



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

310 Dispatch

Newsletter

April 2019

**Never again shall a
veteran coming home
from battle be made
to feel alone and
unappreciated!**



From the Editor's Desk

Please remember that the VVA 310 monthly meeting for April will not be at the customary Thursday evening. Instead, it will be on Saturday April 13th at noon. Highlight for this month is the ending of an activity year for VVA 310 and election of new Officers and Board Members. Also, see article by Pres. Jon Luker about the future of VVA.

There is a call for an expansion of the Dispatch Team. See article about that. Also, if you feel so inclined, Al (Fredo) Merritt has a request out for new teams to work at the Memorial. Very much needed and appreciated.
— Paulo–Juarez Pereira

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President's Message

by Pres. Jon Luker

I am used to things slowing down in the winter. I'm still waiting. The only time it seemed slow was when I was sick. Time has been going by so fast. I'm still trying to catch my breath from the WCCV dinner, but I have to get to work on our own recognition dinner 4 May. I think it is going to be great, by the way. Dave Draper has kept the committee on track.

to take it easy. Saturday 13 April would be a great time for a person to step up who has never done the job before. Just as I and many Presidents before me have had gobs of support from our active members, you can count on not having to do the job alone, if you accept the challenge. Secretary is another job that has been done by the same folks for a long time. Being relieved of the Presidential duty is not the same as being sent

members?

In addition to the short meeting and voting, we will also be hosting our usual pot luck picnic lunch and family play time on the 13th. Please come on out and be prepared to hang out for a while. Eat, have fun, feel that you are a part of something great.

See you Saturday!

Luker Sends.

De Oppresso Liber

April 2019 Chaplain's Corner

By Rev. Gordon Moore

Isaiah 6 records what it is like to be in the Lord's presence:

In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on the throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."

And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the alter with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven."

Easter is the High Holy Day for Christians because Christ, as the Lamb of God, took away our sins and gave us access to Heaven.

I think this is quite appropriate



We have elections coming up on 13 April 2019. Don't forget that we will have a business meeting on 13 Apr at 1200. We will accept nominations at that meeting. Voting will be open from 1300 to 1600. I am glad that we have a candidate for President, so I can step down from that duty. I don't really feel that I performed as well as I had hoped to when I accepted the nomination last year. But, I am a bit sad that we might be turning the reins over to a member who has done the job before and whose doctor told him

home with a gold watch. I'll still be around to help with things like strategic planning and the Memorial or whatever else you need for me to do. The point is, though, that it is time for others to take on new jobs. We need somebody to take on the Pig Roast, if there is to be one. Merchandise contributed \$7,000 to the general fund this year. If nobody steps up, that money won't come in next year. And who would help the veterans and family members at the hospital to remember the good parts of being in the family of military service



because we lost Kenny Muldovan, our tenth loss since last Memorial Day in our Chapter. All we have lost have gone before us to their eternal destiny. For those of faith it is a good destiny where there is no longer any death, mourning, crying, or pain, for those things have been replaced with fullness of joy forevermore.

When I think of Easter I think of Christ's words on the cross, "It is finished." The work that He came to do was completed, and with it, the hope of our salvation. For that reason, I Thessalonians 5 says, *For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep (those who have died and await Christ's return), we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.*

Let us rejoice this Easter with the full confidence that Christ's work is finished and that we have a place with him exalted in the heaven.

May Christ's peace that passes

all understanding guard your heart and mind until His return,

Honoring April's Anniversaries on the Wall

Corporal William Henry Johnson was born on December 9, 1943 in Union City, Tennessee to Jewell and Johnnye Johnson of Ann Arbor, Michigan. William is a 1961 graduate of Ann Arbor High School. A



caption in the Ann Arbor High School Yearbook for 1961 states, "Willie came to Ann Arbor High from Slau-son. While at the High School, he participated in all intramural sports.

