



The Chapter 310 Dispatch

February
2017



TWO TIME NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



Washtenaw County KIA's

Keith Stoddard	1 Feb 1971
Stanley Thompson	4 Feb 1966
Robert Piercy	7 Feb 1968
Ronald Koch	6 Feb 1968
William Gouger Jr	11 Feb 1969
James Kirby	11 Feb 1969
Robert Marvin	14 Feb 1967
Larry Adams	23 Feb 1968
Jimmie Warren	23 Feb 1969
Roger Bulfant	28 Feb 1966
Kenneth Fulton	28 Feb 1967
Clark Woodworth Jr	28 Feb 1966

Michigan MIA's

Unaccounted for - 49
Accounted for - 36

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President's Message:

On December 20 John Kinzinger, members of VVA 310, AVVA and Friends, the Rolling Thunder, and the Michigan Military Moms met at the VA Hospital to make room visits. As you may be aware, because of some new regulations at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital, we had to break up our visits with the patients into two different days to help keep the hallways less crowded. The Michigan Military Moms gave patient gift baskets. The Plymouth



VFW Auxiliary gave Christmas stockings. The Rolling Thunder gave hand knitted lap blankets that were red, white, and blue. We broke into two teams with myself escorting Miss Michigan, Ariana Kwan. John K. took Miss Washtenaw, Alaina Cook and former Miss Michigan Stacey Mason. As I understand it, this is the eighteenth year that Stacey has joined us for this event. Many of the patients enjoyed seeing the three beauty queens and loved getting



autographed pictures of them. Alaina and Stacey provided violin music for both the patients and the staff. The Chelsea Fiddlers provided opening ceremonies in the CLC and then played music on the floors for the patients. It was gratifying to see the pleasure on the faces of the patients as some

told war stories. Most thanked us very much for thinking of them. If you have never joined us before, try participating this year - it's v e r y heartwarming!



On January 8th we held our annual Underwear Party at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital. This makes somewhere around fifteen years that our Chapter, under John K.'s leadership, has participated in this event. We had volunteers from VVA 310, AVVA310, the Veterans Honor Guard of Washtenaw County, and Beverly from the VA Volunteer Services - around fifteen in all. We passed out T-shirts and underwear to the patients. This year we had only one female patient. We gave her pajamas. I would like to give special thanks to Jack Meyers's daughter, Anna, for taking pictures at the event. Hopefully we will have them posted to the website by the time you read this. We had a great time talking with the hospitalized Vets. Some were about to be



discharged and some had been there for several months. Most were in good spirits and some outright funny. They were all grateful for our taking the time to even think about them, much less giving out the gifts. Most of them seemed to be Army. There seemed to be a very few of the other branches of service. This is truly a great thing that we do every year — Vets serving Vets!

As you may remember, we are now selling merchandise at the VA Hospital every month on the second Tuesday of the month. This month we did not do quite as well as last month. Weather may have been to blame this time though. We received a few inches of snow the night before and the morning of

the event. Thanks to all who came out and to Meni Draper for running the event during the months that Al Dieter is away. Meni said she had a lot of help which was greatly appreciated.

My wife and I had a great time at the WACU Fundraiser January 11th at Frenchie's (Sidetrack) in Ypsilanti's Depot Town. Many members of our Chapter were there along with members of the AVVA and Friends, Veterans Honor Guard, and WACU. Also, singers Stacey Mason and Kelly Trudell. It started off with dining to the vocal and violin music performed by former



Miss Michigan, Stacey Mason. Then John Kinzinger stood to accept donations from various organizations and individuals. WACU did very well. After that John started the auction by presenting Louie, the auctioneer. There were around twenty items up for auction. As you might guess, the items were diverse. They ranged from professional photos taken of Colorado mountains and Vietnam pictures by Gary Lillie, to Red Wing hockey tickets, four 'Club Seat' Tigers game tickets, jewelry, blankets, a very nice bronze statue of "The Three Servicemen", 2015 Blue Bloods script signed by all the cast, aroma therapy gift box, and a framed set of Washtenaw County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commemorative Programs signed by distinguished officers.

John Kinzinger did a great job of assembling it for the fundraiser. I won the bid on the last item and I will be donating it to the Ypsilanti Township display area. The night finished out by singing from Kelly Trudell. Two other exciting things happened that night. John announced that he and Jane are becoming grandparents. And, WACU's Terry Hall got down on bended knee and proposed to Stephanie Fairbotham. They both first met two or three years ago at Frenchie's





during a WACU fundraiser. Congratulations to both families. Exciting news.

