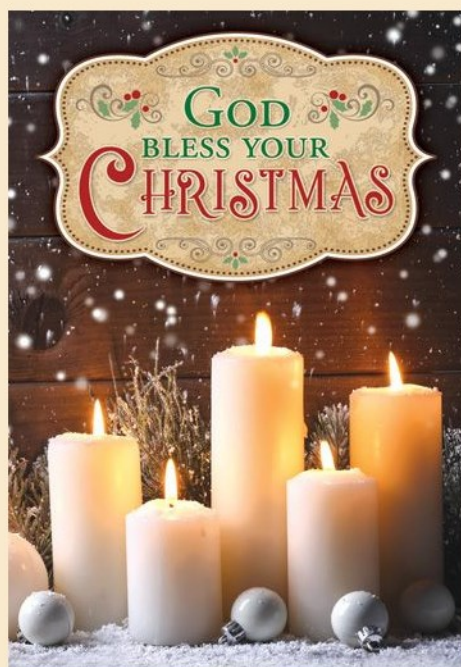


"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another."



**P.O. 1862
Appleton, WI 54912-1862
www.vvawi351.org
info@vvawi351.org**

**November-December
2019**



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

CURRENT OFFICERS
CONTACTS

Officers / B.O.D.

President	Larry Cavanaugh
• lcavanaugh123@yahoo.com	920-264-7917
Vice President	John Koehler
• kent1952@live.com	920-858-3310
Secretary	Mike Bryan
Treasurer	Bill Olcott
Chaplain	Mike Weaver
Board of Directors -BOD	Joe Eiting
Board of Directors-BOD	Wade Van Ryzin
Board of Directors-BOD	Dennis Van Hoof

Committees / Administration

Adopt-A-Family	Dennis Van Hoof
Adopt-A-Highway/Community Service	Jer Sanderfoot
Chapter Social Events	AAVA
Scholarship	Wade Van Ryzin
Reflections of Vietnam Coordinator	John Koehler
FV Veterans Council & Recognition	David Evans
Membership	Joe Eiting
Nomination/Constitution	Board of Directors
POW/MIA	Glen Zimmerman
Sergeant-At-Arms	Dennis Van Hoof
Sunshine/Fundraising/Charity Drives	Bill Olcott
Taps	Larry Cavanaugh
Retirement Home Visits	John VandenHeuvel
Webmaster	Angie Coenen
Newsletter Editor	Dennis Bowman
Vietnam Veterans Chapter 351	John Koehler

Other Contacts

Chapter	920-205-1565	info@vvawi351.org
Tom Bartel	920-739-6839	tebartel@sbcglobal.net
Dennis Bowman	920-858-2551	dbowmanvva@new.rr.com
Mike Bryan	920-740-5042	mjbryan42@gmail.com
Joe Eiting	920-205-1565	capteiting@aol.com
David Evans	920-734-2947	david.w.evans@sbcglobal.net
Phil Moore	920-750-4110	prespanther@att.net
Bill Olcott	920-733-8199	wolcott2009@live.com
Jer Sanderfoot	920-759-7447	jsanderfoot@new.rr.com
Dale Siebers	920-419-6444	rcpo633@gmail.com
Wade Van Ryzin	920-734-9638	wvanryzin@aol.com
Mike Weaver	920-470-4674	skipatroldoc@gmail.com

Note: Contact list is blanked out on Web version

President's Message

Chapter Tales

I think that the fall season beats all the others, with it comes cooler temperatures, the trees with their beautiful colors, and it's a reminder to me, to dig my potatoes. From our younger days on, we always planted a large potato patch. We dug, separated, the unwashed potatoes and placed them side by side (without touching), on shelves that went from floor to ceiling. The basement walls was made of old fieldstone, with a dirt floor and no lights. The only light was the cracks around the frame of the lone window, that was boarded up.

I always hated when it was my turn to go down through the trap door, into the darkness, to fetch produce which could be potatoes, carrots, a jar of pickles, salted side pork, sauerkraut and or maybe a small horseradish root. I am feeling nostalgic. My hope is that you all had a wonderful summer.

