

NATIONAL CHAPTER OF
THE YEAR 1999 & 2007



*Together We
Make A Difference*



*Charles S. Kettles
Michigan Chapter 310*

NATIONAL
NEWSLETTER OF
THE YEAR
2007, 09, 11, 15
E-NEWSLETTER
OF THE YEAR
2017

THE 310 DISPATCH

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President's Message – David Draper, November, 2017

On September 30th, a few of us participated in the 50th Commemorative Picnic, BBQ, and Family Event sponsored by the Plymouth VFW Post 6695. It was an all-day affair. They served premium burgers and dogs, cider, donuts, and pop. John Riling brought his merchandise store with him, and he was set up in a garage on the property. The VA also brought their info van. In the hall, several Veteran services were set up to help anyone who wanted their services. It was good seeing a few people

that I knew from the State VVA. Steve and Shirley Hitte, Sandy Wilson, Meni, and I represented our Chapter. We had great weather and comradery.

On October 2nd, AVVA held their Quartermania again at the Milan American Legion. Steve Hitte and I sold and served Sloppy Joe's, chips, and water that was provided by Kathy Driscoll. Shirley Hitte helped with collecting quarters. Tim Driscoll and Lloyd Lee helped with the 50/50. Meni and Jane Kinzinger were participants in the Quartermania. I did see Jane win a couple prizes--congrats. Kathy Driscoll said it looked like by their next Quartermania (Nov 6th) they will have reached, and maybe surpassed, their goal of raising \$1,000 for the Michigan Fisher House. Thanks go to Kathy for her leadership at this event, for all the volunteers from VVA and AVVA, and for Bruce Ross (former Commander) for arranging for free rental of the hall. That allowed more money to be collected for the donation. Great job everyone for a great cause!

A VVA310 member since 2005, Joe Palazzolo was inducted into the Michigan Military and Space Hero's Museum in Frankenmuth MI on Sunday, October 8th. Joe moved away to Imlay City a few years ago but has maintained his membership with VVA 310. Meni and I, John and Jane Kinzinger, Roy and Bonnie Hall, Steve and Shirley Hitte, and Vance and Kathy McCrumb all came to witness the event. In addition to us, many of Joe's family were there, along with several members of his VFW Post. Joe seemed to be very humbled by the turnout. He said he was not expecting so many people. His showcase had many of his personal-collection items from the Vietnam Era, including uniforms, backpack, and scrip (MPC). It is the first time that many of us have ever visited the Museum, and it is quite impressive. Not sure if you were aware, but our Chapter sponsored one of the showcases in the Space portion of the museum. If you ever have a chance to visit, it would be well worth the trip. Clothing and military artifacts from World War II to present-day conflict are on display, along with those from the space program that call Michigan home. As a point of interest, there was another member of our Chapter that was inducted there and has a showcase--LTC Charles S. Kettles. After attending the ceremony and looking at all the displays, we from 310 all went to Slo' Bones BBQ Smokehouse for a bite to eat. It was only a few blocks away. The food was excellent, but it would have been better if we didn't have a State fan as a waiter (just kidding!).

Our Merchandising sales at the VAMC on October 10 was on par with the last couple of months. It continues to be a good source of revenue for the Chapter. That wouldn't have been possible had it not been for the good turnout we had of volunteers from both the VVA and AVVA. Thanks to all of you for your dedication to our Chapter, and especially to the few that were able to stay the whole day.

Our next Merchandising sales event was at the Appleumpkin Festival in Tecumseh on October 14 and 15. The first day the weather was not the best, but the sales seemed to be pretty good in spite of it. We had clouds, rain, and sunshine intermittently through the day. Volunteers were in short supply, but we managed to bring in decent sales. The following day was filled with much more drama. We ended up closing up around 12:30, because of high winds. Many tents were literally flying through the air, as wind gusts picked them up using them like sails. One gentleman was injured on the arm when a tent he was trying to rescue hit him. And, as luck would have it, rain started as we attempted to dismantle the tent. Even with all that going on, we somehow managed to make eighty dollars.

