



PO BOX 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vva351.org

contact@vva351.org

***March – April
2012***



**Fox Valley's Only Chartered
Vietnam Veterans Organization Serving Area Veterans Since 1987**

V.V.A. CHAPTER #351 – Officers

President Mike Weaver
Vice President.....Joe Eiting
Secretary Dave Evans
Treasurer.....Jake Paltzer
Board of Directors: (B. O. D.)..... Mike Hoks
Board of Directors: (B. O. D.).....Richard Forrest

Public Affairs

Newsletter Editor.....Jake Paltzer
Assistant Editor, Ads.....Leon Meidam
Printing / Mailing.....Jake Paltzer
Parade / Color Guard.....Carlton Schuh
Sunshine.....Chris Meidam
WebSite.....Joe Eiting

Veterans Affairs

The Highground.....Leon Meidam
POW/MIA.....Richard Forrest
Adopt-A-Family.....Chuck Lewis
Fox Valley Veterans Council.....David Evans
Taps.....Tom Driessen

Membership

Veterans Collectibles/Membership.....John Fiers
Recognition / Awards.....David Evans

Finance

Fundraising.....Leon Meidam
Wreath.....Leon Meidam
POW/MIA.....Jake Paltzer
Orange Blossom.....Jake Paltzer
Budget.....Leon Meidam

Education

Scholarship.....Carlton Schuh
Vietnam Program..... B.O.D.
Vietnam Display.....Leon Meidam
Panel Presentations.....Leon Meidam

Community Service

Adopt-A-Highway..... Jer Sanderfoot
Boy Scouts.....to be appointed
Veterans Day Group.....Jake Paltzer
Military Support Group..... Mike Weaver

Chapter Appreciation

Picnic.....Mike Weaver
Halloween Party.....Chris Meidam
Appreciation Dinner.....Mike Weaver
Free Fire.....Tom Driessen

Nomination / Constitution

Nomination.....Tom Driessen

Contacts

Chapter contact@vva351.org

GOALS

VVA's goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam Veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of Veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam Veterans.

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

County Veterans Service Officers:

Calumet Co..... Bill Krizek (920) 849-1452
Outagamie Co.....Jon Li Donne (920) 832-5697
Waupaca Co.....Wayne Knutson (715) 258-6475
Winnebago Co. Neenah Robert Stone (920) 729-4820

VA Medical Center

Milwaukee - Clement J. Zablocki888-469-6614
Appleton – John Bradley.....920-831-0070
VA Great Lakes Center.....800-872-8662
VA Regional Office (Milwaukee).....800-827-1000
Vet Center – Milwaukee.....1-414-536-1301
Informational and Referral 24 / 7
Non-Emergency.....211 or 800-924-5514

U.S. Rep. Reid Ribble

8th District, WI

P.O. Box 7200 – Appleton, WI 54912
(920) 499-4000

U.S. Senator Herb Kohl

14 W. Mifflin St. Suite 207 – Madison, WI 53703-2576
(920) 738-1640

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson

P.O. Box 1159 – Oshkosh, WI 54903-1159
(920) 230-7070

State Senator Mike Ellis

429 S. Commercial St. – Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 751-4801

VVA 351 MEETINGS

The Chapter meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, 6:30 pm refreshments and social time. Call to Order 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

2012

March 14th – Chapter meeting

April 11th – Chapter meeting

May 9th – Chapter meeting

June, July and August – no meeting

September 12th – Chapter meeting

MEETING FACILITY

Chapter meetings will be held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 724 E. South River Street – Appleton.

This is across the river from Lawrence University in Appleton. Park in the “West” lot and use the Church entrance on that side.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 8th – Easter

May 4th & 5th – Chapter’s Orange Blossom Drive

May 11th & 12th – Disabled American Veteran’s Forget Me Not Drive

May 13th – Mother’s Day

May 28th – Memorial Day

June 9th – Appleton Flag Day Parade

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

The Winchester Rendezvous, sponsored by the Winchester Area Historical Society in September 2011, reenacting the life style of the late 1800s. Chapter members, (left to right) Leon Meidam, Mike Hoks and his wife Peg, gold miner Dennis Laubenstein, Richard Forrest and blacksmith Chris Schlagenhafp and his two children. The gold miner and blacksmith are not Chapter members. It was a life stlye of hard work yet there was time to enjoy what you worked for. More photos on page 9.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Highground

Dear Friends of The Highground:

Thank you for your generous tax-deductible donation of \$100.00 to support The Highground's 2011 Bicycle Tour. Your donation helps support the mission of healing and education at The Highground.

"Volunteers and Contributors are the Heart of The Highground". These frequently spoken / written words ring true because they underlie the very essence of The Highground itself.