He also likes to swim. His plans for after graduation are not as yet definite. He will either work or join the Army." William enlisted in the Marine Corps in August of 1963

going through Marine Corps Boot Camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He received further training at Camp Pendleton, California before going to Okinawa.

Corporal Johnson began his tour of duty near Danang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam serving as a rifleman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. William was killed on April 17, 1966 as a result of small arms fire from a sniper while manning a defensive position.

William Henry Johnson is survived by his parents, a sister and a brother. He lived 22 years, 4 months and 8 days. William's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 06E Line 119.

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Private First Class Clive Vere

Mosier was born on January 3, 1943 in Campbell, Missouri to Mr. and Mrs. John Mosier of Chelsea, Michigan. Clive was employed as a foreman with Seller's Construction Company before entering the Army on September 1, 1966. According to his wife, "he was known as 'Buster' by all his family and friends." Clive loved baseball. His favorite foods were chocolate chip cookies and fried chicken. He sent a picture of him holding a little Vietnamese girl. He said in his letter, "Honey, I miss you greatly, but these people need us. No one else will help them. We have to." Private First Class Mosier began his tour of duty in Military Region 3, South Vietnam on February 16, 1967 serving as an infantryman



with B Company, 5th Bat., 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Clive was killed on 4/24/1967 as a result of an

explosive device.

Clive Vere Mosier is survived by his wife, parents, and four brothers. He lived 24 years, 3 months and 21 days. He is resting in Arborcrest Cemetery in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Clive's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 18E Line 080.

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First Lieutenant Robert John

Crabbe was born on June 12, 1941. First Lieutenant Crabbe began his tour of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on January 11, 1966 serving as a Field Artillery Unit Commander with Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division. According to a posting by fellow Field Artillery Officer Candidate School Alumni from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Randy Dunham, "First Lieutenant



Crabbe served as an Aerial Observer with the First Cavalry Division. He was in a UH-1C Helicopter Gunship

from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry that was shot down while making a rocket run on a Viet Cong position. All five men on board the aircraft died in the incident." He was killed on April 18, 1967 after serving one year, three months and seven days "In-Country".

Robert John Crabbe lived 25 years, 10 months and 6 days. He is resting in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, Section 4, Site 2969-C. Robert's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Ann Arbor. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 18E Line 045.

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Sergeant First Class Michael Jon Wallace

was born on November 21, 1939 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Sergeant First Class Wallace began



his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam at Camp Evans serving as a CH-47 Helicopter Repairer with B Company, 228th

Assault Helicopter Battalion, 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division. On April 19, 1968 three Army helicopters were shot down in the A Shau Valley of South Vietnam. All three were making supply runs to Landing Zone Tiger in Quang Tri Province. Five men survived the three crashes, and nine men remain missing. On April 19, 1968, Michael was a crew chief on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flying a mid-day supply mission. The heli-

copter was descending through an overcast sky and was on its final approach to Landing Zone Tiger in Quang Tri Province when it was struck by enemy .50 cal and 37mm ground fire, caught fire and began to burn. The gunner witnessed Michael and the flight engineer, Anthony Housh, jump from the helicopter when it was about 100 feet off of the ground. The aircraft crash landed and the remainder of the crew was rescued. Michael's body was never recovered and he was listed as Missing In Action (MIA). On February 6, 1974, Michael's status was changed to "Died While Missing In Action."

Michael Jon Wallace is survived by his wife and two children, and a sister. He lived 28 years, 4 months and 28 days. He is remembered with a Military Marker in East Oak Grove Cemetery in Chelsea, Michigan. Michael's name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township as MIA. His name also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 51E Line 002.

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Private First Class James Roy Bihlmeyer

was born on November 12, 1946 in Manchester, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Bihlmeyer.