Recently, in an event I tagged as "Serving the Vets," we went to the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center and served lunch to the patients in the CLC. The idea came from Don Miller. He was the one who got the monies approved at one of our last meetings. The chefs from the VA Canteen prepared steak, ribs, mashed and baked potato, corn on the cob, mixed vegetables, and a piece of chocolate cake. The steaks were grilled on a grill that was set up on the patio outside the CLC. As you can imagine, it was a meal that the patients really looked forward to, and certainly enjoyed. Our Chapter paid for the food, and we also purchased challenge coins to give to the patients. I was able to commandeer LTC Kettles to hand out the coins, to the delight and surprise of the patients. The Colonel shook hands with each one of them, presented the coin, and talked briefly with each patient. He also had time to present coins to the chefs and the staff, the Volunteer Services staff, and a few upper management, including Acting Director Andrew Pacyna. As it turned out, the cooks had made more than enough food; so, they asked us to sit down and eat. That was not planned, but it was a welcome gesture. The food tasted terrific! I asked several of the patients how they liked their food, and they were all thumbs up. Many thanked on their way back to their rooms. All in all, it was an honor and a privilege to serve them. Thanks to our volunteers: LTC Charles Kettles, Al Dyer, Steve Hitte, Roy Hall, John Kinzinger, and Vance McCrumb. Volunteer Service restricted the number of volunteer to six not to overwhelm the patients. Thanks to Volunteer Service for working with us to set up this event and for guiding us at the event. Certainly, thanks go to the chefs and their staff for preparing and plating the food. Great job everyone! I've been told that we can certainly entertain the idea of doing this more than once a year. Pictures of the event (taken by Vance McCrumb) will be posted on the website.

Meni and I had the privilege of attending the WACU Banquet in Okemos, Michigan. There was thirty to forty people attending, including the

officers and board members of WACU and a few people who were caregivers to Vets with PTSD. Several people gave slide presentations, showing what WACU had done over the past year. John and Jane Kinzinger, Meni and I, Roy and Bonnie Hall, Larry St. Antoine, Elmer White, and Gordon and Valorie Moore were there from our Chapter. Of course, several of them were members of WACU. Songs were sung in the background by Kelly Trudell. Dinner was excellent. They served a chicken dish, redskin potatoes, mostaccioli, mixed vegetables, salad, and rolls. One of the guests prepared quite an assortment of sweets for dessert. The highlight of the evening was a caregiver who gave a testimony of her life with her husband, who was suffering from PTSD. Her husband, unfortunately, ended his life. She told of her seclusion while he was alive because of all the care she had to provide, and the emptiness and feeling of guilt after he passed. It was very emotional and heart wrenching--and very brave of her to stand in front of a group to recount her experience.

Our final event of the month was our Halloween Party at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. This is an event that has survived many years under many different leaderships. Meni and I have attended at least the last three. It's always a satisfying experience. As usual, we started by gathering in the lobby and had a few moments of camaraderie while admiring the hand-carved pumpkins and costumes that many wore. Anita and Ron Henley outdid themselves this year with the carving and received positive comments from our group, the patients, and the staff. We then proceeded to a couple of floors and passed out small handmade Halloween boxes full of candy prepared by Sandy Martinez to the nurse stations. The rest of the time we spent going room to room talking with the patients and handing out handmade Halloween cards that John Kinzinger had produced. It was our goal to lighten up and bring cheer to the patients. I think we accomplished our mission. Many, including staff, thanked us for what we were doing. I met one gentleman who was the first President of Chapter 35 out of Toledo. He was in the 101st Airborne in 1967. He and others shared their stories of where they served and the branch of service they were a part of. All in all, it was another great time sharing with our brothers and sisters of our Armed Forces. As has been the custom for the past few years, many of us dined at the Sidetrack in Ypsilanti after we finished at the hospital. I will have pictures to share on our website about this event. We were not allowed to take pictures with patients' faces in them, so the pictures are mostly of us and the hospital staff. I would like to thank all those listed here for coming to help out: Meni Draper, John & Jane Kinzinger, Steve & Shirley Hitte, Roy & Bonnie Hall, Tim & Kathy Driscoll, Anita and Ron Henley, Sandy Martinez, Marty Cothorn, Kate Kirkpatrick, and Sharon Clark with the DAR.

