



**410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862**

**Appleton, WI 54912-1862**

**[www.vva351.org](http://www.vva351.org)**

**[contact@vva351.org](mailto:contact@vva351.org)**

***May - June  
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  
Joe Eiting.....920-358-6152

**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."***

## **Vietnam Education Program**

This is the time of the year that the Chapter's education program does a lot of work. President Mike Weaver gave an interview for a student putting in for a scholarship.

On March 20, Little Chute High School - booby trap presentation for one student's Vietnam Project was done by Leon Meidam. Now we are starting to do the schools in the area.

The Vietnam Education Presentation and Display Committees will do these schools:

Tuesday, April 17, Appleton Central Alternative High School, class room presentation all day - 7:30am to 3:00pm.

Friday, April 27, Hortonville High School, class room presentation all day - 7am to 4pm.

Wednesday, May 2, Menasha High School, display and presentation all day - 7am to 4pm.

Tuesday, May 8, Appleton North High School, display and presentation all day - 7am to 4pm.

Wednesday, May 9, Appleton East High School, will do 1 class room presentation.

Tuesday, May 22, Neenah High School, display 4:00 pm set up.

Wednesday, May 23, Neenah High School, display and presentation all day - 7am to 4pm.

Richard Forrest is responsible for display setups this year. He will need cooperation in the set ups. I will not be here next year for all the high school programs. This is his training year so be patient on setups. We have a lot of new members and we welcome you to come to see the display setup and watch or participate in the presentations.

The Vietnam display and presentations are free to all schools within 50 miles of Appleton. Schools over 50 miles, incur the cost of gas and meals if not provided for. All other events, \$250.00 per day and cost over 50 miles. Chapter membership can waive that fee. No Chapter member or helper gets a fee or payment for doing this program.

Leon Meidam, Display and Presentation Committee Head

## **VVA 351 MEETINGS**

The Chapter meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter meeting

**June, July and August** – no meeting

**September 12<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter meeting

**October 10<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter meeting

**November 14<sup>th</sup>** – 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**

**May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter’s Orange Blossom Drive

**May 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>** – Disabled American Veteran’s Forget Me Not Drive

**May 16<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter’s highway pickup

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** – Memorial Day

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** – Appleton Flag Day Parade

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter’s highway pickup

## **NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO**

The Chapter's Appreciation and Valentine Dinner Party was held at Mark's East Side Restaurant on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The guest of the party were Jon Li Donne, Outagamie County Veterans Service Officer, and his wife. In the photo (L – R) Leone and Joe Eiting and Jon and Tammy Li Donne. More photos on page 9.

## **ORANGE BLOSSOM DRIVE**

The V. V. A. – Chapter 351 will be holding a fundraiser called the Orange Blossom Drive. The drive will be on Friday, May 4, 2012 and starting this year the drive will also be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012. The drive will start at 8:00 am and go to 8:00 pm. The reason for the two day drive is to help support the funding of programs and activities of the Chapter. Some of the programs and activities are: sponsor and charter Boy Scout Troop 57 and Cub Scout Pack 3057; participate in Adopt-A-Highway Program; sponsor a bike tour for the Veterans Memorial Project at Neillsville; participate in Adopt-A-Family Program at Christmas time; fund an educational display of military equipment for students and the public; fund a Color/Honor Guard for parades, programs and dedications; help the Chapter be the leading advocate for Vietnam Veterans by securing benefits and services and assist needy Veterans, and their families, through programs managed by a local Veterans Council with the guidance of the local County Veterans Service Officer.

These are good programs and activities and to keep them vibrant requires financial support. This is where you can help. Take just 1 hour, more if you can, and offer the Orange Blossom to the public at the following businesses: Piggly Wiggly in Little Chute and Kaukauna; Festival Foods on Northland Avenue and Van Roy Road (off of CE); and Wal-Mart on Calumet Street (KK) and Neenah. Please contact Chris Meidam at 757-6587 to let her know where you would like to offer the flowers and at what times.