James is a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School. He worked at the Saline Plant for

Ford Motor Company prior to entering the Army on May 16, 1966. Private First Class Bihlmeyer went through Basic Training at Fort Riley,

Kansas. James began his tour of duty in Long An Province, South Vietnam on December 1, 1966 serving with A Company, Second Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division as an infantryman. He died as a result of enemy small arms fire on April 15, 1967.

Private First Class James Roy Bihlmeyer is survived by his parents, a brother and a sister. He lived for 20 years, 5 months and 3 days. He is resting at the Bethel Church Cemetery in Manchester, Michigan. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Ypsilanti Township under Manchester. James Roy Bihlmeyer also appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC on Panel 18E Line 028.

The Choices Are Yours

By Pres. Jon Luker

During our March meeting, we began diving into the complexities of the final years of VVA National. There are two important questions our members must answer before the July Convention. There are two more that must be answered at some point after the convention. The first question is whether VVA National should implement a plan for winding down the affairs of the national organization before the last man dies.

The second question is whether VVA National should implement a plan for passing on our mission and our means for achieving it to another organization.

Both questions are "yes or no" questions. The questions are not alternatives to each other. That is, you can say yes to both, or no

to both. We are not asking you to choose one plan over the other. On the other hand, you may approve one and not the other, as well as disapprove both or approve both. Regarding question one, much is known. Congress will not approve amending our charter to allow people to join who did not serve during the Vietnam Era. Therefore, at some point, the nationally chartered organization called VVA will cease to exist. The legalities of the situation tell us that, either we plan for that day and windup the affairs of the organization ourselves, or we let the State of New York take our property and distribute it as they see fit. Because it is unfair to the veterans we serve and their loved ones to leave people stranded while they have a claim or appeal pending, VVA thinks it is obligated to develop and implement a windup plan and not leave it to the State of New York to close the organization. There is a workgroup that is studying what needs to be done and figuring out when it needs to be done, so that the work is done before the last people standing are no longer able to do the required work.

Our current understanding is that Workgroup One believes that once we have an estimated date by which the windup must be complete, the winding down would need to start about eight years before that date. We will be asked in July to agree to the wind-down plan. We will be told that, if membership votes "no," the State of New York will take over VVA at some point and give everything away as they see fit.

The second workgroup is proceeding with the idea that even on the day the last Vietnam-Era veteran

dies, our work will not be finished, because we said, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." Perhaps we should have said, "Never will the generation of Vietnam-Era veterans abandon another," but we didn't. We made a commitment to train future generations to carry on the mission and duty to care for future veterans. So, the task before Workgroup Two is to figure out how to pass the mission, the knowledge, and the resources to the next generations.

At this time, only one scenario has been described by Workgroup Two, and it has people nervous. However, Workgroup Two is being secretive about its deliberations and possible plans, so we are not sure what we will see in July. We can be confident that the goal of the plan will be to make sure the mission lives after the last Vietnam-Era Veteran dies, but we can't be sure of much else.

The outline we were given at the Leadership Seminar last year called for two phases: First, in concert with the timing set by Workgroup One, VVA would start an interim 501(c)(3), whose mission would be to start another organization that would take up the mission. VVA assets would be transferred to the interim 501(c)(3). That would include the income producing methods VVA uses, as well as all the real estate and physical stuff owned by VVA. It would also include intellectual property, such as the name "Vietnam Veterans of America," the logo, the motto, and so forth. Once the transfer is complete, the process would begin of gathering the generations to learn from them how to build (or merge with) and organization

that could effectively carry on the mission nationwide.

The reason they are being somewhat abstract is the history of the birth of VVA. When VVA was formed, neither VFW nor American Legion wanted anything to do with Vietnam Veterans. That worked out okay, because Vietnam Veterans were not looking for a place to go drink and get away from their spouses and kids. But Vietnam vets were not at all clear about what they wanted instead. Many organizations developed across the country, sometimes involving several states. Each had its own focus: agent orange, POW's, bad conduct discharges, and so forth. Progress came when representatives of these organizations got together and began to talk about what they had in common and what they believed needed to be done. An organizational plan developed; local groups became part of the bigger group, and a Congressional charter was secured.