Coming up on November 3, AVVA will be dedicating a new tree at our Memorial to Theresa Mullins. Then on the 5th we will have our Packing Party at 3:00 p.m., followed by our monthly meeting on the 9th. On the 14th we will be holding our monthly Merchandising sales at the VAAAMC. Along with all these there will be several Veterans Day events that many in our Chapter will be attending. There gets to be so many events that it is next to impossible to attend all of them.

Until next month!

— Dave Draper
President &
USAF C-130 Loadmaster

From the Editor's Desk: Newsletter Revival!

How quickly things change! Just last month, I was the VVA310 Treasurer. Today I am the Secretary. Jon Luker suggested the change. I asked only one question to Jon: Will this help you? "Big time," he answered.



That was enough for me. So, we went through the procedure of making the change. Both had to resign and be reappointed to the new positions. At the same time, since the Chapter also needed a newsletter editor, I inquired from Jon Luker and Dave Draper whether anyone had volunteered for the job of Dispatch Editor. They both told me no one had. So, I said that I was willing to help with the newsletter. To make a long story short, here I am, taking the first steps in becoming the new Dispatch Editor.

My first step was to call for a "Newsletter Revival Meeting," which was held at the home of John and Jane Kinzinger. The coffee and pastries were the delicious, and the discussions were phenomenal. We are putting together some excellent software and will be looking for contributors. As you have seen from other projects of mine, my leadership style is participatory, based on team work. So, I will be looking for input from a lot of people for continuing to make the VVA310 Dispatch Newsletter as excellent as it has always been. For now, the newsletter is still work in progress.

So, this coming month I will be working with Jon Luker and John Kinzinger to settle on a software and a format for your VVA310 Dispatch Newsletter. I just wanted to make sure not to miss publication in the month of November, so that you can have all the important content.

— Paulo-Juarez Pereira
Dispatch Editor
November 2017

God Star Mother Passed Away – by Jane Kinzinger

Lois Brown, the Gold Star Mother of Charles Brown (Ann Arbor), passed away October 14, 2017, in Arizona. She and her husband, Chet, (who passed away around 2004) were instrumental in building our Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. Even during our efforts to build the Memorial in Veterans Memorial Park in Ann Arbor, Lois and Chet had been supportive, even though those efforts did not bear fruit. When our Memorial in Ypsilanti was dedicated on November 10, 1991, Lois and Chet were present with us.

Lois had attended the Friends' Gold Star Mothers Luncheon early on with Gold Star Mothers Della McIntire, Mary Hoag, Elaine Bulifont, Grace McKenzie, and others who have also passed away. Eugenia Fuller, Laura Eglinsdoerfer, and one other are the only Gold Star Mothers from this group believed to still be living.

Lois had been living with her daughter Janet's son in Arizona. Lois would have turned 93 years old on October 20.

Memorial services are yet to be determined. Please remember Lois, other Gold Star Mothers, and all Blue Star Families.

