update and/or amend several current VVA resolutions.

— continued on page 3 —

Our Motto: Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.



October Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Dan Kownacki | 15 Kathleen Ashburn |
| Dom Lombardo | Charles Melnick |
| 3 Ed Bernstein | Bobbie Morris |
| Sam Boorse | 16 Tom Czerpak |
| Robert Frechione | 17 Bud Gamble |
| Ken Melesky | Jim Hodge |
| Richard Griser | Aaron Johnson Jr |
| Don Villella | 18 Noreen Allinder |
| 5 Steve Bavaro | Skip Haswell |
| Al Hancq | Ken McDaniel |
| Francis Brice | 19 Tom Moore |
| Jim McKinney | John A. Smith |
| Mark Johnson | 19 Nick Vujaklya |
| Jim Trozzo | 20 Bill Muns |
| 6 Gerald Beal | John Sperry |
| Ken Caplinger | 21 Wayne Torrance |
| Joseph Spanik | 22 Robert Grier |
| 7 Walt Acheson | John Sperry |
| John Cairns | 23 Jim Woods |
| Dave Dacko | 24 John Buchignani |
| Bart Farzati | Jerry Johnson |
| Rose Landsittel | Rich Orsen |
| Charles T Smith | 25 Woodrow Main |
| Joe Suders | 26 Pat Kalish |
| 8 John Barnes Sr | Wayne Kemp |
| 9 John Boback | 28 Dennis Mozes |
| 10 Regis Dolnack | Tom Wilcox |
| Jim Hodge | 29 William Gandjos |
| 11 Alice Bilbo | Dave Marchetti |
| Wayne Freed | Carl Marchionda |
| Alvin Trautman | Alex Wisbeth |
| 12 Roy Roper | Larry Weyers |
| Ron Steiner | 30 Rich Gillin |
| 13 Cam Adamson | Jim Jamieson |
| Ray Dougherty | Walt Opat |
| Al G. Martin | 30 Lee Vega |
| Sue Petrosky | 31 Ray Fulmer |
| 14 Rudy Katrencik | |
| Al Murray | |

Make your reservations for the

Gold Star Mothers Dinner

September 28th at Beaver Valley Golf Club, Patterson Heights

Doors Open: 5:00 pm

Dinner Served: 6:00 pm

For reservations, contact
Sue Smith 724-728-6741

Deadline: Sept. 20



Upcoming Chapter 862 Special Meetings & Events

Sep 13 – NO BOD Meeting (moved to Sep 20)

Sep 20 – BOD Meeting @ 5:00 PM,
Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Sep 28 – Gold Star Mothers Dinner - Beaver Valley Golf Club (B. Morris/M. Wilcox)

Sep 30 – POW/MIA Bike Run (Philip Morris)

Oct 6 – AVVA Orange Poppies, Monaca Walmart, 10:00 am–4:00 pm

Oct 28-29 - VVA PASC Conference

Nov 9-10 - Arlington Cemetery Wreath Presentation 12:30 PM

Nov 11 – Veterans Day Parade, Beaver, 10:30 am

Other Fun Events

Sep 14-16 – Vietnam Veterans Reunion, Kokomo, IN

Red text indicates updated information

Red Rose Honors



During the month of August, red roses were sent in memory of seven deceased Vietnam Era veterans and two family members of Chapter 862.

Our Chapter sends a single red rose and vase to the funeral home for every military veteran, or family member of a member of our chapter, who passes away. Chaplain Don Villella scans the newspapers daily and orders the roses sent to the appropriate funeral home in honor of the deceased veteran(s) or family member.

continued from page 1 – National Convention

In addition, many educational meetings occurred throughout the conference from the various speakers and VVA National Standing Committees.

The City of New Orleans and the Louisiana VVA State Council did an outstanding job in welcoming Vietnam veterans to their city. I personally have a new appreciation for New Orleans. I knew the food was excellent and that was verified, but I also saw a beautiful city, friendly people, and more than just the party section around Bourbon Street. I will say that the trip to the National Convention was very beneficial to all members of our chapter through education of various issues facing our Vietnam veterans today. ★★★★★

Jake Barsottini, Treasurer

Even though VVA picked New Orleans at the peak of their heat and monsoon season, discomfort aside, the convention went very smooth. There were few constitutional amendments and resolutions with little opposition to any. The guest speakers from the House of Representatives and Senate were both excellent. The Director of the Veterans Administration made an excellent video presentation on where the VA is headed. The VVA Staff did a great job coordinating events.

★★★★★

Michelle Wilcox, Secretary

It was great to see friends I have made from across the country over the past four years. I was able to provide input in resolutions regarding

the health and wellbeing of women veterans of all ages. The highlights of my week were meeting Mary Stout – the first woman president of any chartered Veteran organization and Dr. Linda Schwartz – the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning.

★★★★

Ron Ippolito, Director This was my first VVA Convention and it was very educational to me. I liked the convention meetings which were very well organized. ★★★★★

Ron Heitzenrater, Director

At the convention, I learned several things and got some good info from the seminars that I attended, but I wish they had been longer. I had the opportunity to meet other veterans from across the states, made some great friendships, and already have made contact with a couple of them. I learned a lot for being a new director and delegate. I am also awaiting more info on PTSD plus some facts about Agent Orange that will be sent to me. I will then relay it to our committee chairs. I hope and look forward to attending more conferences/conventions to learn and get info to pass on to other members of our great chapter. I enjoyed the trip with a great group of people and had a great time getting to know our chapter members. ★★★★★

Ed. note: these are the recollections of several chapter delegates who attended the National convention

New Orleans
after hours



Phil Morris and a street musician make a little music together



Ron Ippolito and wife Kim take in the sights after a busy day at Convention



Lee Corfield discovers he DOES like alligator!



A Man's Gotta Eat!
(Ron Heitzenrater)

Vietnam Veterans of America MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL - Membership Card # _____

One (1) Year Membership \$20.00

Three (3) Year Membership \$50.00

Life Membership \$75.00



In Service to America®

Mail completed form, copy of DD-214 and check to:

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



Ray Litzinger and Chris Herdt



Dave and Carol Marchetti



Tom and Linda McCormack



Charles Ray

VVA 862 had another successful picnic at Industry Park on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. A large buffet and abundant fellowship filled the pavilion. The event was like a family reunion with a relaxed atmosphere and a big crowd.

— Kathy Miller, Public Affairs



John Szatkiewicz



Nick Veitz & wife



Don Villella



Ralph Cordes