Sandbox veterans do not want an organization that is just like VVA. They deal with nonsimultaneous communication, video calls, texts, and such far more than any type of face-to-face communication. When they act in concert, it is often via some online app. They have their own way of doing things and of governing what they do.

We ought to insist that they accept our battle flag and promise to carry it into the future. Just as VVA picked up where the VFW and American Legion left off, one can hope the Sandbox vets will do the same.

Sandbox vets acknowledge (except in the press) that they could not do what they have been doing but for the advocacy VVA did on

their behalf as they were coming home and dealing with Gulf War Syndrome, Burn Pits, TBIs, PTSD, bad conduct discharges, irradiated ammo, etc.

Workgroup Two says it will take longer to stand up the new organization than to wind up the VVA. That is not a problem if the interim 501(c)(3) is up and running before VVA shuts down.

Once the new organization is up and running, the VVA's assets can be transferred, and the interim 501(c)(3) can be shut down.

The fly in this ointment is that VVA has set up a couple of nonprofits before and had both nonprofits run away with VVA assets, leaving VVA and its mission in the dust. Workgroup Two is aware of this issue.

As I said earlier, they have not been generous with details about how the interim 501(c)(3) will be set up or governed. We will be paying attention as we hear more from Workgroup Two in the future.

Bottom line, then, is that, when we ask for a vote of the membership in May or June, all we can ask is if you like the idea of trying to pass on the mission and our resources to an organization that will be built by Sandbox veterans with the help of an interim VVA built and funded 501(c)(3). A no vote would signal your wish that the State of New York make those decisions for you. Please note that our own Chapter and our own State Council need to develop a long-term strategy. Unlike the nationally chartered VVA, we can amend our governing documents to include Sandbox veterans and their families. Even if VVA decides to fold without making any attempt to pass the mission to the next generation, our Chapter and the State Council

can decide to continue the mission anyhow. These are questions we should be thinking about now, but we can wait until we hear the outcome of the votes in July before we start developing our own strategic plans. Four or five of the other Great Lakes States may join with us in the effort to continue the mission.

We will try to set aside discussion time during future meetings. However, feel free to share your questions and comments now, if you have any. With your permission, we can post questions and answers on the website or circulate them via email (or both), as well as use them to begin discussion at the meetings. If you already have an answer to either or both mail questions, please feel free to share that as well.

Please email me at jonluker9@outlook.com. Remember to let me know if it is okay to share your questions or comments.

Memorial Maintenance

By Al (Fredo) Merritt

We are putting this message out to reach all members and those who would be interested in joining with the Memorial landscaping team in honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Spring is here, and it is that time of the year for volunteers come together and assist in maintaining "OUR" Memorial. A sign-up sheet was passed around at our last VVA 310 meeting on Feb 9th, but not everyone got a chance to see it. So, I am passing the word around for every one.

Last year, we had five teams of



two volunteers each, with two alternate teams. With last year's dry season, there were two teams that had to cut and trim only a few times during the whole summer. We will have four teams this year, each one with three persons. Actually, this year may be less strenuous in terms of being labor intensive. So, please do reach out and join us.

Contact me with your name, phone number, and email address. Here's my contact information:

Al Merritt (Fredo)

Email address:

harleyman_1948@comcast.net

Tel. 734-904-4499.

66th Annual WCCU Dinner Report

By Dave Draper

On March 18th, WCCV held its 66th Annual Dinner, which this year was at the Washtenaw Community College. Many members of VVA 310 attended, along with a visit from U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell. It was hosted this year by WCCV Commander Jon Luker. The event was opened by a few brief comments from Commander Luker, invocation by Army veteran Tim Driscoll, Pledge of Allegiance, and then dinner was served. The food was excellent, as were the vanilla and chocolate

cakes. We had about 85 people attend the WCCV dinner. About half were guests and about half were members of various units.

