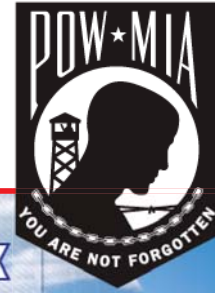




In Service to America®



October VVA Pennsylvania State Council meeting

What Will Eventually Happen to VVA?

Larry Googins, President

The VVA Pennsylvania State Council (PASC) met in State College PA to discuss issues affecting the Vietnam veterans in Pennsylvania. Twelve delegates from our chapter attended and actively participated in the committee meetings and discussions. The meetings were very effective and the presentations excellent. Dr. Julie Decker discussed the American Academy of Nursing's initiative "Have You Ever Served" with the purpose of increasing awareness of veteran's health issues to non-VA healthcare providers.

Since VVA is made up of veterans from the Vietnam Era, it is inevitable that VVA, as currently chartered, cannot continue forever.

In addition to the state delegates, VVA National Vice-President Marsha Four and VVA National Treasurer Dr. Wayne Reynolds also attended. The purpose of their visit was to explain VVA National's plan to transition the organization. Since VVA is made up of veterans from the Vietnam Era, it is inevitable that VVA, as currently chartered, cannot continue forever. So what should we do? Well, VVA National has decided to establish two panels/committees made up of members, like you and I. One committee will explore what we do with the established programs, critical accomplishments,

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Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 862, Southwestern Pa.

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

Monthly Meetings
— 7pm —

Board of Directors
Second Wednesday

General Membership
Third Wednesday

All meetings held at

Rochester VFW • 179 Virginia Ave • Rochester, PA 15074

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

General Meeting MINUTES

October 19, 2016

Next VVA 862 Meeting: Nov 16, 7:00 p.m.

Michelle Wilcox, Secretary VVA 862

Called to order by President Larry Googins @ 7:00 PM

Opening Prayer by Chaplain Don Villella. Attendance was 136.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Exec VP Bill Laughner

VVA Motto: "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

Roll Call of Officers Present – 13, Absent – 0, Excused - 1

Guest Speaker – Herman Dieckmann spoke about the Trac Chair being sponsored by the Rotary Foundation. The chairs are donated to eligible wounded vets at no cost to the vet. The chairs are manufactured in Grove City and are returned to the district when no longer in use for reconditioning.

- (1) Motion made by Luke Patrino and 2nd by Joe Feltes to donate \$500.00 to the Rotary 7300 Foundation/Trac Chair Initiative. Motion approved.

Joe Spanik presented the chapter a ceremonial shovel used for the groundbreaking of the Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Introduction of Guests or Prospective Members – George Dudley

Members Sick or in Distress – Ron Heitzenrater (surgery), Buddy Howe's wife, A Rod's daughter Rachel, Hope McPhee, Bob Gwin's mother, Dick Bell

Secretary's Report: Minutes: No corrections to the September minutes. **Communications** - All communications were read.

Treasurer's Report: Larry Googins went over all acct balances, which were approved pending audit. The following motions recommended by our VVA 862 BOD were brought before the body.

Terri Carr talked about Veteran "Hope", a woman veteran peer group program held at Butler VA.

- (2) Motion made by Bill Harlow and 2nd by Joe Gallagher to donate \$250.00 to the Veteran "Hope" program at the Butler VA. Motion approved.
- (3) Motion made by Luke Patrino and 2nd by John Szatkiewicz to donate \$125.00 to the Baden American Legion for a full-page ad in the Veterans Day booklet. Motion approved.
- (4) Motion made by Ken Pingatore and 2nd by Jim Boyce to donate \$250.00 to Faith Restorations for their food pantry. Motion approved.

Larry introduced Bob Gwin who talked about the "Let's Roll - Never Forget 9-11" rally held for the last 6 years in Beaver to honor our first responders. All monies collected over the years have been donated and Bob Gwin has paid for costs for the rallies.

- (5) Motion and 2nd made by all the members to donate \$500.00 to Bob Gwin. Motion approved.

Chuck Inman talked about Festival of Trees and Wreathes across America.