We had a very productive Chapter meeting on the January 12. We agreed to support these projects:

- A donation to Fisher House, which is to be built at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital grounds (similar to Ronald McDonald house, only for Veteran families);
- A donation toward the cost to purchase a VA Hospital Transport Vehicle (the enhanced golf carts used to transport patients and their supporters). VFW Post 423, American Legion Post 46 and our Chapter will be sharing the cost of a replacement vehicle. The Marine Corp League purchased one as well. The VA's current carts are very old and are constantly breaking down. Our Chapter's logo and the Posts' logos will be attached to the vehicles to show everyone our combined Veteran support;
- We unofficially agreed to make a line item in the upcoming new budget to support Wreaths Across America with the purchase of 20 wreaths each year. We will designate them to be placed on gravesites at the Great Lakes National Cemetery;
- We approved getting our flag set replaced for our Chapter. We use them at both our Chapter facility and also the special occasions and events we participate in.
- We also set in motion the process for procuring a memorial brick for "Doc" Martinez at Kokomo.
- We are also getting ready to get bricks from our Vietnam Veterans Memorial to have names inscribed for the four members we have lost.
- Lastly, we also received a new member, Army Veteran Rudolph Johnson. If you get a chance, shake his hand and welcome him home.

On January 13, the Defense Department announced that veterans will soon be able to shop online at military exchanges. The policy change will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military, DoD officials said. It will be for online shopping only and will not include purchases of military uniforms, alcohol, or tobacco. It is slated to take effect in November.

A quote from an e-mail recently sent to me regarding Camp Lejeune:

"Most recently after a long delay, the soon to be Former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald signed the Ledger authorizing certain conditions to be granted [presumptive status] for those who were stationed at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed or were diagnosed with any of the following conditions: Adult Leukemia, Aplastic anemia and other Myelodysplastic syndromes, Bladder Cancer, Kidney Cancer, Liver Cancer, Multiple Myeloma, Non-Hogkins



Lymphoma, and Parkinson's Disease. Those who were stationed there during the timeframe, or TDY from another military organization, or families can apply for benefits, but they have [to have been] there for 30 days or more."

In late January (after the submission of this article) we will be attending our first planning meeting for our annual Gary Lillie Recognition Dinner, which takes place on April 8 this year. I look forward to working with all the volunteers to bring all the ideas together into one cohesive plan to present what is believed to be our 30th Dinner. As with last year, it will be held at the UAW Hall in Ypsilanti.

Next time you see George "Chief" Perrault, give him a big "Thank You" for applying for, and receiving a grant from Walmart to subsidize our Memorial Grounds account. This will help carry on the job of keeping our Memorial as pristine as it is now.

Another person to congratulate is Gary Bourdeau. He recently won the Veteran of Month Award from the Milan Chamber of Commerce. We sure have a class act going on in our Chapter, don't we? A great bunch of Vets and supporters.

February 14 is the VVA 310 Merchandising event at the VA Hospital.

February 19 is the seventy-fifth birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

On February 20, we celebrate Presidents' Day (Lincoln's Birthday, Feb 12 and Washington's Birthday, Feb 22).

Officer nominations start in February and go through April. Who would you like to see representing you for 2017- 2018? Be thinking of who you would like to nominate for Officers and Board members.

See you at the next meeting,

Dave Draper



VVA and Ann Arbor VAMC

By John Kinzinger

About 20 years ago I volunteered to be the VVA Rep for the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center (VAMC). We have had two Associate VVA Reps working with me from VVA Chapter 528. The requirement is that we have at least one member attend each quarterly meeting. At that meeting updates on what is going on at the VAMC are shared; and, as Reps, we can bring up concerns or questions to the Staff.



Our VAMC group organizes a special Christmas program, a great Halloween room visit in costumes, we make dog tags for the POW-MIA brunch each year and more. We also use available funds for special projects, like this year we are contributing to purchase a new patient transport vehicle to move handicapped patients all around the medical center for their appointments.



On December 23rd, Chapter 310 members and Friends passed out specially embroidered shirts to every patient. The special logo is an American flag surrounded by "Proud Veteran", "Freedom Is Not Free". Friend Linda Colby has been doing these for us for many years. Shirts remaining are given



to the Oncology Department to give to their cancer treatment patients. Then on January 8th, for our third visit for our Christmas program, Chapter 310 members and Friends passed out packages of t-shirts and boxers/briefs to every patient. We again traveled throughout the entire facility. I have had uninformed people respond, "Why underwear, that seems funny?" My response has always been, "Do you know of anyone who does not like new underwear?" And this need is always on the 'needs list' request from the Voluntary Services office. So that is why we do this. It is impossible to judge



how many of each size we need, as they range from Small to 5X. So we order many more than we could need. All the remaining packages are left for Voluntary Services to give incoming patients as needed. We always have a few female patients, so we have pajamas for them.

Our Annual VAMC Christmas Program

Last December was our 30th annual VVA Christmas program. The first two were organized by Jack McManus. I worked alongside him learning what was needed to put a show together. We initially used a telemarketer fundraiser to obtain the funds to pay for the show and gifts. The remaining funds generated (about \$12,000) were the start of our Building Fund. Jack



got too busy at VVA State and National level, so I took over the program. We felt using the telemarketer people was the wrong way to go and began a private mailing of our own. We received donor addresses from many sources. The telemarketer agency did not give us any of their donor addresses. Over the years the confidential list used by our Chapter to raise the funds has grown.

In early November each year, we mail each person, business and organization on our list a request letter. In it we pledge that 100% of the funds we receive will go to our work at the VAMC for Veterans. In that letter we also pledge to not share their information with anyone, and that we will not contact them with another request that year.

