

The Voice of 436

August 2019



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



Next meeting:
American Helicopter
Sept. 11th, 6:30 p.m.
1220 American Blvd,
West Chester, PA 19380

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

Chapter officers 2019-2020

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

As in the past, the two months of July and August constitute the summer hiatus for VVA Chapter 436. No regular meetings are scheduled during that period, although the President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and Officers to deal with specific administrative issues which might pop up in the interim.

A BoD meeting was held on 7/30, covering several routine items; two donations were discussed and approved, and an audit of the books was completed.

Even though there are no regular meetings for those two months, that does not mean that our members aren't busy with various community-based and/or veteran-related activities. Because many regular members usually pitch in to help and participate in those events, we like to recognize them here for their active participation with, by and for their fellow Veterans.

For example, Rob Gallagher reports that the annual Fathers' Fest was held at the American Helicopter Museum & Educational Center off Airport Road in West Chester, on Fathers' Day, Sunday June 16th. Our VVA 436 table was set up and manned by Bob Gallagher, Sandy Lopacki, Al Duncan, Rick Weimar, Jed Burns, and Dave McTavish., who collected \$64.00 for the PA Wounded Warriors Project. Again, starting at 0730, he, Jim

Doedderlein, Chris Pitt, and Sandy Lopacki set up and manned our VVA 436 table on July 4th at the Good Neighbor Day event in Kerr Park, Downingtown. Foot traffic was lighter than expected for that annual event, however they still managed to collect \$88.00 for the PA Wounded Warriors Project before closing up at 1400 hours.

On July 23rd, several members (Ken Schweitzer, Cliff Barnett, Tony Cantone, Dennis Fenstermacher, Bob Stone, and Rick Weimar) took part in the SEVC's Bingo Night held the 4th Tuesday of the month.

On July 25th, Jim D drove to Washington Crossing Cemetery for the service honoring unattended veterans funerals, and on July 27th Joe Melchiorre, Rick Weimar, Chris Pitt and Ken Schweitzer were among the 100 or so who gathered at the CVAMC site for the static display of the Liberty War Birds-restored vintage UH-1 Huey Iroquois which had flown for the 101st in 'Nam.

Many thanks to Mike and Patty DiPuppo who hosted a barbecue event on July 13th for our *Los Gourmanderos*. Seven other members and their spouses and date, all enjoyed the food and camaraderie (Bob and Kathy Gallagher, Jim and Kathy Doedderlein, Vince and Sally DiLodovico, Tony and Jodi Cantone, Al and Paula Duncan, Frank and Barbara Houck, and Doug Forsythe and date Charmaine). A grand time was had by all.

Upcoming Meetings

Jed Burns is working on holding the next regular membership meeting at the Helicopter Museum on 9/11, and is planning again to have Mission BBQ as co-hosts, plus a film presentation. The meeting begins at 1830.

Website: <http://www.vva436.org> Webmaster Phil Prinzi continues to provide our site maintenance and updates on any official events or important announcements. Please help us show our appreciation for his efforts by visiting the site regularly and providing him any constructive criticism. Remember to submit any items for posting through Ken Schweitzer at k.schweitzer@hotmail.com

Newsletter: We plan on continuing the tradition of issuing The Voice of 436 during the summer months, as in the past. So, if you have items of interest, please send them to John Morris at VVA436@Gmail.com, or to Doc Maher at jmahermdmph@yahoo.com. Please include event details (date, location, names of participants, etc.).

Membership: With sadness, we belatedly report the passing of Jeff White on July 3rd (*see comment on Page 2*). Jim D reports no change in our membership numbers.

Agent Orange: VVA National President, John Rowan, notes that the Court of Appeals ruling in January found that the intent of Congress in the Agent Orange Act of 1991 was to extend benefits to all Veterans who had been awarded the Viet Nam Service Medal, which includes "all military, naval, and air service personnel who served in the Vietnam War Theater of Operations" between 1/9/62 and 5/7/75. Details, criteria and requirements of the BWNVNV Act of 2019 may be found at <http://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/299/text>.