If you are unable to help by offering flowers at businesses, but still would like to help, you could make a donation to the drive. To make a donation: make the check out to the V.V.A. – Chapter 351 and in the memo section write Orange Blossom Drive. Mail to this address: V.V.A. – Chapter 351 – P.O. Box 1862 – Appleton, WI 54912-1862. The V.V.A. – Chapter 351 is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c) (19) of the IRS Code.

Jacob Paltzer - Orange Blossom Chairperson

## **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>:

At the Outagamie County Administration Building (Old Court House) – 410 S. Walnut Str. – Appleton, there will be a program honoring Garrick Eppinger Jr. and Anthony Warigi, from Outagamie County, who died while serving in American Armed Forces. The program starts at 10:00 am, assemble about 9:30 am as part of the Patriot Guard Riders’ “Circle of Comfort”, following the program, reception at McGuinness Irish Pub.

Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>:

The Veterans church service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church – 900 N. Mason Str. - Appleton. The service starts at 9:00 am, but assemble by 8:45 am.

Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>:

The Memorial Day Parade in Appleton starts at 9:00 am. Assemble at the Appleton V.F.W. Post on 501 N. Richmond Str. to ride to parade location on College Avenue about 8:00 am. The parade will march to Riverside Cemetery to be followed by a memorial program at the G.A.R. plot within the cemetery at about 10:00 am. At the conclusion of this program there will be a memorial program at St. Joseph’s Cemetery at the American Legion Plot. After this program the public is invited to the Appleton V.F.W. Post on Richmond Street for chili and socializing.

Please try to attend all three days of activities. On the May 28<sup>th</sup> program, if you can not march then you can ride on the float, jeep or trailer. The Boy Scout Troop 57 and Cub Scout Troop 3057 will be the Color Guard at the May 28<sup>th</sup> programs.

Let us take a minute to remember the **Fallen**. They served to make us and the world a safe place to live.

### **Flag Day Parade**

The Flag Day Parade is Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. The route has changed this year. The staging area is from Wisconsin Avenue east to Drew Street and north to Glendale Avenue. The parade starts at 2:00 pm and we will assemble about 1:00 pm at the Chapter's designated parade location. The parade starts on the corner of Oneida Street and Wisconsin Avenue going west on Wisconsin Avenue then turns left on to State Street then turns left on to Collage Avenue and ends at the reviewing stand just before Lawrence University. If you can not march then you can ride on the float, jeep or trailer. The Boy Scout Troop 57 and Cub Scout Troop 3057 will be the Color Guard at this parade. The Chapter picnic will follow the parade and will be held at the Erb Park. After the parade come to the pavilion at the park and enjoy great food and camaraderie.

### **V.V.A. Flag Day Picnic**

Every year we have our Chapter picnic, right after the Appleton Flag Day Parade, at Erb Park. The Chapter always provides the hamburgers, hotdogs, brats, and fixings along with the soda pop. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. Please call me at 920-757-6587 to let me know what you will be bringing. This helps make sure we have a good variety of food. See you at the picnic.

Christine Meidam



## The Highground

The Highground in Neillsville, Wisconsin has evolved to be a Veterans 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 “Ascension of Doves” was designed by Anne Jensen. It features seven doves taking flight through a stainless sphere. This signature sculpture for the Meditation Garden was sponsored by a Gold Star family in memory of their son who died in Iraq. This tribute is at the center of pathways leading to the four rooms in the Garden and offers spiritual strength and healing to those who walk along its paths.





1

Chapter President Mike Weaver was the Master of Ceremony for the Chapter's Appreciation (Valentine) Dinner Party which was held at Mark's East Side Restaurant. There were 28 people; members and their spouses or friends, and guests that enjoyed food, gifts and company. Mike remembered those soldiers from Wisconsin that died in Afghanistan in 2011. A special Thank You to Mike Weaver, and Chrisine and Leon Meidam for organizing and coordinating the rememberable evening. In photo #1 is Mike and his spouse Crystal.