After the program, which includes three different VAMC visits to each patient room, we mail every contributor an acknowledgement letter, a financial report and pictures of us with patients in the VA doing these events. Each year about 80% of our supporters send us a check. If you would like to be added to that list, please call me at 734-994-0444 and clearly leave your name and address and you will be added to our 2017 mailing list.

Sandy Martinez, Jane and I do the letter writing, purchasing and organizing. So, now you know more about our VAMC committee, volunteers and our Christmas program. Best to you all. John K



FEBRUARY'S KIA'S - MAY WE NEVER FORGET

DATA AND IMAGES ARE THE RESULT OF THE RESEARCH BY PETE (LEATHER NECK) BELAIRE



Private **Keith Arthur Stoddard** was born on September 20, 1950 to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Stoddard of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Keith is a 1968 graduate of Ypsilanti High School. After graduation, he worked in the laboratory of the State Highway Department. He entered the Army in March of 1970. Private Stoddard began his tour of duty in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam serving as an Armor Crewman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. Keith was killed on February 1, 1971 due to the self-detonation of an explosive device.

Specialist 4 **Stanley James Thompson** was born on December 2, 1942 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. James B. and Mrs. Mildred Thompson. Stanley is a graduate of Ann Arbor High School and the Alexandra School of Cosmetology. He was also a former Washtenaw County Junior Deputy. He entered the Army and spent two years in Germany before re-enlisting in 1962. Specialist 4 Thompson began his tour of duty in Binh



Duong Province, South Vietnam on September 21, 1965 serving as an infantryman with 3rd Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Stanley was killed on February 4, 1966 when he stepped on a Viet Cong land mine.

Corporal **Robert Conover Piercy** was born on September 29, 1946 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Piercy of Milan, Michigan. Robert is a 1966 graduate of Milan High School. He entered the Marine

Corps in July of 1969 where he completed his Marine Corps Boot Camp Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He received his Advanced Infantry Training at Camp Pendleton, California before being stationed at Quantico, Virginia. Corporal Piercy began his tour of duty in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on September 22, 1967 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Forces. Robert was killed when his unit received heavy small arms automatic weapons fire that struck him on February 7, 1968.



Private First Class **Ronald Lee Koch** was born on December 17, 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Koch of Lima Township, Michigan. Ronald is a 1966 graduate of Chelsea High School in Chelsea, Michigan. Private First Class Koch began his tour of duty in Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam on July 27, 1967 serving as an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Ronald was killed on February 6, 1968 from shrapnel

wounds sustained in an explosion.

Specialist 4 **William David Gouger, Jr.** was born on May 3, 1949 to Mr. and Mrs. William D. Gouger, Sr. of Ypsilanti, Michigan. William is a 1967 graduate of Lincoln High School. Specialist 4 Gouger began his tour of duty in Long An Province, South Vietnam on October 26, 1968 serving as an infantryman with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. William was killed on February 11, 1969 from enemy small arms fire. According to a posting by Joseph



Bogucki, "I served in Nam with Bill Gouger with Recon 2nd/60th Inf. 9th Inf Div. We called him 'Big G'. An avid hunter and outdoorsman, Bill was our platoon's unofficial armorer. 'G' was a big man, but as kind and gentle as any



you would ever meet. Rest in Peace, Big G”.



Warrant Officer **James Eugene Kirby** was born on October 27, 1941 to Mr. and Mrs. Grover P. Kirby of Ann Arbor, Michigan. James graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1958. James Kirby was a professional serviceman serving in the Marine Corps for four years before enlisting in the Army in November of 1964. Warrant Officer James Eugene Kirby began his tour of duty in Vietnam on November 2, 1968. James was flying a mission on February 11, 1969 when his aircraft was hit by enemy antiaircraft fire and the aircraft crashed killing

James instantly.

Lieutenant **Robert Clarence Marvin** ~ MIA 2/14/67 ~ A 1958 graduate of Greenville High School in Boone, Iowa. Bob earned a Navy Scholarship and attended the University of Michigan where he was a member of the Naval ROTC program. Lieutenant Marvin flew 111 missions from the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk before going to the U.S.S. Hancock with VA-115, Task Force 77, 7th Fleet operating in the Gulf of Tonkin, North Vietnam. Marvin flew an A1H (Skyraider) from the Hancock on a mission. His plane developed trouble shortly after takeoff. He and his wingman turned to return to the carrier, but Bob's engine stalled and cut off all electrical power, so no radio messages were received from him.



Specialist 4 **Larry Adams** was born on May 3, 1949 in Detroit, Michigan to Foster Adams and Merlin King. Larry attended Ypsilanti High School prior to enlisting in the Army on January 29, 1967. Specialist 4 Adams went through Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood before attending a ten week long helicopter maintenance course at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Larry started his tour of duty in An Kye, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam on August 13, 1967. He served with B Company, 229th Assault

Helicopter Battalion, 11th Aviation Group, 1st Cavalry Division. Although trained as a helicopter mechanic, Larry was flying a mission on a helicopter as a gunner when the aircraft was struck by enemy small arms fire killing him instantly on February 23, 1968.