I want to thank all the folks that helped with our fundraisers, we had a very successful year. There's one thing I think we should be doing. We must help the families facing hardships. Perhaps I'm wrong, but it seems we only look inward when it comes to our charitable giving. We now present, two \$500 food certificates at Christmas time; we provide items for nursing homes, we give DAV drivers a small thank you certificate, and Veterans Court receives a donation. These are worthwhile causes though, in reality, the Christmas gifts are the only donations that help an individual family.

Our AVVA sisters and brothers are doing a fine job with their nursing home visits and they now have their own line item in our budget, to make purchases. Our EDU program is filling up its slots for next year.

We're looking forward to another busy year, I urge you to become involved, to volunteer as without you, the members, we are nothing. With your continued help, we're managing to get things done, when we believe in teamwork, nothing but good things will continue to happen.

Next Chapter Meeting; 12 December @ Post 38 AM Legion, Appleton, Wi.

Larry

An Editor's Musings

Wow! Another Thanksgiving/Christmas season is around the corner. A Blessed holiday to all our brothers and sisters in the VVA and AVVA! We also must remember that this is another Christmas season that the POW/MIA's will not be with family to celebrate. Plus the many that they have missed since their whereabouts became unknown. For those who have passed away either in captivity or while protecting our land, may our LORD keep them in the palm of His hand.

Since the upcoming Holidays are a time of giving. We, as a group of people who gave to our Country when we were asked, let us remember to help our brothers and sisters who may need help, no matter what their needs are. Maybe a tree which they could not afford, or some gifts that may be out of reach, a meal with our families with folks that we know have no family. What a great gift that would be, to be invited into a home for a time of relaxation and a wonderful home cooked meal. Most of us are blessed to have family in the area who will most likely celebrate with us. This is just a thought from one who has been blessed by God in more ways than I can count! As the Psalmist writes: **Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!** (Psa 107:1) Let us show our love!!

On the behalf of My wife, Kathleen and I, may you all have a blessed, warm, wonderful Holiday Season!!!

Dennis

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 these folks, so they know that the Chapter has their well-being in mind.

THE QUARTERMASTER CORNER

There are four products that are provided at every membership meeting. The Military White Dress shirts are valued at \$ 77.00 with the first one available to members for \$ 27.00!! Polo Shirts with the VVA patch for \$ 40.00. The third item are the white jackets with all patches for \$ 52.00. Finally you can get a name tag for \$ 12.00.

The store with samples is open after every membership meeting. You can also call Dennis at 320-321-2915 and leave a message.

Events & Offers

Saturday Morning Breakfast at Angel's

We now meet on every Saturday morning at the regular time of **0830 1000 hours**. Join us on Saturday mornings. ALL Veterans of the US Armed Forces are welcome; bring a vet buddy along—there is a lot of room. We have vets from all wars at our table(s). **Angel's** is at 1401 E. John St., Appleton —between College & John St. roundabouts.

Contact: Phil Moore prespanther@att.net 920.750.4110

Free Coffee and Doughnuts

Festival Foods of Menasha, Neenah, & Green Bay (University Avenue) provide FREE coffee and doughnuts every Friday morning for veterans from 8 a.m. to noon. **No RSVP required.**

Vets and Friends of Wisconsin Inc.

2508 N Richmond St. Appleton

Our coffee house provides free soup and sandwich every Saturday to Vets and friends from 11am-2pm. Contact Jack Voight or Gary Brynjulfson for further info .(**No RSVP required**)

REFLECTIONS OF VIETNAM PROGRAM

We have two missions left in 2019 , Kaukauna High School on Friday November 8 (Mike Weaver Moderating) and UW Eau Claire Monday November 11 (John Koehler Moderating)

I am in the process of building our schedule for next year with the following schools confirmed as of today ; Moraine Park Tech College (FDL), Marian University (FDL) , Xavier HS, Fox Valley Lutheran HS, Valders HS , Wrightstown HS ,Seymour HS, Hortonville HS , Freedom HS , Oneida HS (Oneida) Menominee Indian HS (Keshena) , Chippewa Valley Tech College(Eau Claire) , UW Oshkosh in Oshkosh .

We have several other schools that are considering a visit but no dates confirmed yet. If you have a school or organization that you would like for me to contact regarding a program, please let me know soon as you can and I will reach out to them.