We have established Visionaries and Immortals Endowment Fund at The Highground. We would appreciate your consideration in your future financial planning.

Again, thank you for your continuing support and interest in The Highground.

Sincerely,

Kirk Rodman – Volunteer General Manager Members – thanks for all that you do!! Have a great Holiday.

(The Chapter sponsored three members for the bike tour at \$100.00 each.)

Veterans Assistance Program

Dear Leon Meidam,

On behalf of the residence and staff of the Veterans Assistance Program, we would like to thank you for your donation of coffee and creamer!! The residents here greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness. This response to our needs was truly a considerate act on your behalf. It brightens the day for the Veterans to know that someone cares and is thinking of them.

The support you provide to the Center, along with the continuing support we receive from various corporations, groups, and individuals, convinces us that there are truly people who care about the men and women who gave to their country in its time of need. It is the donations we receive that make possible many of the services the Vets here at the Center desperately need.

Your support is very much appreciated by everyone here at the Veterans Assistance Program. Please know that for tax purposes, your charitable contribution is limited to the “amount of the donation minus any services and good provided to you.”

Sarah Graham – Office Manager
Veterans Assistance Program – King

“Veterans Serving Veterans”

Appleton Military Support Group

Hi!!

Just a short note to thank you for all you do for the Support Group.
Sincerely,

Without your help of money, we would not be able to reimburse our members for sending packages to our loved ones.

Also, thank you for all the input you give us. It really helps our members out. Thank you again for all you do.

Have a great Christmas and a wonderful New Year!!

Marlene Cops – Appleton Military Support Group Members – thanks for all that you do!! Have a great Holiday.

STAND DOWN

Stand Down for homeless Veterans will be held on Saturday, March 31st, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Appleton National Guard Armory on 2801 West Second Street, Appleton, WI.

Stand Down is a military term for soldiers returning from battle, where they can rest and rehabilitate in a safe environment. The Stand Down for homeless Veterans is to provide a wide array of services for those Veterans living on the street. Services may include: referrals for emergency housing; medical services; legal services; employment and training; alcohol and drug treatment; clothing; toiletries; barbering; federal, state and county community based Veteran specific services. A hot breakfast and lunch for the homeless Veterans will be provided.

Vets will need a DD-214 or current VA Health Card for admission to this Vets only event. Vets, be sure to act now to get your DD-214 or VA Card.

If interested in participating in the Stand Down, please contact: Molly Miller (molly.miller@cvivet.org) or Fran Timm (fran.timm@cvivet.org) or call at 715-256-1118.

The Highground

The Highground has evolved to be a memorial park that pays tribute to the Dead, and honors the Survivors, their service, and their sacrifices. It also pays tribute to the people who supported them when they were away and upon their return.

This is a continuing series on the tributes at The Highground. The tribute “Fountain of Tears” reminds us of the “cost of war” the human cost. A GI, holding his buddy’s dog tags in one hand while his other hand is resting on the helmet that is placed on an impaled M-16 rifle of his fallen comrade, is the genesis for the tears that flow through five teardrops into a stream bed and under a bridge into a pond. Seated at the edge of the pond are the wife and child of the deceased Hero. This tribute is interactive, allowing visitors to touch the sculptures and “feel the pain” endured by those who are left behind.



The Winchester Rendezvous

Continuation of photo on the cover of the newsletter. Chapter members (R to L) Mike Hoks teaching the art of the tomahawk to Leon Meidam.



Chapter member Richard Forrest giving wagon rides at the reenactment. A lot of horses under one roof and “soft steel wheels” make for a smooth ride!!! It was an enjoyable and educational time.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM



1

2



Chapter members (white jackets to the far right) lining up with other Veteran organizations for the Veterans Day Program at the Outagamie County Court House on November 11th. In photo # 2, Chapter members, (L to R) Richard Forrest, Carlton Schuh and John Fiers “standing at ease” during the program. The program has a poster contest for students in the 7th and 8th grade. The students with their awards. Very talented!!!



Chapter Wreath Drive

The annual Chapter wreath drive went better then expected – due to the hard work of the members and an upturn in the economy. Photo on page 11 of some of the different wreaths, swags and crosses.

Hardy

Seventy that late March morn
When dad took mother there,
But when I came that evening
There were snowflakes in the air,

So I was born a Badger
On a windy, snowy night,
And grew up with the weather
And never got uptight

Cuz we truly have our seasons
That go from white to green
With lots of wind and rain and snow
And sunshine in-between.

Corn detasseled as a kid
And threw up bales of hay—
Didn't have to exercise
My job showed me the way

Along with education
To lead a fruitful life
In the beauty of Wisconsin
With my children and my wife

Skiing summer—winter—
And deep in fishing lore—
Watching mighty eagles cruise
Above the lakes and shore

Skating—snowmobiling—
Cheese, beer—Summerfest
And Harleys freely flying
Give us our verve and zest.