Specialist 4 **Jimmie Sherrill Warren** was born on December 30, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Sherrill Warren of Milan, Michigan. Jimmie is a 1967 graduate of Dundee High School in Dundee, Michigan. He entered the Army in January of



1968 completing his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Specialist 4 Warren began his tour of duty in Cu Chi, Tay Ninh Province on August 16, 1968 serving as a Radio Operator with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. Jimmie was killed on February 23, 1969 as a result of enemy small arms fire.

Private First Class **Roger Dean Bulifant** was born on April 6, 1947 to Mr. and Mrs. Forrest L. Bulifant, Jr.. Roger attended Belleville High School in Belleville, Michigan. Private First Class Bulifant enlisted in the Marine Corps in July of 1965. Roger was serving with F Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 3rd Marine Division in the Hue - Phu Bai area of Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam as a rifleman. He died as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds on February 28, 1966.



Specialist 5 **Kenneth Lige Fulton** was born on September 7, 1946 to Mr. and Mrs. Lige Fulton, Jr. of Willis, Michigan. Kenneth is a 1964 graduate of Lincoln High School. Specialist 5 Fulton began his tour of duty in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam on February 28, 1967 serving as a Medical Non-commissioned Officer with B Company, 588th Engineering Battalion, 79th Engineering Group, 20th Engineering Brigade. Kenneth was on a convoy in the Mekong Delta when it was

ambushed. He was killed on February 15, 1968 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds fifteen days before his was to rotate back to the States.

Captain **Clark Newell Woodworth, Jr.** was born on September 19, 1934 in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Clark and Rose Woodworth, Sr. Clark graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1952, and from Michigan State University in 1958. Clark began his tour in Vietnam on January, 3, 1966 serving as an advisor with the 10th ARVN Infantry Division, Advisory Team 87, HQ, MACV Advisors, MACV. Captain Clark Newell Woodworth, Jr. was killed on February 28, 1966 as a result of multiple fragmentation wounds in Binh Thuy Province, South Vietnam. The Woodworth Library is a 40,000 volume library located inside the entrance at Fort Gordon, Georgia, which is named in honor of Clark.





If you are a Chapter Patron, please check page 23 to see if you need to renew. Thank you for your continued support of *The 310 Dispatch* and the Chapter!

*** Upcoming Events ***

Date	Time	Event
Saturdays	0930	Meet at end of southeast parking lot at Gallup Park for walk or run with Team Red White & Blue
9 Feb	1800	AVVA Regular and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423
9 Feb	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
11 Feb	1000	Creative Memories Scrapbooking Fundraiser VFW Post 423, Wagner Rd. Ann Arbor, MI
12 Feb	0930	AVVA Michigan State meeting at the VFW Post 423. All are welcome to attend.
14 Feb	0800	Merchandise Sales on third floor of VAAHS until midafternoon. Volunteers requested.
20 Feb	1930	WCCV Meeting, Chelsea American Legion Post 31, 1700 Ridge Rd, Chelsea, MI 48118
27 Feb	1830	Quartermania at the Milan American Legion, Wabash St. Milan, MI. Doors will open at 1700.
9 Mar	1800	AVVA Regular and VVA Board Meetings at VFW Post 423
9 Mar	1900	VVA Regular Chapter Meeting at VFW Post 423
14 Mar	0800	Merchandise Sales on third floor of VAAHS until midafternoon. Volunteers requested.
8 Apr	1800	Gary Lillie Annual Spaghetti and Recognition Dinner, UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti MI 48197
17 Apr	1800	WCCV Annual Recognition Dinner, Saline American Legion Post 322 (cocktails at 1730)
5-6 May		AVVA Region 5 convention in Columbus, Ohio
31 May		Deadline for registering for Kokomo
12-17 Aug		AVVA National Convention at the New Orleans Marriott
14-16 Sep	1630	Kokomo 35th Veterans Reunion
28 Oct	1730	VAAHS Halloween Party. Meet in the lobby in costume.
19 Dec	1730	VAAHS Christmas Party. Meet in the lobby.

If your event is not listed here, email the Dispatch Editor at

jon@bridge2011.onmicrosoft.com



Regular Meeting Minutes

12 January 2017

Call to order by President Draper at 1902

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



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

Guests: Rudolph Johnson is a new member. Barry Bourne is a life member who is just returning to the meetings.

Motion to Approve the October Minutes by Merritt and Rogge. Approved.

President's Report: Draper. Welcome back everybody. I hope your Christmas was good and that you have a good new year. Texas Road House had a fundraiser last month. They elected to give the proceeds to us in the form of gift cards good at the Road House. They range from \$5 to \$50 bucks. Think of nominations for officers. Nomination start next month.

Treasure's Report: Paulo. Reports handed out. No questions.

Friends Report: Kinzinger. Please see attached report. Mary Gantt told us about scrapbooking as a fundraiser in support of the Ann Arbor Fisher House in memory of Doc. We will meet here at VFW Post 423 from 1000 to 1600 on 11 Feb to make scrapbooks. AVVA and Friends merge. The Lois Perrault Memorial Fund and a little fund from past dues will be kept separate from AVVA funds. Friends will cease. All activities will be the same.

