

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



410 W. Franklin Str. Unit 1862

Appleton, WI 54912-1862

www.vvawi351.org

info@vvawi351.org

*November-December
2017*



VVA Chapter 351 Reflections Group at Little Chute High

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

President	Larry Cavanaugh 920-264-7917
➤ lcavanaugh123@yahoo.com	
Vice President	John Koehler 920-858-3310
➤ kent1952@live.com	
Secretary	Dennis Bloy
Treasurer.../Budget	Phil Moore
Chaplain	Mike Weaver
Board of Directors -BOD	Joe Eiting
Board of Directors-BOD	Wade Van Ryzin
Board of Directors-BOD	Tom Bartel
Sunshine	Bill Olcott
Website	Angie Coenen
Newsletter /Asst. Website	Dale Siebers
The Highground Memorial	Leon Meidam
POW/MIA	
Adopt-A-Family	Chuck Lewis
FV Veterans Council & Recognition	David Evans
Taps	Tom Driessen
Membership	Joe Eiting
Fundraising / Charity Drives	
Education / Scholarship	Richard Poukey
Educational Program Coordinator	John Koehler
Community Service Adopt-A-Highway	Jer Sanderfoot
Military Support Group	Mike Weaver
Chapter Social Events Team	Eiting Koehler Weaver
Nomination / Constitution	Board of Directors
Sergeant-At-Arms	Frank Billings

OTHER CONTACTS

920-205-1565 Chapter info@vwawi351.org

Note: Contact list is blanked out on Web version

Late Breaking

The Meeting Schedule for 2018 will be held on the the3rd Monday of the month. See page 7 for details.

January:	1/15		
February:	None-	Valentine Dinner at 5th Qtr	2/14
March:	3/19	April:	4/16
May:	5/21	Summer:	None
September:	9/17	October:	10/15
November:	11/19	December:	None

NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

Chapter 351 Reflections of Vietnam Education group at Little Chute High School in May.

GOAL STATEMENT

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 the public perception of Vietnam Veterans.

THE VETERAN

A “Veteran”—active duty, reserve, discharged, or retired—is someone who wrote a blank check payable to the USA for an amount up to and including his/her life. This is a definition of honor; many fail to grasp or perhaps have forgotten this fact.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you know of a Chapter member that is not feeling well or is having surgery, please contact Bill Olcott at 920-733-8199. Bill sends get-well cards to those folks so they know that the Chapter has their well-being in mind.

President's Message

Chapter Tales

Fall is here; my favorite season. Our Chapter EDU program is near its end and we have a few social events on the calendar. Please review what you currently volunteer for and consider doing more for your Chapter. Contact Joe Eiting to check your current interests; then add more if you like. We would like to expand our EDU program, add social events, update our Artifact Display, and appear in more parades.

Many of us survived because of our military teams of gunners, riflemen, cooks, drivers, artillerymen and air-corps. Teamwork is the key. With that in mind, I'd like our meetings, to be free from confrontation as we strive to work as a team.

National Convention.- New Orleans

Membership continues to grow despite our advancing ages. Included in VVA National President, John Rowans opening remarks "'you have to love the enthusiasm of a 70-year-old willing to pay \$100 for a life membership".

Mr. Rowan and incumbent members of the executive board ran for office unopposed. Bob Grabinski from St. Cloud, MN is the new Region 6 Director. The big question was: "what will be the legacy of the VVA?" Two committees were formed to decide whether to change the By-laws to allow veterans from other campaigns to join us or to continue until no Vietnam Veterans remain. This will be an important deliberation.

Whatever is decided, as a Veterans Organization, we need to take note and be proud as this huge machine continues to fight for our cause. Our National officers are in the forefront of veteran's issues on Capitol Hill, championing protections all our veterans.

On the topic of Veteran Suicide, many think that the problem affects mostly our younger veterans. DoD data reveals that 50% of all veteran suicides are veterans 65 or older. DoD's acronym is LOSS (Late Onset Stress Syndrome) for this phenomenon. The theory is that when veterans find themselves retired, away from a job and friends, they have too much idle time. Let's help our friends and watch for warning signs that could be serious and get them assistance.

I wish the best, to you all!

Larry C.

Editor's Note

Check out Chapter 351's Webpage!

For Calendar items, Photo Gallery, Videos, and Events, please contact Angie Coenen at mamacoenen55@gmail.com .

A member asked about how the BOD handles request for donations above \$200. This is a reprint from the Jan/Feb N.L.

VVA 351 Member Request – Funds for Non-profit Causes

Periodically, a request for financial assistance for a non-profit organization is brought to the floor by a Chapter member. When this type of request is made, the following steps must be followed:

The request must be in writing, stating the name of the organization, the amount of money requested, specifically what it is to be used for, and when it is needed. If known, state what other group is currently helping to fund the entity.

The request must be submitted to the President or VP of the Chapter who—in turn—will submit it to the Executive Board for discussion and review. The Executive Board will present their views at the next scheduled membership meeting.