— Jane Kinzinger

Bricks for Doc Martinez and Gary Lillie—by Roy Hall

A large American flag flies over the memorial gardens at the 35th Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana. The flag is carried by dozens of veterans and their families during the opening ceremony. On Friday, September 15, 2017, Sandy Martinez took part in carrying the flag prior to the brick-laying ceremony. Among the many bricks placed this day were two

bricks honoring two lifetime VVA 310 members. Doc Martinez and Gary Lillie were both life members of Howard County Vietnam Veterans in Kokomo. Roy Hall felt that they should be honored in Kokomo, and he filled out the forms and provided the funds for the bricks. The bricks were laid in the HCVVO Memorial Gardens, where a sign proclaims that "A person is not really gone until they are forgotten."

One brick was placed for David "Doc" Martinez by his wife, Sandy Martinez, and also by Roy Hall and Tom Mullins. Doc was a Navy/Marine Corpsman and served in Vietnam in 1967-68. Doc passed away in October 2016.

The other brick was placed for Gary Lillie by Roy Hall, Jon Luker, and Tom Mullins. Gary was a Seabee in the U. S. Navy and served in Vietnam in 1966. Gary passed away in August 2011.

A chapter challenge coin was placed on the bricks by Sandy Martinez. Others present for the brick-laying ceremony were Bonnie Hall, Wendy Hibbits, and Cheryl Ward.

— Roy Hall

Regular Meeting Minutes - VVA Chapter 310 – by Jon Luker

12 October 2017

Call to order by President David Draper at 1900

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: Tom Jones US Army Iraq, 2003-2007. Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors for vets and civilians. We have 700 acres for 100% disabled hunters. 30 people to the Sharonville Nature Preserve, hunted 20 deer. 20 action-packed trackchairs to veterans each year. To qualify for a trackchair, you need a disability of 60% or more that is related to mobility. Cpt Lorri Chirio and Jill Holczman have a civilian TBI/PTSD program for post 9/11 veterans.

Motion to Approve the September Minutes that were emailed to members and put on the website by David Draper and Al Merritt. Approved.

President's Report: Draper. Handing out cards for AVVA. Need help at Applelunkin in Tecumseh tomorrow at 1700.

Treasure's Report: Paulo-Juarez Pereira. Reports handed out. Check to see

if the Building Fund and Non-Building Fund numbers are switched.

AVVA Report: Kathy Driscoll. Please see attached report. 6 Nov Quartermania at Milan American Legion.

3 Nov 0900 clean up the flower bed. 1000 (same day) dedication of the new Friends tree.

Food Pantry: Don Miller. One veteran received \$100 in food.

Merchandise Report: Dave Draper. Appleumpkin set up tomorrow. Sales Saturday and Sunday. Need help. Printed report on the desk if you want one.

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

1) **Dinner** date will be the third Monday of March at WCC.

2) C&P doctor was counseled, but there is still a problem.

Memorial Maintenance Report: Al Merritt. Please see attached report.

Website Report: McCrumb. No significant changes.

Membership Report: Vance McCrumb. 193 members so far.

Newsletter: No report.

VAAHS Report: John Kinzinger. Halloween Party 28 Oct at 1730. Meet in costume in the lobby.

(5 Nov 1500) is the holiday packing party. 15 Dec and 19 Dec is annual Christmas Party.

Veterans Radio: Dale Throneberry. No report.

VA State Chapter: Sandy Wilson. No report.

Old Business: (none)

New Business:

Motion: Sandy Wilson/Ken Rogge to put Luker in as Treasurer and Pereira in as Secretary. Board Approved. Membership Approved.

Special Events Reports: None

Good of the Order:

Wilson: Dr. Collet Bellinger will present "How to Cohabit with a Person with PTSD" on 1300 on 2 Dec at the Saline American Legion.

Cothorn: I'm on patient's board. If you have feedback about how things are going at the VA, please contact me. That's with good news or bad news.

Wilson: I have a size 3X men's winter jacket if anybody needs one, let me know.

Kinzinger (Jane): Joe Palazolo's showcase was unveiled at the Michigan Military Museum in Frankenmuth this weekend.

Magera: Agent Orange research into people who were exposed to AO but who were turned down because "you couldn't have been exposed."