Every one of our members is invited to attend these events and encouraged to share your story with students. Please consider joining us , you do not have to formally present if you do not want tocome for the donuts, coffee, and camaraderie with fellow members and students !

We are looking forward to another interesting , enjoyable , and educational year in 2020.

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. (www.archives.gov/aad)

The months of September and October are tied for 10 in the number of casualties for the State of Wisconsin. Wisconsin had 158 casualties overall for November and December during the duration of the war. Out of the group of 20 soldiers below, 35% Marines, 50% Army and 15% Navy paid the ultimate sacrifice.

November

THOMAS JOHN KLEMP	ARMY	SP4	REEDSBURG	11/6/1966
DAVID BRIAN DANN	ARMY	1LT	MILWAUKEE	11/8/1966
JAMES WILLIAMS WASHKUH	MARINE CORPS	LCPL	NEW BERLIN	11/8/1966
LLOYD STEVEN SMITH	ARMY	1LT	PORTAGE	11/10/1966
THOMAS C MITCHELL	ARMY	PFC	MILWAUKEE	11/15/1966
THOMAS SHAW	ARMY	SP4	MILWAUKEE	11/15/1966
WILLIAM TAMM ARNOLD	NAVY	LCDR	WEST ALLIS	11/18/1966
JOHN DOUGLAS FITZPATRICK	ARMY	PFC	FRANKLIN	11/19/1966
JAMES A MCCALVY	ARMY	PFC	MILWAUKEE	11/20/1966
DENNIS EDWARD WEINBERG	ARMY	PVT	MILWAUKEE	11/24/1966

December

DUANE ARLEN VOGEL	MARINE CORPS	CPL	SHEBOYGAN	12/23/1966
EARL WILLIAM KNUTSON	MARINE CORPS	PFC	CLINTON	12/25/1966
DONALD HERMAN LEDERHAUS	ARMY	PFC	MILWAUKEE	12/27/1966
RONALD KENNETH SCHMID	MARINE CORPS	LCPL	JUDA	12/28/1966
JOHN RONALD RUOHO	NAVY	PO1	FLORENCE	12/3/1967
RAYMOND LEE CORK	NAVY	PO3	RACINE	12/4/1967
JAMES DONN PLECITY	MARINE CORPS	CPL	MADISON	12/6/1967
JOHN CHARLES ROMANSHEK	MARINE CORPS	CPL	MILWAUKEE	12/6/1967
TERRENCE LEE SUND	ARMY	SP4	MENOMONEE FALLS	12/6/1967
DAVID LEE ZYWICKE	MARINE CORPS	LCPL	MANITOWOC	12/7/1967

EVENTS AND OFFERS

VVA 351 MEETINGS DATES

The chapter now meets at Appleton American Legion Post 58 on West College Ave. The meetings begin at 11:00 and end at 1300 hours. The first hour is the meeting and the second hour for a meal and social time. The meetings generally fall on the Second Thursday of the meeting months. **We will not meet during the Summer months of June and August.**

November 14 December 12 January 9 February 13

Note: The Board of Director Meeting are held the first Wednesday of every month except during the summer months. They are held at Perkins East from 11:00—13:00. Members may attend if they have an interest or have business that needs to be addressed by the board.

Chapter and Associate Information

Veterans, You may have seen more active participation by spouses and friends of veterans and wondered why. As family and friends many of us were supporting and helping “behind the scenes”. I was especially interested in the education of toxins and environmental exposures which brought me to the VVA sponsored Town Hall meetings and the state VVA/AVVA combined quarterly committee meetings in Waupaca where I was asked to join the AVVA. We are not just a “ladies” group, we are men and women who want to “stand by all Veterans.” So here is more information about AVVA. Perhaps more would like to become a part of a great program. (We generally meet early evening at the Vet Center on North Richmond St Appleton)

What Is AVVA?

As Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA), we are passionate about our work and the real life issues facing Veterans and their families. We strive to create a positive impact on our Veterans and their families by making life better. AVVA is a national, nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to advancing the awareness of issues affecting Veterans, their families, and their communities. AVVA strives to ensure that ALL veterans attain the honor, respect, and benefits they deserve. We lend our expertise, support, and leadership to all veteran related programs, community service, and social activities, while remaining actively involved in our own programs and educational endeavors.