- *If the amount requested does not exceed \$200.00 the board will approve or disapprove the request.
 - *If the request is disapproved a member can request a vote at the next scheduled membership meeting. If the majority votes to fund the request, the board's decision will be overruled and the request will be granted.**
- *If the amount exceeds \$200.00 the membership will be asked to vote on the request at the next scheduled membership meeting.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VVA 351 MEETINGS

The Chapter meets once a month at 7:00 pm at VFW Post 2778, 501 N. Richmond Street, Appleton—according to the schedule. Refreshments/Social time at 6:30 p.m.—Call to Order/Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Meeting time is approximately one hour. Special events of interest may follow the meeting and there is time to socialize.

2017-18 Chapter Meeting Dates

November 30	December—No meeting
January 15	February—No meeting

November	Military Family Month
November 10th	Marine Corps Birthday
November 11th	National Veterans Remembrance Day
November 23rd	Thanksgiving Day
December 1st	Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday
December 7th	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 13th	National Guard Birthday
December 25th	Christmas
December 31st	New Year's Eve

Local Events and Offers

November/December Veterans Breakfast (see page 8)

EVENTS AND OFFERS

Saturday Morning Breakfast at Angel's

Join us and other veterans for breakfast on Saturday mornings. ALL Veterans of the US Armed Forces are welcome; bring a veteran buddy along—there is a lot of room. We have vets from WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars at our table(s). Angel's is at 1401 E. John St. Appleton—between College Ave. and John St. roundabouts.

2017 Breakfast Meeting Dates (8:30-10 a.m.)

November 11 & 25 and December 09 & 24.

Contact: John Koehler 920-858-3310 / kent1952@live.com

John Koehler '69-72' Semper Fi

FVTC Coffee for Veterans

FVTC has a new Resource Center for Veterans— to stop, study, and enjoy free coffee. The coffee and supplies are donated by the staff.

Free Coffee and Doughnuts

Festival Foods of Menasha & Neenah provide FREE coffee and doughnuts every Friday morning for veterans from 8 a.m. to noon. No RSVP required (Phone the store at 920-358-1554 for details).

The Salon Professional Academy - \$5 Veteran Haircut - Mondays

—Military / VA ID or DD-214 required—

3355 W College Ave Call: 920-968-0433

EVENTS AND OFFERS

Half-Off Meal at Appleton Mr. Cinders

Mr. Cinder's has a ½-off meal the 1st Monday of every month for veterans. Open at 10:30; offer runs all day—stop in and check it out.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Suicide Awareness

Members of our chapter, Chris and Wade Van Ryzin, Bill Olcott, and Joe Eiting, headed the committee for a statewide conference held in Waupaca on September 22. The program brought together two very well respected doctors who discussed the factors involved in the volume of veteran suicides. Eighty four attended the event from all across Wisconsin, which was intended to increase suicide awareness to others who may be the first to deal with someone contemplating suicide. The event was promoted by the Wisconsin State Council of VVA.

Chapter Jackets

If there are four or more members who would like to order white jackets please see Dennis Van Hoof right after the meeting. The same holds for the black covers. Dennis has two in stock, but will be ordering more. Your name has to be on the VVA roster or Phil Moore has to know that your check has been submitted to National.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

2018 Vietnam Trip

Next year commemorate several important 50 year events associated with the Vietnam War. If you have an interest in returning to Vietnam, here are the highlights:

The trip is led by 4 combat veterans who have lived in Vietnam for the past 15 years. It starts in Hanoi and ends up in Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) City with overnights in Hue, Da Nang, Na Trang , Quang Tri Province and other small cities.

The trip starts with a meeting at the US Ambassador's Residence in Hanoi; tour group members meet the Ambassador and staff to discuss latest events.

The trip travels south from Hanoi. Meetings are planned along the way where participants meet Provincial leaders to discuss Agent Orange Initiatives, Unexploded Ordinance Disposal (Project Renew) , and Toxin Eradication from Agent Orange Storage at Da Nang Airport among other topics .

The trip is planned for March 4-21, 2018 and is professionally led, translators are provided the entire time—many Vietnamese speak English, especially young folks.

This is not designed to be a "battlefield tour" but there are stops along the way when tour participants have a special request. Half- day tours are built in for Khe Sanh/Cu Chi Tunnels and other less known sites.

The tour group is planning on attending the 50th year commemoration March 16 at My Lai for all interested attendees. This trip is open to veterans, their spouses, as well as students and the general public.

Cost runs around \$4000 including meals, lodging, transportation-in-country, and other incidentals. In addition participants are asked for a \$1000 donation to help children in hospitals and orphanages who are afflicted from the effects of Agent Orange.

Contact: John Koehler 920-858-3310 / kent1952@live.com

John Koehler '69-72' Semper Fi

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Brillion High School – Vietnam Education



ITEMS OF INTEREST



Brillion High School – Vietnam Education



ITEMS OF INTEREST



POW/MIA Drive in September



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POW/MIA Drive in September



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Honoring Veterans Dinner & Dance

Saturday, November 4th



(Inside the Appleton American Legion Post No. 36)
3220 W. College Avenue, Appleton • 920-733-9840



Inviting ALL Veterans, Friends and Families

2 Entree Dinner, Dessert & Dance: \$18 each
Dessert & Dance Only: \$7

5 - 6 pm: Social / Appetizers • 6 - 7 pm: Dinner
7:30 pm: Dessert & Dance

Champagne Toast to Missing Comrades
Branch of Service Promenade Salute

RSVP with the Club 38 Bar & Grill Bartenders

Hosted by:



Featuring music by:
Sam Brown
and
The BRINK

*"to care for him who shall
have borne the battle"*
-Abraham Lincoln

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Orange Blossoms

I was selling orange blossoms
At a busy grocery door
When an older lady
Came behind me from the store.