AVVA Report: Driscoll. Please see attached report. Part of the toxic research bill was passed along with several other veterans' bills. 28 members. Raised over \$400 for the Fisher House. 5 and 6 May will be the regional convention in Columbus.

Food Pantry: Martinez. (excused) No Report.

Merchandise Report: Dieter. By Draper. We did well at the VA in January.



We'll be at the VA on the 2nd Tuesday of the month for the rest of the year.

Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Report: Luker. Please see attached report.

Memorial Committee Report: Merritt. Please see attached report.

Website Committee Report: McCrumb. The new website is getting about 10 times more hits than the old website.

Membership Report: McCrumb. 193 members so far. One more in progress and one transfer we think will come.

Newsletter: Luker. Nobody offered to have their info put in the newsletter. There are a few on the website.

VAAHS Report: Kinzinger. Great Christmas Party and great underwear party. We gave away \$4,500 worth of underwear. \$12,000 came in on the annual Christmas fundraiser mailing. The next event will be the Halloween party.

Veterans Radio: Throneberry. No report.

VA State Chapter: Wilson. No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Motion: Perrault/Belair to spend \$250 to replace the service flags, build a new collapsible stand, new poles and new tops to be co-owned with VFW Post 423. Board Approved. Approved.

Motion: Draper/Rogge to give a \$300 donation from the VAMC account to the Fisher House for the Ann Arbor VA. Board Approved. Approved.

Motion: Kinzinger/Merritt to give \$3000 from the VAMC account to the VA to help pay for a golf cart. Board Approved. Approved.

Special Events Reports: None

Good of the Order:

McCrumb: 25th Anniversary challenge coins are available for \$5

Draper: I delivered a check to Cueter Dodge for their gift to needy families.

Draper: We gave a certificate of appreciation to the UPS store for their great discount on the boxes we used for the packing parties.

Draper: I sent a \$50 gift card to Mike Eadie for his support of the grounds



crew by doing all of the mechanical equipment maintenance.

McCrumb: WDTE is looking for 10 to 15 Vietnam veterans to interview on camera so that viewers learn about issues that veterans face.

Draper: We received a thank you card from Sandy Martinez.

Hall: The Annual Gary Lillie Recognition Dinner will be held on 8 April at the usual UAW hall.

Perrault: Don't forget that we will be meeting for breakfast tomorrow morning at the Bomber in Ypsilanti.

Closing Prayer: Kinzinger

Adjourned 2030.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Luker



AVVA Minutes:

February 2017

At our January meeting, the Friends of VVA 310 and AVVA voted to have one organization and dissolve the Friends of VVA 310. I want to welcome all Friends of VVA 310 to join AVVA Chapter 310.

Who Is AVVA?

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) is a unique organization, pulling together Veterans and people who support their issues into one united group. "Together Always" is the motto of this organization.

AVVA is NOT an auxiliary. It is an IRS approved 501(c)(4) Social Welfare Organization serving veterans. We are made up of veterans and non-veterans from all walks of life; working together for common goals. The most significant advantage we have is that because of our IRS status, we are allowed to lobby Congress regarding pending or suggested legislation, and we often do.

AVVA was born out of people who wanted to support the actions and causes of the Vietnam Veterans of America, whose main motto is: "Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another". AVVA is made up of members who are Veterans from all eras, military personnel and their families, families and friends of Vietnam Veterans, and community members who want to help support the needs and issues of all Veterans. In short, AVVA is anyone and everyone who wishes to work towards these goals.



Why Join AVVA?

Being a member of AVVA gives you the fellowship in which to accomplish all manner of tasks and programs that support the needs of our nation's veterans. Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America members walk the halls of Congress supporting veteran related legislation, and promote programs and events. You can be a part of that on a local level.



If you look at our programs you will see that AVVA is hard at work, helping to improve the circumstance of Veterans and their families in both large and small ways. Our Service Officer Program adds experienced personnel to help with the huge number of claims for Veterans and their survivors, at no cost to them; our VISTA Program encourages 'giving back' to local communities and tracks the thousands of hours of volunteer work by our members throughout the country; Paper Safes give Veterans a means of making life less stressful for their family and friends in a time when things can be very chaotic, again, at no cost to the Veteran. AVVA gives grants to organizations helping homeless veterans and supports educational programs regarding the effects of Agent Orange and other toxins.

When you join AVVA you join a family that stretches across this country, whose common goal is to help keep this nation's promises to our Veterans.

This year we voted as a chapter to support the soon-to-be-built Fisher House Michigan in cooperation with Build It For The Brave (BIFTB) in Ann Arbor, MI. The majority of our fundraising activities this year will be sent to BIFTB (a 501(c)(3) charity setup to fund the Ann Arbor Fisher House) and to supporting Warriors and Caregivers United and Military Moms United. We, as a chapter, want to support the modern warrior and to support VVA's 310 motto "Never again shall a veteran coming home from battle be made to feel alone and unappreciated!"

Fundraising

Our current fundraisers are the Veteran Wrist Story Bracelets (\$5.00 donation), the Milan Quartermania and a Creative Memories scrapbooking fundraiser (to be held on February 11th at 1000 at the VFW Post 423, Wagner Rd. Ann Arbor, MI).