Who can become a member?

AVVA is made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans, and all persons who support Veterans' issues. AVVA is a catalyst for action, healing, reconciliation, mutual support, and fellowship. With more than 10,000 members, we are a thriving and strong organization. AVVA is a non-partisan, tax exempt organization.

Regular membership shall be granted to any persons who are ineligible for membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA) and who wish to further the purposes of both VVA and the Corporation.

Dual membership shall be limited to those who are eligible for membership in VVA.

AVVA MISSION STATEMENT?

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

AVVA VISION STATEMENT?

To create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

Chris Van Ryzin

cbvanryzin@gmail.com 920-734-9638

Donations to VVA 351



Ahlstrom Munksjo (Thilmany)
Donated \$150



Parkside Luxury Apartments
Donated \$200



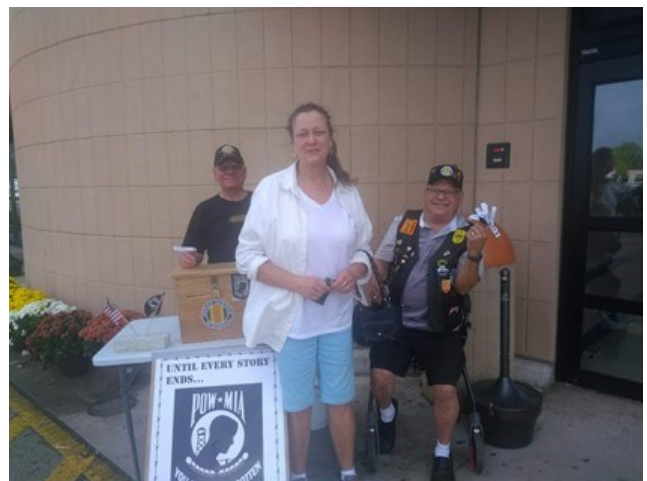
Olive Cellar
Donated \$100



Unison Credit Union
Donated \$1500



Fleet Farm Donation Day



WalMart Donation Day

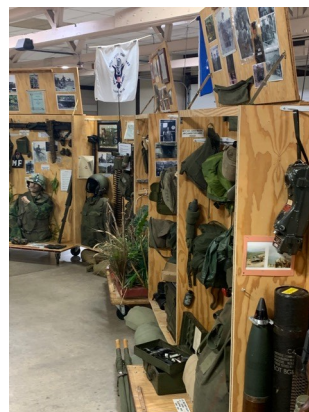
Annual Pullman Fish Fry

October 18, 2019



A fine time was had by all who attended the Annual Fish fry at Pullman's Restaurant in Appleton. Hopefully we will see you there next year!

Vietnam Memorial Wall Display in Manitowoc



VVA 351's Reflections of Vietnam display was displayed along with the Traveling Vietnam Wall. A number of our comrades were present to guide people through the display and answer questions. This public appearance is of course one of the best displays of Vietnam artifacts anywhere in the country. Normally Reflections is shown to educational groups with a discussion of Vietnam memories by people who fought the good fight!

Reflections of Vietnam at Kaukauna High School

November 8th, 2019



Members of VVA 351 met at Kaukauna High School for the first time in three years with the Reflections of Vietnam display. We met students from a number of the Social Studies classes and described our times while in country and out. The students were attentive and interested in the exhibit and the discussion.

Why I wear my Vietnam Veterans Cap?

A lot of us Veterans over time have lost the memory and brotherhood of what we once had. When you have worn a combat uniform in a combat zone you have earned the right to symbolize the time you were a Worrier and now you are a Veteran. When A Vet sees another fellow Vet wearing the cap... History is remembered, preserved, honored, and for a moment brotherhood is shared. That is why I wear my Vietnam Veterans Cap!