Draper: Jim Talbot's 74th birthday is tomorrow.

Hall: Remember, we are serving lunch at the VA at 1100 on 18 Oct.

Belair: I want to thank everybody for the cards and well wishes through my recent health battles. I'm now in stage four of my cancer. The

last three treatments have not worked. I got a fourth one coming soon.
I really appreciate your support.

Breakfast tomorrow morning at the Bomber in Ypsilanti

Closing Prayer: John Kinzinger

Adjourned 2019.

— Respectfully Submitted, Jon Luker

Board Meeting 1814

- 1) Jon Luker and Paulo Pereira resign. Dave Draper Motion to accept Luker as Treasurer and Paulo Pereira as Secretary. Second by St Antoine. Approved.
- 2) Paulo agreed to be Dispatch Editor.
- 3) Still need a merchandise manager.
- 4) VA Issues by Sandy Wilson:
 - a. no director and no assistant director
 - b. more patients means that wait times are increasing
 - c. patients are being overdrugged
 - d. 2 Dec how to cohabitate with a person with PTSD at the Saline Legion at 1300. Dr. Collet Bellinger will be the speaker.
 - e. Marty Cothorn said to talk to her about ssues at the VA. Fredo said that eye appointments are mischeduled so that people have to wait for hours after their appointment to get seen. Others said they had too long wait times also. — Adjourned 1822

Dispatch Newsletter: A Stream of Awards — by Vance McCrumb

The Vietnam Veterans of America has a National Convention every other year. During those Conventions, they award the Chapter of the Year, which we have received twice, once in 1999 and again in 2007.

In 2007 we hit the trifecta: Chapter of the Year, Newsletter of the Year, and National Veteran of the year, John Kinzinger. In 2009, 2011, and 2015, we again received the National Newsletter of the Year. In 2017, we received our first E-Newsletter of the Year.

Presidents during that era were as follows:

- 1999 Chapter of the Year, Doc Martinez;
- 2007 Chapter of the Year, Newsletter and National Veteran of the year, Pete Belaire;
- 2009 Newsletter of the Year, Tim Driscoll;
- 2011 Newsletter of the year, Bob Kwiecinski;
- 2015 Newsletter of the Year, Phil Hecker; and
- 2017 E-Newsletter of the year, Dave Draper.

— Vance McCrumb

History of Friends of VVA Chapter 310 — by Jane Kinzinger

Some of you have not been around Chapter 310 long enough to know how the Friends group came to be. Others, reading this, will remember each phase of the group's existence. This is a brief history of Friends.

When VVA Chapter 310 was formed in 1987, veterans who served in Vietnam could become members of VVA 310 Vietnam Veterans of America. If you wished to be affiliated with this veterans group but did not serve during the Vietnam War, you became an Associate of Chapter 310 Vietnam Veterans of America. Many of the VVA 310 members' wives became "Associates." With about 30 members on the roster, the Associates met and helped with Chapter events and activities.

The Chapter grew and was very active. The Associates continued to be involved in this capacity until around 2000, when those within Associate of Vietnam Veterans of America were forced to become part of a nationally accredited, non-profit organization apart from Vietnam Veterans of America. When financial considerations and other issues became apparent, the IRS pressured the National VVA organization to limit its membership strictly to Vietnam Era Veterans. This led to the formation of Associate Vietnam

Veterans of America. AVVA chapters that formed were required to follow National AVVA guidelines, including having someone attend the State AVVA meetings. At that particular time, there was no one from the existing group who had time or inclination to take on leadership of the new AVVA or to attend monthly meetings in Lansing. Instead, it was decided to be an informal group but to continue helping the Chapter as we had done previously. We called ourselves "Friends of VVA 310" and did many things, including the following:

- ✓ Cared for the flower bed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Ypsilanti Township
- ✓ Marched in local parades with Chapter members, carrying the Chapter banner
- ✓ Put on Chapter parties, picnics and cook outs
- ✓ Worked merchandising tent at various fairs and events
- ✓ Hosted Gold Star Mothers' luncheon at Weber's each fall
- ✓ Visited patients at the VA Hospital 2-3 times a year
- ✓ Baked birthday cakes (Becky Sims) and later provided dishes-to-pass at VVA meetings
- ✓ Took care of Food Pantry and ordered flowers when there is a need in the Chapter
- ✓ Assisted with Chapter elections and many other Chapter events, such as the Pig Roast and other fundraisers
- ✓ Weeded and planted flowers at VFW Post 423 and decorated the Post at Christmastime
- ✓ Sewed neck coolers and knitted scarves to send to the troops serving in Iraq/Afghanistan War
- ✓ Set up POW/MIA table, decorated hall, and recognized Friend of the Year at annual Recognition Dinner
- ✓ Submitted articles for Chapter Dispatch newsletter
- ✓ Sent birthday cards to Friends

Friends dues were \$20 a year. This provided a fund to cover any expenses. Beyond paying for flowers at our Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the dues were used to do the following:

- Donate to Sons and Daughters in Touch (Children of Vietnam Veterans on the Washington, DC Memorial)
- Purchase Storage Shed at the Ypsilanti Vietnam Veterans Memorial (\$600)
- Plant Friends Tree at Vietnam Veterans Memorial (\$300 dedicated 2003)
- Purchase 2 Chapter Banners for parades and events (\$400)
- Donate toward Chapter 310 kiosk at our Vietnam Veterans Memorial (\$1,000).

The large sum of donations received in remembrance of Lois Perrault after her death is kept separate. This fund is dedicated to supporting two

girls each summer to attend Girls State (\$700). This will continue in Lois' honor until the fund is depleted. This was one of her passions.

The informal Friends group existed from 2000 and until 2017. One member, Kathy Driscoll, established AVVA affiliated with Chapter 310 in 2010-2011. Friends and AVVA then met together at the same time. Jane Kinzinger led the Friends part of the meeting, and Kathy Driscoll led the AVVA items on the agenda. Some who attended were only Friends and some were both Friends and AVVA, having joined AVVA at large as early as 2006. Eventually it was decided to dissolve the Friends group and continue with AVVA. Most Friends then joined and paid dues to National AVVA.

Over the years since AVVA Chapter 310 first formed, many people have been involved with the support group, whether Friends or AVVA. The available rosters contain the names of more than 125 people who have been involved at one time or another and moved on, and others who stayed connected. Postings from as early as 1990 provide another 20-plus names of Chapter 310 supporters, who helped AVVA Chapter 310 with their time and/or financial contributions. A few of the Friends who were on the 1999 roster were Friends until the end. I believe they are as follows: Missy Mullins Genik, Jane Kinzinger, Maria Leddy, Sandra Martinez, Jackie McManus, Libby Price, and Julianna Smith. Thank you all for being with us, then and now.

—Jane Kinzinger

AVVA Newsletter November 2017

If you are on Facebook, you can join the **AVVA Michigan** closed group. Just send a Friend Request to Marilyn Lash, and she 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.

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AVVA 310 members have been very busy in September and October.

AVVA Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in September and October:

- Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
- Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at the Clinton Fall Fest and Applelumpkin
- AVVA and VVA 310 members supported our Quartermania benefitting Fisher House Michigan
- Kathy attended the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans Meeting

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.

New Friends' Tree at the Washtenaw County Vietnam Memorial



We will dedicate the Friends Tree on Friday, November 3rd at 10:00 am. Cleanup of the flower beds will be at 09:00 am. Please plan to attend our dedication ceremony.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

Our AVVA Michigan State Association has two new fundraisers this fall.

Do you recycle your bottles and cans?

Please consider donating the deposits from your Bottle and Can returns in November to AVVA Michigan State Association!