- (6) Motion made by Denny Smith and 2nd by Skip Haskell to give \$300.00 to Chuck Inman for purchasing a tree and ornaments for the Festival of Trees. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Agent Orange – Mike Coligure talked about the Health Fair being held in Murrysville this weekend and could use help. There will be an Agent Orange table at the CCBC breakfast. Discussed methods for getting the word out including hiring a publicist.

Legislative – Bart Farzati talked about the 2017 COLA of 0.3%. He discussed the ballot for Pennsylvania and veteran preference in hiring.

MINUTES – continued

Membership - Gary Shaffer - **Membership 774 - LIFE 685**

Minority Affairs – Linwood Alford - Will be on the Chris Moore Show to get the word out to minorities to get active in veteran organizations.

Hospitalized Veterans – Terri Carr has scheduled a visitation at Butler VA on November 12 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Sign-up sheets are available.

Honor/Color Guard - Rick Raich – Honor Guard – 1 funeral. 1 flag raising. Next honor guard practice will be on November 4th at the Midland VFW. Veteran’s Day parade is November 11th at 9:30 AM at Citizens Bank, Beaver. Uniform is Tiger stripes.

Memorial Bricks – Ron Heitzenrater – Three bricks requests are at Rome Monuments with three more to go.

President’s report

New Business

PASC delegates – Chuck Inman has resigned. The Board has filled the position with Ron Heitzenrater. We need alternates. Ron Ippolito has volunteered to be an alternate, which requires a vote.

(7) Motion made by Chuck Inman and 2nd by John Szatkiewicz to approve Ron Ippolito as an alternate delegate. Motion approved.

Christmas Vigil – need a volunteer to chair this event.

DAV Dinner – Cam Adamson - November 12th @ 5:30 PM at the Robert W. Young VFW Post 8805 in Aliquippa. The dinner is free to all disabled vets and \$15.00 for other guests.

Vice-Presidents’ Reports – **1st VP Philip Morris** – The next big event is the TET Reunion in February 2017. First coordination meeting will be held October 26th @ 7:00 PM at the Rochester VFW. Anyone interested in serving on this committee, please attend. Raffle tickets will be available soon. You can reserve a table for 10 at a cost of \$250.00.

AVVA – Bobbie Morris - **Membership 156 - Life 99** // Agent Orange balloon release will be November 11th @ 12:00 PM at the memorial in Beaver. // AVVA is selling Christmas cards – 10 for \$10.00. A donation of \$100.00 is given to Terri Carr for purchasing items for the visitation gift bags. Will be donating a gift basket for the PASC fall meeting auction. Will be working with Mike Coligure selling lighted canvases at the Festival of Trees. Talked about the Vision Screening to be held next meeting. The 50/50 was won by Daniel Benincase who donated \$50.00 back to the VVA for purchasing items for the visitation gift bags.

Good of the Chapter – A meeting was held for the Veterans Advisory Council with Sandi Egley. Awaiting county budget.

Luke Patrino talked about the work done by the Ohio group. Furnished 6 units for homeless vets. Had a ride to the Beirut memorial in Struthers last weekend.

Pathway Church is having a free Veteran Tribute dinner November 4th @ 6:00 PM. Veterans Chili cookoff at the Center at the Mall on November 7th.

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Don Vilella. Meeting adjourned @ 8:30 PM.

Upcoming Chapter 862 Special Meetings & Events

Nov 24-27, Dec 2-4 - Festival of Trees,
Brady’s Run Lodge

Dec 17 – Wreaths Across America, Quay Park
Gazebo, Beaver, 12:00pm

Dec 21 – Christmas Membership Dinner (after
VVA Meeting)

Dec 24-25 - Christmas Vigil, Vietnam Veterans
Memorial

Other Events

Dec 7 – Veterans Breakfast Club, Seven Oaks
Country Club

Red text indicates updated information

AVVA Meeting MINUTES

October 19, 2016

Next AVVA 862 Meeting: Nov 16, 6:00 p.m.

Keith Black, Secretary AVVA 862



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.

President Bobbie Morris said a word of prayer.

Roll Call of officers and board members: Sandy Giordano was excused.

Treasurer Sue Bridgewater gave report. Approved pending audit.