She asked, "What are you doing?"
I said, "We're taking dough
For graduating seniors
Who maybe couldn't go

To college or a trade school!"
So in her purse she dug
And pulled out fifteen dollars,
And gave me a big hug.

And said, "My late husband
Spent hard times in the war,
So thank you for your service
And all that you stand for."

And for this old Nam Veteran—
She really made my day,
Cuz so long we were treated
In a very different way.

Cheryll Mitby, R.K. Mitby
Pink To Gray, p.7

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Wisconsin Vietnam War Casualties

According to the Defense Casualty Analysis System the total record count of deaths for Wisconsin is 1,161 as of April 29, 2008.

(<http://www.archives.gov/aad>)

The months of November and December rank 7th and 12th for the number of casualties for the State of Wisconsin. Wisconsin had 35 casualties in 1965 and 95 in 1966. An even 40% of the casualties for 1965 and 6.3% of the casualties for 1966 occurred in this 2-month period.

November

Timothy H. Johnson	Army	Milwaukee	11/6/65
Dennis D. Rutowski	Army	Waterford	11/8/65
Charles J. Janke	Army	Grantsburg	11/12/65
Richard W. Schwendler	Marine Corps	Milwaukee	11/16/65
Jerrold J. Schliesman	Army	Rio	11/17/65
Thomas G. Brandes	Army	Silver Lake	11/17/65
Duncan F. Krueger	Army	West Allis	11/17/65
Ronald P. Johnson	Army	Arcadia	11/20/65
Richard Jensen	Navy	Brillion	11/23/65
Michael H. Stoflet	Army	Elkhorn	11/01/66

December

Robert A. Singerhouse	Army	New Richmond	12/3/65
Michael A. Gruber	Army	Milwaukee	12/5/65
Richard J. Brunke	Marine Corps	Milwaukee	12/14/65
Gerald L. Kuhnley	Army	Siren	12/28/65
John S. Schmid	Marine Corps	Salem	12/28/65
William J. Schneider	Army	Janesville	12/1/66
Daniel M. Java	Army	Frederick	12/4/66
Howard V. Matson Jr.	Marine Corps	Brookfield	12/4/66
Ronald J. Mahoney	Army	Chili	12/8/66
John C. Mercier	Marine Corps	Racine	12/8/66

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Vietnam – The Big Picture

According to the DoD and National Archives the following statistics apply to the Vietnam Veteran:

Demographics

- Average Age (during tour): 19
- Draft %: 25%
- Honorable Discharge %: 97%
- HS Diploma or Higher %: 79%
- Racial Mix: 88% White/Hispanic, 11% Black, 1% Other

Total Force (1961-1975)

- Active Duty: 9.087 million
- Served In-Country: 2.954 million
- Served in SE Asia/Offshore: 3.403 million
- Women in Vietnam: 7,484 (83.5% Nurses)
- Peak Troops in Vietnam: 543,482 (4/30/69)

Casualties

- Hostile Deaths: 47,378
- Non-Hostile Deaths: 10,800
- Wounded: 303,704
- Married Males Killed: 17,539
- Nurses Killed: 8
- Draftees Killed: 17,725
- Average Age of KIA: 23.11
- Highest State Death Rate: WVA - 84.1/100,000
(National Average 58.9)
- Racial KIA: 87% White/Hispanic, 12% Black, 1% Other

Special Life Membership Offer

Life Membership Dues are normally \$100.00; you can join for \$50.00.

Eligibility Requirements for regular membership: Service in Vietnam between 2/28/1961 and 5/7/1975 **OR** active service at any duty location in the world between 8/5/1964 and 5/7/1975.

Copy of DD 214 is required for verification.

DD-214's are not kept on file after verification and enrollment.

V.V.A. Chapter 351 will pay \$50 of the \$100 Life Membership when you Join Chapter 351; here is all you have to do:

1. Fill out the form completely-PLEASE PRINT;
2. Attach a copy of your DD-214 and a \$50 check payable to VVA Chapter 351;
3. Send the filled-out form, check, and DD-214 to:

VVA Chapter 351 c/o Joe Eiting
537 Jackson St.
Little Chute, WI 54140

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____
City/State/ZIP: _____
Telephone: _____ Cell: _____
Birthday: _____ Gender: M F (circle one)
Service Branch: USA USN USAF USMC USCG (circle one)
Former member / wish to transfer? VVA #: _____

For more information, contact Joe Eiting at 920-205-1565 / capteiting@aol.com.

**Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Chapter 351 – Appleton Area
410 W Franklin St, Unit 1862
Appleton, WI 54912-1862**