

The Voice of 436

February 2014 ★ Major Louis. F. Guillermin Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 436



Next meeting:
7:30 p.m.

@ VFW Post 845
4601 West Lincoln Hwy.
Downingtown, PA 19335
610 269-8818

<http://www.vva436.org>

Bad weather cancellations:
email notices will be sent to you
or call Post 845 for updates

Chapter officers 2013-2014

President Ken Schweitzer
1st VP
2nd VP Barry Amole
Secretary Michael DiPuppo
Treasurer Dave McTavish
Directors Bob Gallagher
Jim Milliken
Bud McCullough
Chris Pitt
Dave Wilson
Jim Doedderlein

Jack McFadden brought us a special message about an organization called Project Healing Waters (PHWFF). Jack and his merry band of anglers teach fishing skills to active duty & disabled Veterans in 47 states and 100 locations. They have 154 programs going on.

They provide individual training in fly tying and rod building. They eventually get around to some serious fishing.

Project Healing Waters was founded by **Ed Nichol森**.

Locally, they've had 40 to 50 Veterans and 24 volunteers at the Coatesville VAMC. They meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

Their current goals are to equip Veterans with fishing gear, find more volunteers and get to some serious fishing.

If this brand of service appeals to you, contact Jack at jack.mcfadden@verizon.net.

or 484-459-9038 or [view their video](#). From [their website](#): "In 2012, more than 122,000 hours were donated by almost 2,300 PHWFF volunteers. This enabled more than 4,000 recovering warriors and disabled Veterans to participate in PHWFF program activities".

Jack also brought news of **a new memorial** in Carlisle, PA dedicated to MOH recipient, Randall Shugart.

Dog trainer, Tanya and Sage, the service dog visited from the Canine Partners for Life (CPL) located in Cochranville, Chester County and provide 500+ fully trained service and companion dogs active in 43 states. These dogs are trained to assist owners with Epilepsy, Diabetes, Cerebral Palsy, Spinal Cord Injuries, Parkinson's Disease and others disabilities. These dogs can provide up to an hours warning of an upcoming episode.

CPL will provide a Service dog at no charge to wounded warriors, such as US Army SPC Rusty Carter, Springfield, PA, Carter who suffered a severed C4 vertebrae in Afghanistan last Spring and is in a wheelchair paralyzed from the chest down.

Trained Service/Companion dogs, like Sage, can perform functions for their owners when they need help. Examples: turning lights switches on/off; paying for purchases; picking up dropped items and retrieving a manual wheel-chair. They are also used in courtrooms to comfort distressed children and adults.

The need for these dogs is ongoing and assigned based on need and fit with new owners. 25% of all CPL service dog recipients will need a successor dog in a few years. [Website](#)

Labradors are the breed of choice.

Upcoming meetings

Feb. 11 Our next meetings's guest speaker is Lt. C.. (Ret) Maura Gillen of the Veterans Multi-Service Center and Catholic Social Services located in Coatesville, PA.

Maura, working out of "Operating Base Cecilia", strives to help Veterans and their families get, and keep, permanent housing. Her tasks are many, and Maura will educate us as she speaks of Veterans and their families everyday needs.

Newsletter....Staff: John Morris, Editor - Jim Doedderlein, Fulfillment Director.

vva436@gmail.com: The newsletter & website are the only sources of chapter information received by 85% of our membership. Recycle your paper copy to a fellow Veteran.

The average per cost for mailing the newsletter is \$0.70, and the emailed editions are still \$0.00.

Should a monthly newsletter not reach you prior to the scheduled meeting date, contact us at 610 269-0626.

There will come a time when we'll need a new newsletter staff. All that is needed is a computer, the internet and a desire to do it.

Honor Guard: There is always opportunities for members to join our honor guard squad. It's easy, rewarding, and even Swabbies and Coasties look resplendent in olive drab.

Website: www.vva436.org Phil Prinzi updates our website continually. If you're on FaceBook or Twitter, send a post helping other Veterans learn about our chapter at our website.

Membership form

Regular membership in VVA is open to any Veteran who served **anywhere** during the Vietnam War era.