Our fundraising efforts were successful in January.

We had 120 Veterans Wrist Story Bracelets donated to AVVA Chapter 310 as



a fundraiser to benefit BIFTB - Fisher House Michigan. These are given out for a \$5.00 donation. We issued 33 bracelets (\$165.00) at the AVVA and VVA membership meetings. We now have a total of \$600.00 to donate to the BIFTB - Fisher House Michigan. We raised \$409.25 in December for BIFTB - Fisher House Michigan and Jane K. donated the 50/50 winning to BIFTB - Fisher House Michigan. We have 92 bracelets left to issue. Please let me know if you would like to make a donation for one for yourself, a friend or family member.

Jim Dempsey, VVA 310 Member is the Secretary/Treasurer for BIFTB - Fisher House Michigan. The back of his business card sums up why we should donate to this project:

"Fisher House Foundation is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veteran's families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. The VA Ann Arbor will be placing a Fisher House on their property as early as 2018. Help our 501(c)3 in our efforts to make this a reality. Help us fund the Ann Arbor Fisher House."

On Saturday February 11th from 10 am to 3 pm, we will have a Creative Memories scrapbooking fundraiser. Please contact Meni Draper at 734-214-0664 for more information. If you can attend our fundraiser, you can order your Creative Memories album supplies from Mary Gantt at www.creativememories.com/user/marygantt or contact Mary directly at ganttme@yahoo.com or 248-348-5359.

On Monday, February 27th, AVVA 310 will sponsor a Quartermania to benefit Fisher House Michigan. It will be held at the Milan American Legion, Wabash St. Milan, MI. Doors will open at 5:00 pm and Quartermania will begin at 6:30 pm. We need volunteers to sell food, Chinese Raffle tickets and 50/50 Raffle tickets; more information will be provided at our February meeting.

We hope all members, who are available will attend this fundraiser. We are close to our goal to raise \$1,000.00 for the Fisher House Michigan. Please help us reach our goal.

Membership

AVVA 310 has 30 members. We have two new AVVA members, Jane Kinzinger and Corrine Gignac. I mailed out a welcome letter with a membership application to all Friends of VVA 310, who are non-AVVA members. Please complete the application and mail it directly to AVVA at Monument Bank, AVVA Lock Box, 8602 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

AVVA dues are \$20 yearly with three year and life memberships available. If you sign up for a \$100.00 Life Membership, please send a copy of your driver's license. There is a payment plan for a Life Membership available (requires \$50 down and \$25 monthly until paid in full.)

AVVA National News

VISTA

AVVA's VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is a program that allows



AVVA members to document their service to veterans and the community, except VA Voluntary Service hours which are tallied and reported in a different way. AVVA VISTA hours are reported on AVVA Form F-Pro8.03.

AVVA National Convention 2017

Next year's 2017 AVVA National Convention will be held at the New Orleans Marriott, August 12-17, 2017. I will have more information in February. It is a National Election year.

Meni Draper will be attending the convention and, as the AVVA Chapter 310 Delegate, she will cast the AVVA Chapter 310 vote for AVVA National Officers. Our chapter will pay Meni's registration fees for the convention.

AVVA Michigan State Association Events

AVVA Michigan State meeting will be held at the VFW Post 423 on Sunday, February 12th at 0930. All are welcome to attend.

AVVA Region 5 convention will be held May 5-6, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio. I will have more information in February and March as it becomes available. I plan to attend the AVVA Region 5 convention.

Kathy Driscoll

Chapter Representative, AVVA Chapter 310
AVVA Michigan State Association Vice President
dkathyr16@gmail.com
734-355-4897



Friends Minutes:

January 12, 2017

There were 9 members present and one guest. Mary Gantt, Scrapbooking Consultant, attended our meeting to share information. Mary explained how a scrapbooking "party" could be a fundraiser. She offered to help by offering scrapbooking supplies, the proceeds to go to Scrapbooking for Soldiers Fundraiser. Meni will also bring supplies for everyone to use. The event is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 10:00 - 4:00 at VFW Post 423. She passed out catalogues from which we may order supplies. Contact Mary directly (248-348-5359) to have items ordered available in time for the event.

Kathy Driscoll gave the financial report.

Jane expressed thanks to all who helped with decorating the VFW for Christmas, to those who helped distribute gifts to our VA patients on December 23, and to those who brought Toys for Tots at our December meeting. A special thanks was extended to Kate Kirkpatrick and her husband Erik for their generous and beautiful donation of 2 wreaths for our Vietnam Memorial.



Military Moms United sent a thank you for our recent donation.

