

# The Voice of 436

April 2019



Major Louis. F. Guillermin Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 436



Next meeting:  
April 10, 7:30 p.m.

@VFW  
4601 Lincoln Highway,  
Downingtown, PA 19335

#### Bad weather cancellations:

email notices will be sent  
or call 484 705-5041  
A notice will also be  
sent by email.

#### Chapter officers 2018-2019

President: Frank Houck  
1st V.P.: Dave McTavish  
2nd V.P.: Barry Amole  
Secretary: Michael DiPuppo  
Treasurer: Jim Doedderlein  
Directors: Robert Gallagher  
Chris Pitt  
Sandy Lopacki  
Vince DiLodovico  
Bud McCullough  
Rick Weimer

The March 13th meeting was called to order at 1935 hours by President Frank Houck with 29 members and 2 guests in attendance, including 11 Officers and Directors. Frank led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and then a moment of silence in remembrance of our POW-MIAs. Chaplain Joe Crescenz gave the invocation.

There were two guest speakers this evening. Frank first introduced Michael Weiss, a graduate History student at West Chester University. Mr. Weiss is conducting a study for his Master's degree thesis on the effects of Agent Orange on the descendants of those exposed to AO during the Viet Nam War. He is looking for inputs and insights from VN veterans who would like to contribute information for his project. He would be available to interview volunteers in person, either by phone or by e-mail [MW80S492@WCUPA.edu](mailto:MW80S492@WCUPA.edu).

Following his presentation, he was given a list of members who would like to help. Frank presented him with one of our challenge coins. A photo of the presentation was taken to be sent to Webmaster Phil Prinzi for posting with the Minutes.

Next on the agenda, Frank introduced Kenneth W. Rose, VVA's National VAVS (Veterans Administration Voluntary Services) Representative to the Coatesville

VA Medical Center. He briefly outlined some of the much needed volunteer services our hospitalized vets could use, and requested a volunteer from our group to represent him at some of the VA meetings if needed. They meet 4 times a year, and their next meeting is in April. The volunteer would have to be certified by VVA National at Silver Springs, MD. This participation would give our Chapter representative an insight into the VA and he could then discuss his experience with the VA on a Chapter level. John Maher volunteered to assist Ken by attending the meetings for Ken as needed. Ken gave Doc a packet of informational materials and will submit his information to National for certification.

Following the presentations, Motion (Amole, DiLudovico) to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting as circulated and posted, was approved unanimously. An additional Motion (Gallagher, Bassetti) to accept Jim Doedderlein' Treasurer's Report was also approved unanimously. Lastly, a Motion (Maher, Lopacki) to accept 1st VP Barry Amole's Small Games of Chance Report, was also approved unanimously. Both financial reports will be posted, as usual, along with the Minutes. Report, was also approved unanimously. Both financial reports will be posted, as usual, along with the Minutes.

#### Upcoming Meetings

VVA 436's Annual Banquet is set for April 6th at Spring Hollow Golf Club. Contact Ken Schweitzer by cell phone [610-996-2584] to see if there are still available spaces.

Regular membership meetings are held the 2nd Wednesdays of the month, exclusive of July and August, at the VFW Post 845 facility, Downingtown. The next regular meeting will be April 10th. Speaker TBA

**Website:** <http://www.vva436.org> This was a long, full, meeting, so visit the website for additional details, facts and events found in the minutes. This site and the Newsletter are our two main means of communication with the membership, now that Webmaster Prinzi has taken down the Blog because it was being "hacked" by outsiders. Please route any items for the site through Ken Schweitzer.

**Newsletter:** We try to get the final draft completed as close to the end of the month as possible so we can get it to the printers and circulated before the meetings. Send items to John Morris at [wwwvva436@gmail.com](mailto:wwwvva436@gmail.com) or to Doc Maher at [jmahermdmph@yahoo.com](mailto:jmahermdmph@yahoo.com). Any items too late for inclusion will be brought up at the next meeting. Let Jim D know if you do not need a hard copy mailed to you.

**Membership:** Jim Doedderlein announced that we now have 140 Members and 10 Associate Members; also, that Jed and Cindy Burns are recovering from their illnesses, so keep them in your prayers.

**Agent Orange:** Toxic effects of AO are still being seen in Vietnam, in the soil and in birth defects occurring in children. American children, offspring of exposed veterans, are also being affected and the government is still not responding to this crisis. Visit <http://www.birthdefects.org/category/newsletter-articles> for more information. If your doc isn't familiar with or aware of, your toxic exposures or their impact, tell him to get the VA's new mobile app for providers at <https://mobile.va.gov/app/exposure-ed>

Membership form

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

Mail to PO Box 189  
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Born: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

- VVA Life Membership: \$50 (this is a new and reduced price)**
- 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)
- AVVA Life Membership. Price based on age**

### Incoming Correspondence:

- \*\* A thank you note from Tim Williams, Exec. Dir., of the Veterans Multi-Service Center, for our recent donation.
- \*\* The current issue of the Rolling Thunder Newsletter.
- \*\* A thank you message from Tom Bucci, last month's speaker, for our donation to *Soldier Sanctuary* (see Of Interest section, below, for more).
- \*\* A message from the Philadelphia DLA Troop Support Public Affairs office re a DoD VN War service commemoration event on 3/29; call (215) 737-23211 to sign up for the lapel pin.