Secretary Keith Black read the minutes for September.

A motion was made by Judy Hage and Laurel Beisinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Membership Chair Sue Smith reported that we now have 156 members and 99 life members. We are 2nd in National, 2nd in the region, and 1st in the State. Nancy Santilli was announced as a new member who is also a Gold Star family member.

VISTA Chair Laurel Beitsinger: 561.5 hours were submitted. 270 was submitted by Linda Szatkiewicz catching her up from January.

Old Business

The Gold Star Mother Banquet was very successful. We had 62 in attendance. Pete Chichetti did a wonderful job as speaker. It went so well, a new venue will be necessary next year with more room.

The Facebook page was mentioned as a reminder.

Bobbie showed the signs that were made for the AVVA cars in the parades. Donna Corfield offered a car.

Rita Swesey is continuing to take shirt and sweatshirt orders.

Mike made some Christmas cards with different fonts for us to choose. The search continues for envelopes that match and they will fit in. We would like to have them ready for the next meeting and the Veterans breakfast at CCBC to sell. Sue Smith made a motion to set the price at \$10.00 for 10 cards. Seconded by Rita Swesey. Motion carried.

The Jr. ROTC student who was having tuition issues has been taken care of by being taken under a temporary guardianship for the remainder school year so he can finish the year and graduate as an Jr. ROTC member.

Carl was thanked for his speech and POW flag presentation at the POW luncheon held by the VFW Axillary at the Rochester VFW. He did an excellent job.

New Business

For the Veterans Day Parade everyone is to meet at the Citizens Bank at 9:30 am. The roads are being blocked off for the parade at 9:00.

Agent Orange balloon release will be at noon after the Veterans Day parade in Beaver.

The Rochester Post will be holding a luncheon after the parade.

Terry Carr has planned a visit at the Butler VA for hospitalized veterans on November 12th from 1:00-3:00 pm. A motion was made to donate \$100 to VVA by Sue Bridgewater towards items needed by the veterans. Seconded by Judy Hage. Motion carried.

VVA Board of Directors is placing an ad in the parade program booklet for both the VVA and AVVA. Make sure you thank them for that.

The first meeting for the TET Party will be October 27th at 7:00 pm. Barb Googins agreed to be co-chair this year.

Festival of Trees will be from November 24th to December 4th. Mike is getting two tables for the event to sell lighted canvas. We need volunteers to help sell. A motion was made for \$250 to split the cost of the tables by Donna Corfield. A second was made by Rita Swesey. Motion carried.

Officers and delegates will be going to PA State Counsel on October 29th and 30th. At that time they will be holding another fall auction. A request was made from Donna to all the chapters for the fund raiser. A motion was made for \$125 in gift cards by Judy Hage and a second by Sue Smith. Motion carried.

Good of the Chapter

Hope McFee is in critical care at Pittsburgh Hospital. Everyone please keep her in your prayers.

Fred Steinkerchner has been nominated by Bobbie for the Quilt of Valor. The honored will be at Pathway Church in Chippewa on November the 4th at 6:00pm along with some other members.

The doors open for the Veterans Breakfast at CCBC at 8:00 am. Breakfast is served from 9:00 am to Noon.

Sue Bridgewater read an article in Woman's Day Titled "Our White Table" describing a Military Spouse Table.

There is going to be an eye screening next meeting for those who would like one.

A Tribute To Veterans

Pathway Church honored six veterans on Friday, November 4th by presenting them with “Quilts of Valor” at their annual Veterans Day and Military Tribute Dinner. The mission of providing these quilts is to “cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing “Quilts of Valor.” Three of the recipients were from our chapter. Richard Pegg, Bill “Duck” Laughner, and Don Vilella were each chosen to receive a quilt.

Before the awards ceremony, members of Pathway Church provided a delicious dinner, inspirational music, moving testimonies, and a powerful message from their guest speaker. The entire program was free for military service member and veterans. Several members from our chapter attended. This was the third year that Pathway Church honored our veterans for their Veterans Day and Military Tribute Dinner. The entire program was rewarding and enjoyable.