First Fundraiser for the October 2nd AVVA Michigan State Association meeting.

This is a very simple fundraiser for AVVA 310 members to support AVVA Michigan State Association:

1. Collect your recycle bottles and cans
2. Return them to your recycle center
3. Donate the money from the bottle or can slips to AVVA Michigan State Association
4. Bring your donation money to our November 9th meeting
5. I will bring our donation to the AVVA Michigan State Association December meeting

AVVA Michigan State Association is also requesting members donate a gift card for a Envelope Draw fundraiser at the VVA Council / AVVA State Association Christmas delegate meeting in December. They are planning to place each donated gift card in an envelope and ask for donations of \$10 for each envelope.

Suggested gift cards: Tim Horton's, Starbucks, Meijer's, Restaurants, Fuel Cards, etc.

Please consider donating a gift card between \$10 - \$25 by our November 9th meeting.

Message from Marilyn Lash on [facebook.com/AVVA Michigan](https://www.facebook.com/AVVA_Michigan):

“Target areas to donate to were discussed.

So far, our efforts include:

1. Veterans Welcome Center at Metro.

2. Volunteer Services at the 5 VA Hospitals in Michigan.
3. Fisher House for Military & Veterans families.

Our members will be donating the money from their can and bottle deposits to the AVVA State Association. We would greatly appreciate your help with this ongoing fundraiser.

Thank you!

Marilyn Lash"

Please consider participating in one or both of these fundraisers to benefit the AVVA Michigan State Association.

"Never Again Shall a Veteran Coming Home From Battle Be Made to Feel Alone and Unappreciated!"

AVVA Motto:

"Together Always"

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.

There was no Dispatch for October 2017. We have the minutes from our September and October meetings.

AVVA September 14, 2017 Minutes

Eight Members were present. Kathy Driscoll was meeting leader.

Financial Report Kathy distributed the Financial Report.

Membership Report:

- AVVA 310 has 36 members. New members include Jackie McManus and Libby Price. One year memberships and Carol Talbot Lifetime membership.
- Hopefully the remaining twelve Friends of VVA 310 members will join AVVA 310. If you are joining or renewing as a Life Member, please send a proof of age with your application. A copy of your driver's license will suffice. Please contact Kathy for an application form.

AVVA 310. V.I.S.T.A. Report:

Kathy is collecting and emailing Jeri Wallis the V.I.S.T.A. hours for AVVA Chapter 310 members. Please email Kathy at dkathyr16@gmail.com your V.I.S.T.A. Remember all non-VAVS hours supporting Veterans are reported on the V.I.S.T.A. report.

Fundraising Report:

- Pig Roast raffle raised \$62.00
- Our *3rd Annual AVVA 310 No-Bake Bakeless Sale* fundraising letters will be mailed out next week. Kathy passed out *No bake Bakeless* sale letters to all members present. Please consider increasing your donation. We will split the donations this year equally between both Operating Fund and Special Project specified lines. This is our main yearly fundraiser. It allows us to fund our annual donations to AVVA Project Friendship, Sons and Daughters in Touch, all Memorial donations in-lieu of Flowers, Military Moms United, Warriors and Caregivers United and the Grand Rapids Veterans Home to name a few of our past donations from 2015 and 2016.
- AVVA 310 Quartermania to benefit Fisher House Michigan will be held on October 2, 2017 at the Milan American Legion, Post 268. We have a new goal to raise an additional \$1,000 for Fisher House Michigan. AVVA will have a basket raffle, 50/50 and sell food. All proceeds including the Mystery Gift rounds will benefit Fisher House Michigan. If you would like to donate an item for the basket raffle, please contact Kathy. Hopefully we will meet or surpass our goal. This will be the third AVVA Quartermania to benefit Fisher House Michigan.

WCCV

- AVVA 310 donated \$25.00 to the FHM. WCCV will be listed in FHM November 8th Fundraiser program as a Buddy for the \$300.00 donated from all of their delegate organizations.