Raining, snowing—never knowing
Ever changing—playing sun—
Hardy people of Wisconsin
Always up for winter fun.

R.K. Mitby

Wreath Sales 2011

The Wreath Sales for 2011 did better than we had hoped for. We made over our budgeted income and under budget for cost. Our large wreaths did as well as we hoped. You did a great job on selling and we will not have to cut back on any programs next year. Thanks to the hard work of Chapter 351 members and some luck, and the wonderful supporters of this Chapter. The Chapter thanks Northland Mall for giving us a place to sell wreaths. We got a lot of work done on the selling booth thanks to Steven Buntjer and LeRoy Johnson. Setup went good this year. Helping setup were Steven Buntjer, LeRoy Johnson, Ralph Gehrmann and John Fiers Jr. The weather was great for working outside. We made a few changes for next year's setup. Thanks to Stan Tucker, we got the wreath sales on line and a work schedule for members to see what times we needed help. Scheduling volunteers to help sell has always been a big

job. Finding help and having someone at the selling stand went a lot easier for Chris this year to keep up with. Thanks to your help in calling in and signing up early.

Members that helped: LeRoy and Cheryl Johnson for getting and donating boughs to sell and made crosses and swags. This was a very big job this year. We did not get the boughs we ordered. LeRoy cut what we needed from his land for us to use this year. The following members that worked this year: LeRoy & Cheryl Johnson, Christine Meidam and Jacob Paltzer for decorating wreaths to sell. Their work added a lot to the Chapter's profits. Thanks to all the members that worked at Northland Mall and decorated wreaths as we need them: David Evans, Pat Gabriel, Ralph Gehrman, Tim Hewitt, Amy Jahn, LeRoy & Cheryl Johnson, Les Kersten, Christine Meidam, Jacob Paltzer, Burt Rosenthal, Carlton Schuh, Roxann Miller, Mike Hoks, Richard Forrest, Steven Buntjer, John Koehler, Richard Poukey, Charles Lewis and Bill Kunz. Thanks to Steven Buntjer and LeRoy Johnson for helping take down and packing everything away and have it ready for next year.

Without your donated time to the Chapter we could not make this fundraiser work. I also want to personally thank each and every one of you for all your help. You made my job so much easier.

Leon Meidam – Wreath Sale Committee Head

Note To A Fellow Veteran

I want to thank you for thinking of me at Christmas. You truly made my Christmas a happy one. The gift is much appreciated. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

Steve Buntjer

FUND RAISER

The Chapter will hold its annual Orange Blossom Drive on Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th. More information in the next newsletter.

Proud to be an American.

SAVE4VETS



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americannationalbank.org/vets

Veterans In Need

American National Bank Fox Cities has partnered with the Fox Valley Veterans Council to build an emergency fund for Fox Valley Veterans in need. Funds are needed annually for housing, utility payments, clothing, food, medicine, transportation or any other high priority need. This emergency fund can save lives and families. Visit our website at americannationalbank.org/vets

Military Accounts

American National Bank Fox Cities offers a special Liberty Checking and Savings account with benefits for military service members on active duty, Reserves, National Guard, or Veteran status.

Bank Here & We Donate

American National Bank Fox Cities will donate to the Fox Valley Veterans emergency fund throughout the year when you open a new checking or savings account, or when you take out a mortgage loan. (Now offering VA loans).

\$10 - Checking Account

\$10 - Savings Account

\$50 - Mortgage Loan



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**Life Member: V.F.W., V.V.A. – Chapter 351
and American Legion**



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WAYNE F. TAUBER
Owner/Funeral Director

Phone: 920 733-5435 Cell: 920 858-2942 Fax: 920 733-9458

Membership Eligibility

Regular Member: In Vietnam between **February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975** or any duty location in the world between **August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975**. Copy of DD 214 **required**.

AVVA Member: wives, children and concerned individuals.

To Join – Complete The Following

NEW () Renew () Member () AVVA ()

1 Year \$20.00 () 3 Year \$50.00 ()

Life \$225.00 () ages 50-55

Life \$200.00 () ages 56-60

Life \$175.00 () ages 61–65

Life \$150 () ages 66 and over

Life installments \$50.00 Down + 8 months of \$25.00

Limited time - \$50 rebate on Life Membership.

Name_____.

Address_____.

City_____.

State / Zip_____.

Phone_____.

Dues payable and mail to: Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 1862 – Appleton, WI 54912-1862

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC
CHAPTER 351 - APPLETON AREA
P.O. BOX 1862
APPLETON, WI 54912-1862