There was a discussion of the proposal that the Friends group as a separate entity be discontinued and the Chapter 310 AVVA group be the sole group for those who did not serve in Vietnam but wish to support VVA 310. (See details below.) This idea was also emailed to all people on the Friends Roster, alerting them to this potential change and asking for comments/suggestions. Only one response (in agreement) was received. There was a motion that the Friends group per se be discontinued. The motion passed. From this point on, the informal Friends group is discontinued in favor of continuing support of Chapter 310 AVVA. This will eliminate duplication of efforts and unnecessary divisions. Kathy will follow up with letters to those Friends who are not currently also AVVA members to invite them into AVVA membership. Membership in AVVA will allow anyone to continue as the right hand of VVA 310, as the Friends group has traditionally been. In the future, Jane will track past Friends activities to insure those are incorporated into AVVA, where appropriate (e.g., care of the Vietnam Memorial flower bed). Any shirts, sweatshirts and jackets carrying the Friends logo can still be worn at any event.

Thanks to all those who have supported and participated in the Friends group over the years. You have contributed to the Friends activities including: Gold Star Mothers Luncheon, flowers for the Vietnam Memorial, parties for our VVA members, donations to Sons and Daughters in Touch (children of people killed in Vietnam), donations to the Vietnam Education Center being built in Washington, D.C., gift of flowers for Friend of the Year and Honorary Friend of the Year, purchase of the Friends Tree at our Vietnam Memorial (and purchase of a replacement tree in the spring), among other purchases such as the shed at our Vietnam Memorial. All these were paid for with the \$20 dues collected yearly for Friends membership. Thank you so much.

Notes:

Friends Group

Due to IRS and other considerations, the money from dues belonging to the Friends group was transferred to AVVA 310 under "Special Projects." This money is used by AVVA for Friends projects and activities.

Background:

- The Friends group came into existence in 2000. It is an informal group supporting VVA 310 activities and events.
- There are no Friends officers. Jane Kinzinger has led the group, with equal input from all Friends.
- Friends members pay \$20 a year. Dues provide funds to buy flowers and pay for Gold Star Mother's Luncheon.
- Friends assist the Chapter, take care of the Memorial flower bed, contribute to SDIT and other non-profits.
- Friends vote on Friend of the Year and Honorary Friend of the Year in March/April.



Current Status:

- Many Friends are also AVVA members
- AVVA and Friends meet together at the same time and place.
- AVVA and Friends work on many of the same projects and activities now.
- Friends have been encouraged to join AVVA (Associate Vietnam Veterans of America), the official non-profit group for those who are interested but did not serve in Vietnam. Dues for AVVA are \$20 a year or \$100 for a lifetime membership.

Proposal:

It is desirable at this time to have the Friends and AVVA join forces, becoming one organization under the AVVA affiliation.

Kathy Driscoll is Chapter 310 AVVA representative and AVVA Michigan Vice President.

Kathy Driscoll has very ably led Chapter 310 AVVA for several years since its charter.

Options for Current Friends Members:

Join Chapter 310 AVVA (\$20 dues for one year; \$100 Life Membership).

Become a Patron of VVA 310 (\$1.50 per month – this will assure receipt of a hardcopy of the monthly *Dispatch* newsletter. If you just want an emailed copy, send your email address to John Kinzinger (johnalva@aol.com).

Follow VVA 310 activities through the website vva310.org where the Dispatch is available.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Kinzinger



734-277-3528



Chaplain's Corner:

We have a new President and a new direction. In light of all the protests, I thought it expedient to share the following quote from "Critical Thinking" by Richard Paul and Linda Elder, (New Jersey, 2014) that pretty well summarizes the contrasting opinions in today's

America. Hopefully, this will lead to an honest debate.

Richard's observation:

"The opposite of fairmindedness is intellectual self-centeredness. It is demonstrated by the failure of thinkers to treat points of view that differ significantly from their own by the same standards that they treat their own.

Achieving a truly fairminded state of mind is challenging. It requires



us to simultaneously become intellectually humble, intellectually courageous, intellectually empathetic, intellectually honest, intellectually perseverant, confident in reason (as a tool of discovery and learning), and intellectually autonomous.

Without this family of traits in an integrated constellation, there is no true fairmindedness. But these traits, single and in combination, are not commonly discussed in everyday life, and are rarely taught. They are not discussed on television. Your friends and colleagues will not ask you questions about them."

(Critical Thinking, p 27).

What a powerful quote that could help charter us through these wasters of transition we are now navigating.

For a healthier and Godly America,

Gordon



Memorial Grounds Report

We will begin to cut grass in March. If you want to be on a cutting team, please let me know.

Until then, we are following up with the township on the drainage issue and a few other things.

See you in the Spring!

Fredo



Washtenaw County Council

There was some concern raised about whether the WCCV Recognition Dinner could be held on 17 April at the Saline American Legion building as planned. We met with the Auxiliary and confirmed that the dinner is still a go for the time and date planned.

Luker will come around to the member organizations to sell VIP tickets and tickets for organization members.

The doctor who has been denying the PTSD claims is now under peer review by the Ann Arbor VA. Corrective action will be taken in accord with the result of the peer review.

The next meeting will be at 1930 on 20 February and will be sponsored by American Legion Post 31, 1700 Ridge Rd, Chelsea, MI 48118.



