

The Voice of 436

July 2018



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



Next meeting:

Sept. 12th, 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 or call Post 845 for updates

The June 13, 2018, meeting of VVA Chapter 436 was called to order at 1935 hours by President Frank Houck, with 11 Officers and Directors in attendance. There was an SRO crowd, with 26 members and several relatives and friends of the scholarship winners in attendance. President Houck led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and a moment of silence followed for our POW-MIAs. Jed Burns gave the opening prayer and Secretary Mike DiPuppo called the roll. On proper motion (Amole, Burns) the reading of the minutes of the May meeting was skipped and they were approved as posted on the website. Motion (DiPuppo, Amole) to approve Treasurer Jim Doedderlein's financial report, subject as always to audit, was approved unanimously, and a second motion (Gallagher, Cantone) to approve the SGOC report submitted by 2nd VP Barry Amole was similarly approved. Both documents are to be posted on the website with the minutes.

Jed Burns then introduced the evening's guest speaker, Dr. Christopher Fiorentino, Ph.D., President of West Chester University. Dr. Fiorentino joined the faculty of WCU in 1983. He earned his Doctorate in Economics during that time and subsequently rose to be Dean of the College of Business and Public Affairs,

a position he held for 20 years. He was inaugurated as President of WCU in 2017.

He had attended college during the Vietnam Era and was familiar with the impact that the War had on society and on ROTC programs across the nation during and after the War. Since then, WCU's ROTC was re-established and they now have a strong and growing ROTC under the guidance of Gen. Dick Merion, USAR, Ret., who is a WCU alumnus. Many veterans now attend WCU. They have many obvious challenges to overcome so WCU is committed to making sure they are successful as students and in campus life. They have a Veterans Center on campus with staff who have hands on contact with the veterans, and they have a POW-MIA chair in the Student Union. He said the ROTC commissioning ceremony held at the annual graduation ceremonies always generates a standing ovation and noted that he had recently met a lady who was so moved by WCU's support of Veterans she donated \$1 million to provide lasting support of Veterans programs.

Dr. Fiorentino was presented with one of our new Challenge Coins by Jed Burns in appreciation for his speech and support of our veterans.

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

Upcoming Meetings

As always, there will be no regular membership meetings during the months of July and August. Any extra-ordinary meetings of the Board of Officers and Directors can be called by the President, giving notice to those involved. The next regular meetings are scheduled for September 12th and October 10th.

Jed Burns has been working on securing speakers for those dates.

Website: <http://www.vva436.org> Minutes of the most recent meetings, including enclosures of the financial reports, are posted for the members' perusal, including the financial reports. News of any events or developments during the summer months will be sent to Webmaster Phil Prinzi for posting, so please visit the site frequently to keep up to date, and if you have anything of interest to share be sure to route it through Ken Schweitzer and/or President Houck.

Newsletter: To have an item considered for the Newsletter, forward it to either John Morris @ www.vva436@gmail.com or to Doc Maher at jmahermdmph@yahoo.com, preferably before the end of the month so we can work it into the next issue.

Membership: Jim Doedderlein reports that we currently have 143 Active Members and 12 Associate Members on the rolls. Jim is working to develop an updated list of the Associates so we can contact them and invite them to participate more.

Agent Orange: There was no formal report about AO this time. In addition to the excellent AO articles (by Mary Stout and Paul Sutton) in the March/April issue of *The VVA Veteran*, be sure to read the series of articles by Ken Olsen on "Exposure Wars," in *The American Legion Magazine* (June, July, August issues).

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: ____/____/____

- Dues: \$20.00/year (regular and associate memberships). **VVA Life Membership: \$100**
- 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.** Cost based on age

Education/Scholarship Committee:

Following the guest speaker's presentation, Jed Burns introduced the winners of this year's scholarship competition. This year there were actually three awards given out.

** First, Jed presented the new Fifer Family Scholarship of \$1000 to Lauren Vanasse from East High School, who will be going to the University of Rochester to study Biology.

** Next, Tanner Kouba, Downingtown East High School, received one of the Chapter's \$1000 scholarship awards. He plans to attend Delaware County Community College for two years and then transfer to WCU where he will study Criminal Justice and Psychology and afterwards plans to enter the Army.