**Education/Scholarship Committee:** Jim Doedderlein announced Jed Burns still wants to be involved in this, and needs suggestions for topics for the essay component. Jim is researching previous essay topics to avoid duplication. He took the names of several members who were interested in working on the project and received some suggested topics. They will meet shortly, probably at Jed's home.

### Honor Guard:

- \*\* We will do three Memorial Day Parades: (a) the Parkesburg parade, on the weekend before Memorial Day; (b) the Downingtown parade, on Memorial Day (5/27th); and (c) the Malvern parade, on June 2nd.
- \*\* The Collegium Charter School has requested we do a ceremonial flag folding ceremony for their 1st grade students, so Frank and two other members will do the formal ceremony, explaining the meaning of each step of the folding process.

### VA/Veterans Affairs:

- \*\* Frank needs a volunteer to represent him at the PASC meeting June 1 and 2.
- \*\* The VA now offers 3 new ways to file a claim with them: a Higher Level Review Lane, a Supplemental Claims Lane, and an Appeals Lane. Currently they have 83,000 claims which have been open for greater than 125 days! Visit the site for details: [Veteransaffairs@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:Veteransaffairs@public.govdelivery.com) Purple Heart recipients will have priority for their initial claims as of 4/1/19.
- \*\* Recently announced, Military retirees can still be court martialled for crimes committed after they leave the service.
- \*\* The VA has updated its [va.gov](http://va.gov) site which has been built by veterans to be used by Veterans and is user friendly; you can register for a tutorial on-line.
- \*\* The VA has opened Geriatric Patient Aligned Care Team (GeriPACT) clinics in several of its medical centers, such as Atlanta, Richmond, et al. but not yet in Coatesville.
- \*\* An Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., is scheduled for June 2nd.
- \*\* Cardiac surgeons at the VA in Washington, D.C., are using new synthetic aortic heart valve replacements instead of those with human tissue, and they are said to

Blue print = email addresses Red print = website hot links  
[www.vva436.org](http://www.vva436.org): for updates & meetings minutes.

last longer and have fewer complications.

- \*\* You can check off the box on your PA state tax returns to send your refund as a tax deductible contribution to the PA Military Family Assistance Fund.
- \*\* Jim D described a monthly ceremony, held at Washington Crossing National Cemetery, to honor vets who died alone. Frank, Ralph and a few others will attend this on 4/28. Contact them for details.

### CVAMC/SEVC:

- \*\* Bingo night at the SEVC will be March 26th at 1830 hours.
- \*\* Kirk Fernitz, Director of Community and Public Affairs at CVAMC is setting up a trip to the Warbirds Museum to see their refurbished helo.

### Doc's Corner:

- \*\* MyHealthVet has posted useful information re diabetic neuropathy at <https://www.myhealth.va.gov>.
- \*\* A University of Washington study shows that prolonged use of the weed killer Round Up can increase the incidence of non-Hodgkins lymphoma by 41% in those who use the product. There are about 800 on-going lawsuits against that company.
- \*\* Medical marijuana is now legal in 33 states and "recreational use" will soon be legal in some as well (so much for traffic safety!).
- \*\* A report received from VVA Chapter 67 notes that "single pass distillation" of water used on ships would actually *increase* the concentration of AO in water used by the ship's crew.

### Annual Chapter Election: for Officers and Directors

was held; the slate approved last month was approved unanimously and will be sworn in at our April 6th banquet. The Secretary will notify (cast the ballot) the PASC of the result.

### Of Interest/Good of the Chapter:

- \*\* Tom Bucci, of *Soldier Sanctuary*, is starting a program on basic astronomy for VA patients. Mike DiPuppo is helping coordinate the project and will provide us with updates.
- \*\* VVA's Working Group 1, researching ways to continue VVA's legacy, has met some problems which may or may not get solved before the national convention.
- \*\* Al Duncan updated us re the MOPH annual recognition banquet, and Jack McFadden spoke of the Liam Nevins Trap Shoot.
- \*\* Request for Freedoms Foundation dues was referred to Barry for review.
- \*\* Motion (Amole, Bassetti) for a donation to the Trap Shoot, and Motion (Schweitzer, Bassetti) to reimburse Frank for costs of attendees at the MOPH luncheon, were passed unanimously.
- \*\* Details for several of the above items are in the posted Minutes Motion (Duncan, McCullough) to adjourn at 2130 was passed by acclamation.



### Major L. F. Guillermin Memorial Chapter 436

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Phoenixville, PA 19460

Email: [vva436@gmail.com](mailto:vva436@gmail.com)

website: <http://www.vva436.org>

Address label here