Please remember to thank the staff, ministry and members of Pathway Church for remembering and honoring our service members and veterans. Please consider attending this event in the future, you will not be disappointed.

Larry Googins, President



Quilts of Valor Honorees — Richard Pegg, Don Vilella, Bill Laughner

— continued from page 1 — **What Will Happen...**

and company assets that we have worked on for so many years, so that we continue to perpetuate our mission. The second committee will explore options for the dissolution of the organization, basically whether it terminated (last man standing), charting and empowering a new organization, or combine with another established veterans group to carry on our legacy. This may take several years and the final resolution will eventually be decided by a vote of the membership delegates at a future VVA National Convention. If you are interested in becoming a member of one of these panels/committees, please contact me.



December Birthdays — Happy Birthday!

1 Rich Daman	6 Rich Dickhart	12 Lynn Passage	22 Wayne Cumer
Ron De Salle	Jim Harley	13 Chuck Bedison	23 Rich Baker
Allen Goforth	Darlie Sowers	Terry Moore	John Ferry
John Papasodero	7 Mike Hresko	15 Larry Laughlin	David Wilson
2 Paul Fennyach	9 Joe Feltes	16 Bill Persuutte	24 Paul Hetrick
William Patterson	10 Wally Chevront	Tony Pietrandrea	28 Frank Papa
3 Roseanne Robinson	Ron Ippolito	Kim Tesla	Wilbur Snyder
4 Harry Lang	Tim Mulhollen	17 Guy DiMarzio	29 Walt Caivano
Rich McDaniel	11 Bob Bucholtz	Fred McAnallen	Charles Jenkins
5 Larry Laughlin	John Galanski	Bill Winkle	30 Jerry Baylor
Roger Zallon	Garen Steele	18 Robert Frantz	Charles Garrett
		19 Alex De La Cruz	31 Rich Bales

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

Chapter 862 Officers & Directors

(All 724 Area Codes unless noted)

Officers

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

Directors

Nick Pavkovich (3)	Gary Shaffer (2)	Don Villella (1)
Ron Heitzenrater (3)	Rich Raich (2)	Cliff Hawes (1)
Ron Ippolito (3)	Terri Carr (2)	Lee Corfield (1)

Chapter 862 Delegates

Larry Googins	Lee Corfield	John Szatkiewicz
Bill Laughner	Nick Pavkovich	Gary Shaffer
Philip Morris	Rich Raich	Dave Walker
Michelle Wilcox	Terri Carr	Bob Weismantle
Jake Barsottini	Ray Rapp	

Standing Committees

Agent Orange / Dioxin– Mike Coligure412-613-1810
Chapter Service Coordinators– Michelle Wilcox 847-3463
 Nick Pavkovich 847-0592
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– Katy Miller 709-8104
Veterans Affairs / Benefits Advisor– Kathy Nairn 770-4450
Women Veterans– Terri Carr 330-692-1849

Special Committees

Honor / Color Guard– Ray Litzinger 378-5855
Homeless Veterans– Bill Porupsky 495-7051
Hospitalized Veterans– Terri Carr 330-692-1849
Nominating– Lon Hogue 846-8857
PX– Frank Petz 774-1867
PTSD / Substance Abuse– Ray Litzinger 378-5855
Scholarship– Lon Hogue 846-8857
Veterans Assistance– Bill Laughner 601-3597

Other Positions / Chairpersons

Chaplain– Don Villella 843-7401
Highway Clean-up– Charles Ray 827-8310
Memorial Bricks– Ron Heitzenrater 452-7483
Newsletter– Susan Fudurich .print@myinkstar.com 847-2940
Veterans Memorials– Rich Tindell 336-5457
Webmaster– Lee Corfield 775-3027

AVVA Chapter 862

Officers

President– Bobbie Morris 643-5725
VP Linda– Szatkiewicz 643-8422
Secretary– Keith Black 513-3177
Treasurer– Sue Bridgewater 643-0731

Directors

Sandy Giordano 203-4569
 Carl Curtis 869-0294
 Rita Swesey 775-7529

Parliamentarian Veronica Grant 462-3717
Chaplain Barb Googins 869-7090
Membership Susan Smith 728-6741