Special Presentations

Two special presentations were given after dinner. Ann Arbor VA



Volunteer Services Director Beverly Conatser received a plaque for her many years of service to veterans, and the VA Medical Center. Commander Luker was eloquent in his accolades to Beverly.



The second presentation was a gift of \$100,000 to Fisher House Michigan. Kate Melcher, Fisher House Michigan Director, enthusiastically accepted the award from Sandie Wilson and Tim Driscoll, who presented it on behalf of Vietnam Veterans of Michigan. Closing prayer was said by Tim Driscoll, and the evening was adjourned.

MINUTES – Vietnam Veterans of America C. Kettles Chapter 310

General Membership Meeting

14 March 2019

Call to Order by President Jon Luker at 1910 hrs.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence for POW/MIA's, their families, and those who are serving in hazardous places around the world.

Opening Prayer: Chaplain Tim Driscoll gave the opening prayer.

Roll Call: A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone!

New Member: None

Guests: Farris Hurst was a guest of Vance McCrumb

February Meeting Minutes: A

motion was made by Scott Brooks-Miller to accept the 14 Feb 2019 meeting minutes as posted in the Dispatch. Seconded by Tim Driscoll. **Motion passed.**

Meeting recessed for nominations: Tim Driscoll nominated for President. Accepted.

Meeting reconvened.

President's Report:

April meeting will be our election meeting at noon, followed by our traditional picnic pot luck.

Treasurer's Report:

Berry Bourne reviewed the salient points on the Financial Report handout. He stated that the report would be an annual report and focus on the fiscal year just ended February 28, 2019. He mentioned the positive operating results vs. budget, and the increased investment in certificates of deposits. Two major contributing events were the Pig Roast and the Merchandise Team profitable performances.

AVVA Report: See Kathy Driscoll's full report on AVVA activities as part of the monthly Dispatch newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Food Pantry: No one was provided with food this month.

Calendar Committee: No report.

Merchandise Report: Larry St. Antoine reminded folks that we need new people, especially physically fit people, to take up the duties related to merchandise and public awareness. The sales at the VA have been going well. There is a chance to expand to twice a month, which would reduce the percentage paid to the VA, but we need help to do more work.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report: Jon Luker reported the Annual Appreciation Dinner will be March 18th.

Michigan State Council Report: President Jon Luker stated that the next meeting is in March. The National VVA Convention is in Spokane, WA this year whereby the delegates will vote on a strategic plan.

Memorial Maintenance Report: Al Merritt circulated a signup sheet. This year he is hoping to field four teams with three people each, rather than five teams with two. Please let Al know if you are interested. The shed project is still underway.

Website Report: Vance McCrumb stated that website is working well. He is reported that the website is now secure. When you go to the website, you will see <https://> before the vva310 part. This means it is now secure.

Membership Report: Vance McCrumb stated that the chapter membership totals 204.

Newsletter: No report.

Health Care: The VA is still denying benefits to the Blue Water Navy.

VAAHS Report: Tim Driscoll reported that the new front is almost finished and is beautiful.

Dinner Committee: No report.

Old Business: Vance McCrumb asked us to hold off on the new chapter hat purchase a few more months.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

There was considerable discussion of the future of both the national organization of VVA and of the state council and local chapters. The following points were noted: National is looking at two options that are not mutually exclusive: At some point, the last living member will fail to perform all the legal duties required to keep VVA National viable from a legal standpoint. At that time, the legal affairs of VVA will be wound up and VVA will cease to exist. VVA National believes it must prepare a rational plan for that eventuality so that nobody will be left with a claim or appeal pending without having somebody to handle it, so that no lawsuit is in progress, and so that all property, cash and institutional knowledge and skill is passed on to an organization chosen by VVA membership rather than one(s) chosen by politicians in the state of New York. Work Group One is putting that closing plan together. Our stated motto is that never again will one generation of veterans abandon another. That work will not be completed when the last Vietnam Veteran dies. Work Group Two is putting together a plan to continue the mission, by handing off the mission and the tools needed to accomplish that mission to the generations that follow us. Many chapters have already stated that they would rather see the mission fail then to change anything about VVA.