Mail to chapter address

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Email: _____ Born: ____/____/____

- Dues: \$20.00/year (regular and associate memberships)
- I served in the US military, for other than training purposes, between 8/5/64 and 5/7/75
- I served in the US military in Vietnam between 2/21/61 and 8/5/64.
- DD214 enclosed (Applications without DD214s will be processed as associate memberships)
- I wish to join the Associates of the VVA. (No military service needed) (No age limits)

The election ballot for officers and directors for the Veteran Year 2014-15:

President: Kenneth Schweitzer
 1st V-President: Douglas Forsythe
 2nd V-President: Barry Amole
 Secretary: Michael DiPuppo
 Treasurer: David McTavish
 Directors: 6 total John Maher, MD; Chris Pitt; Jim Doedderlein
 Dave McTavish
 National Representatives: Open
 State Representatives: Open

The nomination search won't end when every slot is filled. The goal is multiple choices in all positions.

Stepping up is easy; contact John Morris@vva436@gmail.com.

The election will be held at the April general membership meeting.

- After the election, we will stage our annual Induction Banquet usually on a Saturday later in April. Heading the banquet committee are Doug Forsythe and Gerry Burns. Let's give them all the help they asks for.
- Our good friends at West Chester University are planning a Fall event. This time it will focus on the helicopter in warfare. Our role will be in support of their efforts. We will have someone on their planning committee. Anyone who wishes to help can send an email to vva436@gmail.com.
- As Americans, we have freedom of speech and many of us use this freedom as we communicate with the press or politicians. Keep in mind, when you identify yourself as a member of VVA, this fact can be interpreted as you are spokesperson for the organization. VVA National, PA VVA State Council and VVA 436 suggest you make it clear you are expressing only your opinion at these times.
- There is a new Veterans group forming in Downingtown consisting of local Veteran Service Organizations. They have asked our chapter to be a part of this new group. Their next planning meeting is February 12.
- Motions to donate were made/seconded/ passed for
 1. US Marine Corps League's upcoming golf outing
 2. American Legion Post 475 for scholarships.
 3. Project Healing Waters
 4. Canine Partners for Life
- It's called S.1982 and it's a US Senate bill "to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to Veterans, and for other purposes".

Study up on it and follow its votes and enactment. Its effects will be far reaching, and hopefully beneficial, to the Veterans and dependents who rely on government care.

- The October 2nd Agent Orange Town hall meeting, is available on-line. Here's a way to view them.
- PA State Senator Daylin Leach is proposing a new tax advantage for disabled Veterans. A sliding scale reduction will match the Veteran's VA percentage. This act has the earmarks of a grateful government acknowledging the contributions of disabled Veterans. Heads-up courtesy of Joe Altimari.
- Children of chapter members may apply for college and/or trade school scholarships. Jim Milliken has more information at mjdusty88@verizon.net or call 610-692-3359. Deadline is April 15, 2014.
- Americans use our 1st amendment's freedom of speech when we communicate with the press and politicians. Keep in mind, when you identify yourself as a member of VVA, this fact can be interpreted as you are acting as a spokesperson for the organization. VVA National, PA VVA State Council and VVA 436 suggest you make it clear you are expressing only your opinion.
- From Bob Stone: A big thank you to the Gallaghers for sending him a chapter birthday greetings. Even at our ages, we still enjoy a greeting card each year. Thank you, Bob & Cathy from us all.
- Our chapter harvested six XL & plus winter coats for Veterans at Coatesville's VAMC. One generous member brought five to our last meeting. We wish to thank him here even if his name escapes us. We'll accept these donations at meetings until March.
- Hot breaking news: the VAMC has a home based foster care program for ailing Veterans using trained care providers. Information: 610 384-7711 x2373
- There's a Vietnam Memorial in Colorado unlike any around here. It's located on a bike trail way in the wilderness, it's a mystery about who built it. It's not marked on any maps. It's a four sided granite monolith with granite plaques encircling it.
- Membership: Vietnam Veterans of America #436 = 127 members Associates of VVA436 = eight members

Color coding: Blue print = email addresses Red print = website hotlinks

Upcoming events:

7:30 p.m.	Monthly membership meeting:
2nd Tuesday of	VFW Post 845
each month except	4601 W. Lincoln Highway
July & August	Downingtown, PA 19335



Major L. F. Guillermin Memorial Chapter 436

PO Box 189
 Phoenixville, PA 19460
 Email: vva436@gmail.com
 website: http://www.vva436.org

VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE "Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another."

Ever wonder how the VA assigns disability percentages when the Veteran has different issues? http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp#combined Example: Veteran has three ailments separately rated at 60%, 40% and 20%. The final percentage is 80% not 120%. See how at http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp#combined