

The Voice of 436

August 2020 ✪ Major Louis. F. Guillermin Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 436



Next meeting:

October 14, 2020

Location and time: TBD

Bad weather cancellations:

email notices will be sent or call 484 705-5041

The Board of Director's meeting of VVA436 was called to order by President Frank Houck at 1015, at VFW Post 106, 837 Lincoln Ave in West Chester, Pa. The phone number is 610-696-5858. Board members Vince DeLodovico, Chris Pitt, Sandy Lopacki, and Denny Fenstamacher were excused, all others present. Members present for Auditor Duties, included, Dave McTavish and Mike Ricci, (Commander, Post 106). All financial records were audited, and found to be in compliance. Our thanks to the Auditors.

As this was a BOD meeting, and not a normal monthly meeting, the usual format was not followed.

Frank discussed several topics of concern to the membership, including; As we continue to struggle with the effects of COVID-19, our financial circumstances may preclude mailing Newsletters to the membership. The email version will continue, however. Therefore, all members who have been receiving the Newsletter via snail mail, are highly encouraged to notify Frank, at: frankhouck@gmail.com, or VVA436@gmail.com. With email addresses. Also, since HHG finances have been curtailed, due to the pandemic, as well as the closure of VFW Post 845, affecting our Small Games of Chance financials, our income has been greatly reduced.

Bob Gallagher will notify our out of state members, requesting email addresses be forwarded to the Chapter. 2nd VP Barry Amole, (Small Games Of Chance Finance Officer) advised, our SGOC funds may be drying up soon, although nothing firm yet.

Membership Committee Chair, and Treasurer, Jim Doederlein reports, no new members were added this period. A second submission for membership for Ed Gaudreau was denied, as service dates were not within the current period accepted by VVA. He was offered an Associate membership, which was declined again.

In VA related news: It was mentioned, the SEVC is requesting donations of "Big Ticket items" since small donations are on hold, due to the pandemic. Two outdoor pavilions are requested at the center, for patient and relatives use. It was decided by the Board, to decline the request, due to our reduced funding. The cost was \$2000.00 each. At Coatesville Center, donations of underwear, socks, etc., are always in need. Additionally, computers are requested at the CLC, for patients recreational use.

Chapter officers 2019-2020

President: Frank Houck
1st V.P.: Ken Schweitzer
2nd V.P.: Barry Amole
Secretary: Michael DiPuppo
Treasurer: Jim Doederlein
Directors: Robert Gallagher
Chris Pitt,
Sandy Lopacki
Vince DiLodovico
Ralph Bassetti
Ron Kosh
D. Fenstamacher

Upcoming Meetings

Regular membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, exclusive of July and August. Next meeting is scheduled for 14 October, 1930 hrs. Place TBD, based on availability of Post 845, and, or, 106. Stay tuned.

Website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.vva436.org/"](http://www.vva436.org/) Webmaster Phil Prinzi continues to do a great job with the site, and would appreciate comments, and suggestions. Regular updates are posted with important issues of concern to the membership. Please visit regularly to stay informed.

Newsletter: This edition is published as soon as possible upon receipt of the minutes, and all available updates submitted by the membership. Events beyond our control, are always affecting the release date. We endeavor to submit the info to the membership, as quickly as possible.

Membership: As last reported, we had 140 members and, 9 Associates.

Agent Orange: See Comments below, and visit: www.VA.gov for more in depth information.

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 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)

HYPERLINK
["https://vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Membership-Quick-Reference-Guide-January-2018.pdf"](https://vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Membership-Quick-Reference-Guide-January-2018.pdf) AVVA Life Membership. Price based on age

As reported in the last issue, with few Honor Guard exceptions, ALL major Chapter activities have been cancelled, until further notice, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will update the membership on changes to this report, as received. Please visit the Chapter website regularly, to stay informed. www.VVA.436.org. As for the Honor Guard: We will provide a 5 man flag detail, to present the colors, at the Mission BBQ restaurant in Plymouth Meeting on 9/11, to participate in their Annual Day of Remembrance, commemorating the events of September 11, 2001. Local Fire and Police Depts, take part in the solemn ceremony. Our detail will present arms to the playing of our National Anthem, sung by a local vocalist.

In other news regarding the Veterans Administration, as submitted by Doc Maher. Veterans interested in getting the latest updates on VA news and resources, can do so by joining their newly launched VA Podcast Network, and/or signing up for the VVA's Government Relations Newsletter. Use your web Browser, and type: "The New VA Podcast Network", for the link, and also, "VVA Governments Newsletter". Also, the VA is working to increase awareness of the benefits of early screening for Lung Cancer, to try to catch it at an early stage, when it is more easily treated. Some 900,00 aging veterans, especially those who smoked, and or, were exposed to environmental toxins are at increased risk and most cases these days aren't caught until stage 4. Visit:

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage>. PA's DMVA wants to assure Veterans, that state and federal benefits processing are still going on. For info see: <https://www.media.PA.gov/Pages/Military-and-Veterans-Affairs-Details.aspx?newsid=450>, or checkout the DMVA Digest for July 15th.

As of August 5th, the U S Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has passed 12 legislative bills affecting areas such as; Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act, VA Mission Telehealth Clarification Act, Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act, K2 Toxic Exposure Study, Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act of 2019, Veterans Debt Fairness Act, TEAM Veteran Caregiver Act, and several more. View more at VVA.gov.

2020 Agent Orange Newsletter - Now Online See More at: veteranshealth@public.govdelivery.com, then/or, <https://bit.ly/32YG9cM>.

DoD is closing in on COVID-19 convalescent plasma collection goal. The program is designed to obtain 10,000 units of blood samples from the military community, who have recovered from the virus. CCP will then be given to critically ill patients, to support the development of an effective treatment against the disease. Donors, please visit the Armed Services Blood Program website: www.militaryblood.dod.mil/Donors/COVID-19.

In this section, I will attempt to encapsulate the Special Bulletin I received from State Council, concerning a ZOOM meeting, dated 29 August. This meeting was held by members of VVA National Executive Board, and attended by available members of PA State Council.

These notes are being distributed by PA State President Tom Habercorn:

VVA National President Rowan stated:

1. VVA will NOT be going out of business any time soon, barring some other catastrophe.
2. The name WILL remain the same. Officers will not pursue any name change or admission of non-Vietnam Veterans any further.
3. VVA remains busy on Capitol Hill, fighting for Vietnam Veterans benefits.

VVA National VP Tom Burke stated:

1. 11 Staff positions and 2 attorneys were let go, laid off, or resigned. Severance was received by all.
2. States that operate through the Veterans Trust Fund will continue through the end of the year.

VVA National Treasurer McManus stated:

1. VVA lost 62% of its revenue due to the virus.
2. 2021 budget is reduced substantially. All travel stopped, thrift stores laid off 4000 people, hopefully stores will reopen in Oct., 2021 Convention is still on, as of now/cost at @\$400,000, recoup @\$300,000.

VVA National Secretary Meeks stated:

1. Approximately 75% of Election Reports are still outstanding
2. No extension for Financial Reports granted by IRS for VVA.
3. All state council presidents were to update National with positions/names/addresses etc.
4. National will keep State Councils informed of meeting dates, times, etc.

The complete Newsletter/Meeting notes will be added to the Blog, upon completion of this Newsletter.

[HYPERLINK "http://www.vva436.org" www.vva436.org](http://www.vva436.org)
for updates & meetings minutes.



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Address label here