Location: American Legion Post 38 – Appleton, WI 54914**Roll Call:**

President	Larry Cavanaugh
Vice President	John Koehler
Treasurer	Bill Olcott
Secretary	Michael J. Bryan
Board of Directors:	Wade Van Ryzin
	Dennis Van Hoof
	Joe Eiting

The membership meeting held here today was started by having a light lunch buffet that started at 1100 hrs. for all attending members, family members, and guests to learn what both the VVA Chapter 351 and the AVVA - Auxiliary Vietnam Veterans of America do as an organization. Various board members and committee leaders led by President Larry Cavanaugh and Vice President John Koehler spoke during the luncheon to talk about such events as;

- the two Parades we participate (Flag Day & Memorial Day) in during the Spring and Summer each year.
- the Education Missions we do at a lot of our Northeast Wisconsin High Schools, technical colleges, and Universities.
- Our Scholarship program offering four \$1500.00 scholarships to eligible senior high school students who compete to hopefully win one of the scholarships.
- Some of our committee leaders talked about the four retirement homes we visit each year to visit our brothers and sisters to let them know they are not forgotten.
- Adopt-a-Family Program – in which we donate \$1,000.00 in non-cash donations which goes to two (2) needy veteran's families by Thanksgiving for Christmas.
- Adopt-a-Highway – a community service program – our way to help the community by cleaning up a portion along Highway 10.
- Fund-Raising programs which occur twice a year – Fall and Spring. In Fall we have

POW-MIA fundraiser and in Spring we have our Orange Blossom fundraising drive.

Angie Coenen finished the first half of the meeting by showing a slide show featuring our new website.

WADE VAN RYZIN – THANK YOU AND YOUR TEAM FOR A SPLENDID LUNCH

The second half of the meeting commenced at 1242 hrs.

Meetings Minutes (Cont.)

Total Attendance: 33 members

LC-1: Larry announced that he was very grateful to all of the volunteers that stepped up to help at our POW-MIA Fundraiser Drives over two weekends. He was especially grateful to all of our neighbors, friends, and shoppers in the Fox Valley who were very generous to our cause. He noted that even at times we were shorthanded, we were still very successful. Some of our donors asked "Where is our money going and who is it helping?" Answer: The monies you donate stays local to help veterans locally, and to help with the Veteran's Village program.

Mike Weaver led us in prayer. We lost five of our brothers; a WWII veteran Sgt. John Bainbridge an MIA who was killed in New Guinea in 1943 whose remains were recently recovered and is now buried in Monona, WI., Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Griffin – KIA Afghanistan, Spec4 James Holmes USA, KIA Iraq, Gunnery Sgt. Scott Copenhagen USMC – KIA Iraq, and Sgt. Jack Breezy USA – KIA Iraq. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

All members in attendance accepted the September 12th meeting report.

Treasurers Report

Bill Olcott reported he was having some computer issues at home but did tell us that we currently have \$40,000.00 in the bank, and we received \$2,500.00 from the Moving Wall at the Manitowoc EDU Mission recently.

Membership Report

Joe Eiting reported that we currently have 161 members.

LC-2: Larry reported that he is trying to find a high school willing to help do some maintenance on our trailer.

Fundraising Report

Dennis VanHoof announced that in January 2020 we will start gearing up for our May Orange Blossom Fund Drive.

Old Business

Richard Wangard brought his letter of request from May 1st and asked that the membership be allowed to vote regarding his request for an increase donation from \$300.00/year to \$500.00/year. After some discussion and clarification regarding tax status of the organizations, a vote was taken by the membership; 5 Yes, 28 No. The request for increase was denied by the membership.

Dennis Bowman made a motion requesting to have an annual membership meeting held in July starting in 2020. The motion was seconded by Phil Moore. A vote was taken by the membership and passed unanimously.

LC-3: Larry talked about the AVVA and that the board approved a motion to give a line item in the annual budget to the AVVA and they would have an initial annual budget amount of \$2,000.00.

A motion to approve was made by Joe Eiting and seconded by Rick Vesperman. The motion passed by the membership unanimously.

Meeting Minutes (Cont.)

Larry made a request to the committee leaders to seek and talk with team members about proposed budgets they will need for the upcoming fiscal year. A budget meeting will be coming up in January 2020.

The last item at our meeting was a request by the Secretary to have a Survey taken by all members of our chapter to find out who would be able to attend a monthly meeting – on what day of the week, and at what time of day would be suitable (AM/PM)? The survey form will be designed in the very near future and sent to the board for review and approval.

Submitted

Michael J. Bryan, Secretary

VVA Chapter 351

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Appleton Area
410 W. Franklin St Unit 1862
Appleton WI 54191-1862**