Whether either or both of the res-

olutions pass, other chapters are already in the process of working on succession plans, the main ideas being:

Change the membership requirements of the chapter to include younger veterans.

Form a new organization to pick up where the old one leaves off.

Merge with an existing organization that has younger members. It is important that Chapter delegates go to Spokane with a good understanding of what our Chapter Members want the national organization to do with regard to this issue. Therefore, regular meeting time must be devoted to discussion of this issue and expressing some form of consensus.

Wilson: Jack McManus is running for Treasurer of VVA National.

Wilson: There is only one group in the whole of USA that is studying birth defects and creating a birth defect registry that will connect defects with agents used in Vietnam, burn pits and other military exposures. That organization is NOT the VA. That organization does need to be funded.

Merritt: Nick Dauder is a realtor who is interested in helping veterans get into housing. He is interested in perhaps contributing toward closing costs or something. He'd like to talk to veterans to see what the real needs are. He will be invited to attend the April meeting so he can speak one on one with veterans.

Hall: Although the VFW hall is free 7 April, we have to schedule the April meeting for after 8 April, because the VFW membership needs to decide whether to approve the date. Because the following Sundays are busy with other events for many members, the best

date to ask VFW about is Saturday, 13 April 2019.

Chapter Breakfast: 19 April, Holiday's Restaurant, 0900 hours, 2080 W. Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor.

Closing Prayer: Dell Mayes led the closing prayer and Jon Luker led salute to the flag.

Meeting adjourned at 2010 hrs.

Jocosity

By Ken Rogge

An elderly man lay dying in his bed, when suddenly he smelled the aroma of cookies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his strength, lifted himself out of bed, leaned against the wall, and went into the kitchen. There, spread out upon newspapers on the kitchen table, were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip cookies. Was it heaven? — he wondered.

Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself toward the table, landing on his knees in a ruffled posture. His parched lips parted; the wondrous taste of the cookie was already in his mouth, seemingly bringing him back to life. The aged and withered hand shakily made its way to more and more cookies, when his wife suddenly smacked it with a spatula. "Stay out of those," she said. "They're for the funeral!"

AVVA Report for March 2019

By Kathy Driscoll

Phil Hecker, past president of VVA 310, is very ill. Please keep him and Gena in your prayers. Tim and I will be traveling to Grand Rapids to visit them. You can send a Get-Well

card to Phil Hecker
3309 Derby Crossing Ct SW
Grandville, MI 48418

If you are on Facebook, you can join the **AVVA Michigan** closed group. Just send a Join Group request and the admin will accept you as a member of the AVVA Michigan closed group. This is how our AVVA Michigan State Association communicates between the bi-monthly meetings.

AVVA Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in March.

Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System.

AVVA members Shirley, Meni and Kathy presented Holiday's Restaurant an AVVA certificate.



Certificate: Tim and Kathy Driscoll, Shirley and Steve Hütte, and restaurant Owner, Rob.

Next VVA 310 VA Merchandising sales is Tuesday, April 9th. VVA 310 needs our help. Please consider volunteering one or two hours assisting VVA 310 merchandise team at the Ann Arbor VA.

Keep up to date with our chapter:

All AVVA and VVA 310 events are posted on our chapter's webpage, www.vva310.org in the VVA News Flash section on the right column on the homepage.

AVVA Chapter 310 Fundraising Report Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets



AVVA 310 has Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets for a \$5 donation. Please contact Kathy Driscoll if you would like one. Proceeds will benefit AVVA 310 Operating and Special Projects Funds. We still have some available.