On pages 10 and 11 are more photos party. In photo # 2, are (L to R) Ralph Gehrman and Diane and Dick Poukey and An Gehrman.

2



3



(L to R) Craig, Bill and Paula Kunz

4



(L to R) Nancy and John Koehler, Frank McGinnis, David Evans, Tim and Mary Hewitt and Leon Meidam.

5



(L to R) Peg and Mike Hoks and Richard and Cheryl Forrest

## Memorial / Veterans Day Programs

He came to all the programs  
With a face concealed and tight,  
And it wasn't hard to fathom  
That he'd been in the fight.

He stood there like a sentry,  
On the back edge of the crowd,  
And listened to the Veterans—  
To some extent was proud

That he had been a soldier  
And took it to our foes—  
But suffered through the decades  
Though very few would know

The scene within his mindset  
That never would erase  
The pain and lingering terror  
He brought home from that place.

Now, let's thank him for his service,  
For the pain that he still bares,  
For the many years of silence,  
When no one seems to care.

### PTSD

Suppressed  
PTSD  
Is like a  
Heavily constructed sealant  
That over time  
And through

Age and elements  
Slowly starts to allow  
    Oozing  
    And then leaking  
Until the pressure  
That is contained  
Can no longer be compressed,  
And it completely  
Looses its tension  
    And Explodes—  
If it isn't  
    Treated.

R.K. Mitby

**“Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up”**

**Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up:** Since I took over as the Coordinator on June 1, 2011, we have conducted three Highway Cleanups on a two-mile stretch of Highway 10 between County Road N and Highway 55. We collected 22 large bags of trash and 1 large bag of recyclables. The aluminum cans are still in my garage, waiting to be cashed in. Despite many rainy-day delays, we did manage to get the job done. I would like to thank the following individuals for their hard work and their service to this important project: John Fiers, Jake Paltzer, Dave Evans, Carl Schuh, Steve Buntjer and Amy Loritz (Appleton East High School Teacher). A special thanks goes out to Leon and Chris Meidam and their grandson Zeke. Last but not least, my special thanks goes to my wife Pam. Without all of your support, I would have not known what to do or where to begin. Thank you!

**2012 Clean-up Dates:** Wednesdays = May 16<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup>, September 19<sup>th</sup>. We meet at the “park & ride” on the NE corner of Highway 10 & County Road N at 5:00 P.M. The total job takes about an

hour, if eight volunteers show up. Please mark these dates on your calendar in pencil. If it was like last year, we will have some rainy-day changes. I also want to state that the “job” is not done until the “paperwork” is done. To accomplish this, we all meet at the Darboy (Mohnen’s) Family Restaurant for something to eat. It is located in the Darboy Plaza on the SE corner of County Roads N & CE, behind the BP gas station. Our VVA Chapter will donate \$5.00 towards each volunteer’s meal.

I will be sending out E-mail notices to all Chapter Members prior to our Clean-up dates. If you are interested in volunteering, please send me your E-mail address at: [jsanderfoot@new.rr.com](mailto:jsanderfoot@new.rr.com). I know that I am missing many e-mail addresses for our Chapter members. I will also ask to get these dates published on our website at [www.vva351.org](http://www.vva351.org).

Jer Sanderfoot - Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator

### **BOY SCOUT TROOP 57**

Boy Scout Troop 57, sponsored by the Chapter, is holding brat fries on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>; May 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>; June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>; and August 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The fund raising for the High Adventure Crew will be used for a trip to the Apostle Islands for a sea kayaking trip this August and next summer to Seabase in Florida for a scuba diving trip. The brat fries will be held at Festival Foods – 1200 W. Northland Avenue, Appleton. The Boy Scouts are working hard to achieve their goals. Stop and support the troop and enjoy a delicious brat or hamburger.

### **Scholarships**

The Chapter is giving out two \$1,000.00 scholarships this year. The selection process has started and members are reading and rating the applicants. We will put winners in next newsletter.

Carlton Schuh - Scholarship Committee Head

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#### *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](http://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).

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**THANK YOU!!**



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**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**