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WASHTENAW COUNTY CHAPTER 310
P.O. BOX 3221 ANN ARBOR, MI 48106**

CHAPTER TELEPHONE:

TOLL FREE NUMBER ~ 1-866-824-4VVA

WEB:

www.vva310.org

MEETING DATE & TIME:

2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 1800 HRS
OPEN GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: 1900 HRS
SOCIAL GATHERING AFTERWARDS

LOCATION:

VFW GRAF-O'HARA POST 423
3230 S. WAGNER RD., ANN ARBOR
BETWEEN ELLSWORTH & WATERS RDS.,
(ACROSS FROM TOWN & COUNTRY AUTO RE-
CYCLING)

NOTE: THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS
NEWSLETTER BY THE WRITERS AND CARTOON-
ISTS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT NECESSARILY
THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF CHAPTER 310.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER. PLEASE CONTRI-
BUTE WITH AN ARTICLE OR BIOGRAPHY. IF
REQUESTED, WRITING HELP IS AVAILABLE.

THE SLIGHT VARIATIONS IN SPELLING AND
GRAMMAR ENHANCE ITS INDIVIDUAL CHAR-
ACTER AND AESTHETICS AND IN NO WAY ARE
TO BE CONSIDERED FLAWS OR DEFECTS. BUT
THANKS FOR NOTICING.

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OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

POW/MIA HOTLINE: 202.659.0133

AGENT ORANGE: 800.225.4712

WASHTENAW COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES:
NEW NUMBER 734.973.4540

MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT BILL OF RIGHTS:
800.455.5228

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA:
800.882.1316

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOT LINE:

1.800.273.TALK (8255) Option 1
[WWW.SUICIDEPREVENTIONSLIFELINE.ORG/
VETERANS](http://WWW.SUICIDEPREVENTIONSLIFELINE.ORG/VETERANS)

2016/17 Officers & Board Members

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David Draper

Vice President

Vance McCrumb

Secretary

Jon Luker

Treasurer

Paulo Pereira

Sgt-at-Arms

Tim Clarke

Nominating Committee

Marv Rivers

Vance McCrumb

Chaplain

Rev. Gordon Moore

Board Of Directors

Two Year

Bill Ballou

Al Merritt

George Perrault

Ken Rogge

Larry St. Antoine



Board of Directors, con't

One Year

Marty Cothorn
John Kinzinger
Dell Mayes
Marv Rivers
Elmer White

State Delegate

Ken Rogge
Vance McCrumb

County Delegates:

John Kinzinger
Jon Luker

VA Service Rep

(Vacant)

VVA 310

Web Master

Paulo Pereira

www.vva310.org

AVVA

Kathy Driscoll
Agent Orange
Sandie Wilson

Bylaws

Gordon Moore

Community Service

John Kinzinger

Constitution

Tom Fifield

Economic Affairs

(Vacant)

Finance

Paulo Pereira
Marv Rivers
Ken Rogge
Jon Luker

Food Pantry

VVA 310

Historian

William Vollano
David Ney

Legal Affairs

Elmer White

Legislative (Vacant)

Librarian (Vacant)

Membership

Vance McCrumb

Memorial

John Kinzinger

Memorial Grounds

Al (Fredo) Merritt

Minority Affairs

Horace Frazier

POW/MIA

Richard Price

Product Sales

Al Dieter
Gary Bourdeau

Pig Roast

Don Miller
Al Dyer

PTSD

Joe Palazzolo

Service Officer

(Vacant)

Assists Chapter Members

VAMC Rep.

John Kinzinger

Veterans Justice

Jon Luker

Webmaster

Paulo Pereira



Chapter/Dispatch Patrons - Please check your dates to see if you are current

George F Boone ~ October 2021	George Perrault ~ October 2022
Berryman Bourne ~ August 2020	Mira & Bob Pierson ~ October 2021
Cynthia Calhoun ~ February 2018	Marv & Wendy Rivers ~ January 2017
Marty Cothorn ~ April 2017	Ken Rogge ~ February 2017
Gary Couture ~ November 2017	Glenn Sakcriska ~ November 2026
Joseph Flint ~ January 2021	Edith Semark ~ December 2017
James Graham ~ February 2019	Ron and Marina Silverberg ~ March 2019
Phil and Gena Hecker ~ Feb 2021	Tom & Sandy Sorensen ~ October 2017
Steve Hitte ~ April 2017	Chris Wetzler ~ December 2017
Dorothy & Donald Kepler ~ October 2018	<i>Patricia Beechem in memory of her brother, David S. Palmer ~ October 2018</i>
Dick Knight ~ May 2018	<i>Bonnie Woods in memory of her husband Gary Woods, VN vet ~ December 2018</i>
Jane and John Kinzinger ~ September 2018	<i>Helena Prince in Memory of Tom Prince, deceased member ~ April 2023</i>
Sandy Martinez ~ September 2021	<i>Linda Lamey-Leonard In memory of *Lavern Lamey ~ March 2018</i>
Dell Mayes ~	
Ron Oliver ~ February 2019	

*NAME LISTED ON THE WASHTENAW COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The above 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 a "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!



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Washtenaw County Chapter 310

P.O. Box 3221

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

Please forward. Thank You.

HERE COMES YOUR FOUR TIME WINNER, NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR

Next Meeting: 1900 hours 9 February 2017 at GRAF-O'HARA VFW POST 423 3230 S. Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103