Please email or call me with fundraising ideas for 2019. We will have an AVVA raffle table at the May 4th Recognition Dinner. All proceeds will benefit our Operating and Special Project Funds. Please bring your raffle table donations to our April meeting.

Lois Perrault Memorial Fund – 2019 Girls' State Update!

The fund balance is \$2,283.25. We are sponsoring three delegates this year. Girl State 2019 is June 16 through June 22, 2019 at Michigan State University.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Next meeting is Sunday, May 19th in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. VVA / AVVA Chapter 180 is hosting this meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact Kathy Driscoll. The AVVA Michigan Association passed By Law updates and Amendments to AVVA Michigan Association Articles of Incorporation at their annual meeting on March 17th.

AVVA Michigan Association Fundraising Report

AVVA MI Association is looking for fundraising ideas for 2019. One idea submitted by a member of AVVA Chapter 1083 is to have AVVA Michigan Association

Statewide Raffle for a Yeti cooler. Suggested ticket price is \$5 or \$10. Please let me know if you would be able to sell 1 – 5 tickets and the price point for each ticket. I hopefully will have more information at our April meeting. AVVA Michigan Association will need each of our chapters to sell a minimum of 75 tickets to make this a successful raffle. Cost of a Yeti Cooler is \$199.00.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage.

AVVA Michigan Association Webpage is launched! The Association has a tab on the new VVA Michigan State Council webpage: <http://vvamsc.org/associates/>. It is still being updated. The About Us, Contacts, Events, Chapter Locator have current content. More to be uploaded in the near future!

Upcoming Events!

9 April VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at Ann Arbor VA

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310

AVVA Michigan State Association President

Email me at dkathyr16@gmail.com.

Tel: 734-355-4897

Current Events April 2019

By Ann Dempsey-Pereira

9 Apr: Merchandising at Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, 3rd Floor, Freedom Building, 0800-1400 hours

11 Apr: NO AVVA Meeting or VVA 310 General Membership Meeting

13 Apr: AVVA Meeting; VVA 310 General Meeting; and Officer and Board Member Elections, 1200-1600 hrs

14 Apr: Air Force Reserve Birthday (1948)

15 Apr: WCCV Meeting, VA Medical Center Auditorium, 2000 hrs

17 Apr: Fundraiser at Brewed Awakenings, Saline. 20% of proceeds go to VVA 310/

19 Apr: Chapter Breakfast, Holiday's Restaurant, 0900 hours, 2080 W. Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor.

23 Apr: Army Reserve Birthday (1908)

19 – 21 Sept: Kokomo – Kokomo registration: Now through June 1. Saturdays @ 0930: Meet at Southeast parking lot of Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue

** Visit Veterans Radio online (veteransradio.net) and make a contribution to help keep this vital program on the air.

Chapter/Dispatch Patrons

Please *check* your dates to see if you are current.

*NAME LISTED ON THE WASHTENAW COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The following have made a contribution in a continuing effort to support our Chapter by offsetting the cost of printing and postage. The month and year are when the patron subscription expires. You may also consider an "In Memory Of." Our Chapter retains only \$9.00 of your yearly \$20.00 dues and it costs about \$12.00 a year for printing and postage. If you would like to support your newsletter please make a check payable to VVA 310. We will credit 1 month for every \$1.50 donated. Note on the Memo Line Dispatch Patron. Please mail your check to: VVA 310, P.O. Box

3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

George F Boone ~ October 2021

Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020

Cynthia Calhoun ~ April 2019

William Christophersen ~ October 2019

Gary Couture ~ July 2019

Joseph Flint ~ January 2021

Edward Fuller ~ March 2020

James Graham ~ February 2019

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Steve and Shirley Hitte ~ June 2024

Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ June 2020

Dick Knight ~ May 2018

Jane and John Kinzinger ~ October 2019

Kate Kirkpatrick ~ January 2020

Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021

Dell Mayes ~ May 2019

Al (Fredo) Merritt ~ May 2018

Ron Oliver ~ February 2019

Paulo-Juarez Pereira ~ January 2020

George Perrault ~ October 2022

Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021

Ken Rogge ~ May 2019

Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026

Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019

Chris Wetzler ~ April 2019

Elizabeth Wong ~ November 2019

Bob Kurtz ~ December 2019

Larry St. Antoine ~ March 2020

Linda Lamey-Leonard in memory of **Lavern Lamey*** ~ July 2021

Patricia Beechem in memory of her brother, **David S. Palmer*** ~ October 2018

Helena Prince in memory of deceased member **Tom Prince,** ~ April 2023

Corrine Gignac in memory of Vietnam Vet Marine **Gary L West** ~ January 2020

Bonnie Woods in memory of her
VN vet husband **Gary Woods**, ~
December 2018.

Memorable Quote

Any veteran will tell you that war is terrible, but the comradeship and brotherhood we built during those times makes us better people. I am proud to have served with my brother Seabees, and I am proud to be an American. God bless us all, and God bless America.

—Larry St. Antoine, quote from upcoming book **We Answered the Call**, in press).

Coming Soon: Recognition Dinner!

By Dave Draper



Just a reminder that the Recognition Dinner is fast approaching. This year the recognition dinner will be held on May 4th at the **UAW Hall 898**, located at 8975 Textile Road in Ypsilanti. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Special guests Miss Michigan and Miss Washtenaw County will be attending. As customary, we will have a catered meal, awards presentation, and silent auction from both VVA and AVVA. Join us in recognizing this year's outstanding veterans, for their dedication and enthusiasms. Hope to see you there!

Two-Way Communication: Readers' Space

By Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Newsletters are notorious for being one-way channels of communication. But they need not be. And this will, of course, depend on members' interest.

And this is the point of this note: It is to invite VVA 310 members to make the Dispatch a two-way channel of communication. Thus, prior to completing this month's newsletter, I had coffee with Pres. Jon Luker, and we discussed ways to improve our Dispatch Newsletter. Three points could be helpful, as follows:

- Expand the Dispatch Team;
- Invite readers to provide feedback; and
- Include educational content.

About point number one, we do have a Dispatch Team. Much must be done for an issue of the Dispatch. Content needs to be created; materials need to be edited; corrections must be made; format must be checked; printing must be done; stamps must be purchased; addresses must be printed and affixed to newsletters; and newsletter must be mailed.

In fact, the team keeps a sharp eye on quality as well. So, every picture and every article is seen and approved by several other people before they go out. If anyone else would like to join our Dispatch Team, let me know.

About point number two, this has to do with making the newsletter a



two-way instrument instead of just one way. Page 12 of the Newsletter has information on how to send your feedback or questions. In order to maintain our newsletter with 12 pages, the Dispatch editor will be looking for interesting and engaging material every month. We have a group of steady writers. But others may wish to contribute materials as well. For example, I am looking for someone who is interested in informing members about relevant legislation issues. The third point is about education. This aspect is significant because, as a veterans organization, VVA 310 must meet certain requirements to be exempt under section 501(c)(19), such as conducting programs for educational purposes. But educational for one may sound like disinformation for another. Hence, the need to have two-way communication, giving members a chance to express their opinions and to ask questions.



If You Wish to Contact Us

Website: <http://vva310.org/>

General Information:

President: Jon Luker

Vice President: Al (Fredo) Merritt

Secretary: Larry St. Antoine

Treasurer: Berry Bourne

Membership: Vance McCrumb

Dispatch Editor: Paulo-Juarez Pereira

Chapter Mailing Address:

VVA 310, PO Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3221

Monthly Meetings: Second Thursday of the Month, 1900 hours.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310
P.O. Box 3221, Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Please Forward. Thank You!