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

Jeff White passed away on July 3rd:

Despite his handicaps, Jeff had served as past President of the PASC and as the State Membership Chairman for VVA-PA. We call your attention to the full page tribute to Jeff on Page 7 of the PASC Newsletter. which is available on page 7 of the PASC newsletter, and which we've asked Webmaster Phil Prinzi to try to post on our website. One way or another, nearly all our active members knew, had met, or heard from, Jeff either during his periodic visits to our regular meetings, the State Council meetings, his direct and often pointed talks and e-mails, or his sincere efforts to keep the VVA current, straightforward, committed to its vision, mission, constitution and bylaws, and especially by his tendency "to tell it as he saw it." But there was no mistaking his integrity, his zeal and devotion to the VVA and his fellow Veterans. He will be missed. *Requiem aeternam dona ei, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei.*

VVA's 19th National Convention was held July 16th to 20th, in Spokane, Washington. We have not yet received any final summary or report of the proceedings, but are eagerly awaiting same. Leading up to the event there have been numerous committee reports and comments by National President Rowan in the recent monthly issues of *The VVA Veteran* magazine which you should be receiving regularly by mail, and which should be required reading. Committee reports for the two Working Groups on the VVA "Legacy Issues" appeared in the March/April *VVA Veteran* magazine. And President Rowan, noting that we must prepare for the ultimate transition, gave a brief recap of two possible routes in the July/August issue of that publication.

** President Rowan has reiterated VVA's most important legislative priorities including, first of all, the demand for the fullest accounting of America's POW-MIAs, and specifying our appreciation for, and support of, the activities of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

** Other major legislative issues for VVA include the effects of toxic defoliants, not only in Viet Nam, but also the Korean DMZ, Thailand, other TOOs, and such places as Guam and Okinawa, as well as the various toxic exposures for our deployed military in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Somalia, Philippines, and at our domestic military and air bases in the CONUS.

Toxic Exposures:

** The July/August VVA Veteran has an interesting article (pp.34-35) re Toxic effects on offspring and the next generation by Kelsey Yoon, VVA Senior Attorney Advisor, who can be contacted at kyoon@vva.org or at (310) 585-4000, ext.149.

** More than a dozen veterans' advocacy groups are joining forces to track and highlight toxic exposure illnesses among veterans.

**The Toxic Exposures in the American Military coalition (TEAM) will focus on issues related to toxic exposures and push for quicker action on this growing health care crisis.

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

** Paul Sutton sent out a link to a "must see" 40 minute AO documentary which we were able to watch but unable to replicate the URL. However, Webmaster Prinzi has posted it on Facebook for your convenience.

VA/Veterans Affairs:

** On page 26 of the July/August VVA Veteran there is a notice, and invitation to join, the Combat Infantryman's Association. Contact Combat Infantrymen's Association at <https://cibassoc.com> or call (828)490-9303.

** The AMAC Magazine (May/June) calls attention to HR 2552, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY), which calls for the repeal of any Social Security or Tier 1 Railroad retirement funds benefits in calculating gross income for income tax purposes. Contact your elected federal officials if you want to support the bill.

** The US Dept. of Housing and Urban development has announced the availability of \$40 million in HUD-VASH vouchers in partnership with the VA to enable homeless Veterans and their families to access affordable housing and support services. ** In April, President Trump signed into law the Veterans Choice Improvement Act which removes some previous barriers and lets Vets seek patient care from private doctors. Some have welcomed this and others fear it is one more step toward privatization of the VA system.

** The July 12th *Web Weekly* site discusses "The Top 5 Questions about Urgent Care"

State Council: The next meeting of the PASC is scheduled for October 12-13

Of Interest/Good of the Chapter:

** Month of July (7/1 -7/31), Boscov's stores have been holding an innovative "Christmas in July" event, featuring an "Angel Tree" with cards indicating wearable goods which customers can buy for needy area Veterans. We had shared that info with the CVAMC's Volunteer Services folks who provided a list of names and needed items for local Veterans. We hope to get an after-action report/summary on this and whether it was successful enough to repeat again next year.

** August 5th will be our luncheon event at the CVAMC, Bldg 138, set-up at 1100. Ken needs help with this; let him know (k.schweitzer@hotmail.com), if you can/will help.

** August 10th will be the SEVC's Car Show, and Ken needs volunteers from 0830 to 1500 to help bring this event off properly.

** August 16th is the Chapter's annual trip to the Reading Phillies game and buffet. Be sure to check with Barry Amole re tickets and time (blamole@comcast.net).

** August 28th is the annual Crab Fest scheduled at the Hilltop Crab House in Toughkenamon, starting at 1800 hours. Let Frank know (frankhouck@gmail.com) if you plan on attending.

** September 1st there will be a Veterans Wellness Expo co-sponsored by CVAMC and the Norristown Veterans Center, at the MontCo Community College in Blue Bell, PA, from 1100-1600.

** Fox News is looking to interview Marines about their harrowing experiences; contact briana.vota@FOXNEWS.com if interested.



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

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

Address label here