** Brian Zoretic, Henderson High School, received the third award of \$1000. He will attend Penn State University and major in IT and Information Science.

** Jed also introduced Cory Bell, the Head Counselor at Henderson High School, who was very instrumental in helping Jed and his Committee members with this important scholarship program.

** President Houck encouraged all the recipients to stay in touch with the Chapter; we would really like to know how they are progressing.

** The Chapter members wish to thank Jed and his staff for all their efforts on this important outreach/service program. Well done!

** It was also proposed that both the Fifer family and Adam Devenney should be made aware of the Chapter's grateful appreciation for their donations to this cause.

Incoming Correspondence:

** The Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs thanked us for our donation in support of providing their petting zoo.

** Christine Beady, our recent speaker from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, also sent thanks for the additional donation we provided in support of their many programs and services.

PA State Council Meeting

** Dave McTavish attended the meeting at State College in early June for President Houck. He reports that they discussed many topics, ranging from Veterans Affairs and the Household Goods Reports of 3/1 and 8/1, and other important topics.. He noted that applications for the Vietnam veterans license plates are available through the link provided on the VVA-PA State Council's website (www.VVA-PA.org) He also reported that the representative from the Altoona VA said they have begun closing certain programs and farming them out to the facilities in Indiana and Huntingdon, which are in their service area.

Our New Challenge Coin: The order has been received (see Website for pictures). Every member and associate will receive a free new coin. Additional copies can be purchased at \$5.00 each. Rob Gallagher will be checking the Roster and send coins to the members who live out-of-state, or who cannot make the meetings. We will also be sure to send a coin to Major Louis Guillermin's widow.

Blue print = email addresses Red print = website hot links
www.vva436.org: for updates & meetings minutes.

VA/SEVC/Veterans Affairs:

The VA Mission Act (HR5674/S5237), signed into law by President Trump on June 6th (D-Day) is meant to "maintain internal systems and strengthen integrated outside networks." It has a \$50+ billion spending package, but the GAO's report indicates that the VHA and VAMCs are not able to respond to the needs of the Choice Program due to "inadequacies of networks, geographic distribution and insufficient numbers of community providers," according to John Rowan, VVA National President..

** You can find a summary of the Act by Googling "The VA Mission Act of 2018." Be sure to read the summary and pose any questions you have to your Representatives. Certain sections may be more applicable to Viet Nam Veterans.

** President Houck strongly encourages anyone who served in-country, swam or bathed in the rivers, drank the water or ate the fish, to get their doctors to test them for the liver fluke infestation which can cause cancer of the bile duct, gall bladder and liver. Visit <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures> and key in 'liver fluke' for info and photo.

** In late June the House finally approved HR 299, *as amended*, which would extend AO exposure benefits to BWNVN vets, Korean DMZ vets and certain offspring of Thailand vets, so now the ball is in the Senate's court.

** Jed Burns has placed the completed trophy display case in SEVC's Building 3. It will house two Michael Crescenz statuettes (VVA 436's and DAV's).

Contact Joe or Jed to contribute other items.

**The SEVC's Open House Wine & Cheese Party is scheduled for June 16th.

** The annual Father Fest will be June 17th at the Helicopter Museum.

** Bingo Night at the SEVC is set for June 26th; contact Ken Schweitzer to help.

** Good Neighbor Day is scheduled for Kerr Park, Downingtown, on July 4th; contact Bob Gallagher to help.

** The SEVC Car Show will be August 11th.

Of Interest/Good of the Chapter:

The Crab Fest will be held 1930 hours, August 18th, at the Hilltop Crab House, Toughkenamon.

** Reading Phillies game is August 24, starting 1800; see Barry for tickets.

**Boscov's event is October 16th; see Chris Pitt for tix.

** Motion (Macero, DiLodovico) to sponsor a foursome at the Turtle Creek tournament, 9/7, and Motion (DiLodovico, Gallagher) to donate to the MOPH VF Chapter 1777 event in Philly on 6/20, were both approved.

** Adjournment Motion (Burns, McCullough) approved at 2110 hours.



Major L. F. Guillermin Memorial Chapter 436

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Phoenixville, PA 19460

Email: vva436@gmail.com

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

Address label here