AVVA Michigan State Association:

- Kathy attended AVVA Michigan State Association meeting on Sunday, August 20th in Howell, MI. AVVA 310 donated \$31 from their members and \$50 in Gift cards were donated to MI State Association. Please contact Kathy if you would like to make a donation to AVVA Michigan State Association.

AVVA National News:

- 2017 Project Friendship raised \$15,099 for Volunteers of America Greater New Orleans
- Next National Board Meeting is October 19th in Silver Spring, MD.

Old Business:

- Scrapbooking fundraiser is Saturday, October 21st 10 am to 4 pm. Please support this fundraiser. This fundraiser raised \$77.50 for Fisher House Michigan in February and May. Bring your photos and enjoy creating your photo scrapbook. Please contact Mary Gantt at www.creativememories.com/user/marygantt to order supplies or contact Mary directly at ganttme@yahoo.com or 248-348-5359.

New Business:

- Kathy has Black and Navy AVVA Ball Caps. The embroidered T-Shirts are \$23 and the embroidered Ball Caps are \$15. Purple is AVVA Region 5 color, but you can order a T-Shirt in any color.
- AVVA 310 and VVA 310 will dedicate the new Friends Tree on Friday, November 3 at 10:00 am.

Other / Ongoing Concerns:

- Lois Perrault Memorial Fund Balance: **\$2,708.25**

Upcoming Events:

- 16 October WCCV
- 14 & 15 October Applelumpkin Tecumseh, MI
- 21 October – Scrapbooking for Soldiers Fundraiser
- 28 October AAVAMC Halloween Party meet at 1730 in Lobby

Next meeting October 12, 2017 at 6 pm.

AVVA October 12, 2017 Minutes

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Fundraising Report:

Fisher House Michigan Fundraisers \$1,000 raised at May Quartermania.

- Our *3rd Annual AVVA 310 No-Bake Bakeless Sale* fundraising letters will be mailed out in November. Kathy passed out *No bake Bakeless* sale letters to all members present at the July meeting. Please consider increasing your donation. We will split the donations this year equally between both Operating Fund and Special Project specified lines. This is our main yearly fundraiser. It allows us to fund our annual donations to AVVA Project Friendship, Sons and Daughters in Touch, all Memorial donations in-lieu of Flowers, Military Moms United, Warriors and Caregivers United and the Grand Rapids Veterans Home to name a few of our past donations from 2015 and 2016.

- AVVA 310 Quartermania on October 2, 2017 at the Milan American Legion, Post 268. We raised \$324.50 for Fisher House Michigan. Our next Quartermania benefitting Fisher House Michigan is Monday, November 5th. We need volunteers to sell basket raffle tickets, 50/50 tickets, food (Pizza, Chips and Water) and collect the bid rounds.

WCCV

- Kathy will attend the WCCV meeting on Monday October 16th at the American Legion Post in Ypsilanti.

Veterans Wrist Bracelets

- All Veterans Wrist bracelets are sold. This fundraiser raised \$600 for Fisher House Michigan.

AVVA Michigan State Association:

- Kathy will attend AVVA Michigan State Association meeting in Plymouth, MI.

AVVA National News:

- Next AVVA Nation Board meeting is Thursday, October 19th in Silver Spring, MD. Cecilia Essenmacher, AVVA Region 5 director will attend.
- Meni Draper announced that will be on the Region 5 Disciplinary Committee. Committee work is conducted via email.

Old Business:

- Scrapbooking fundraiser is Saturday, September 21st 10 am to 4 pm. Please support this fundraiser. This fundraiser raised \$77.50 for Fisher House Michigan in February and May. Bring your photos and enjoy creating your photo scrapbook. Please contact Mary Gantt at www.creativememories.com/user/marygantt to order supplies or contact Mary directly at ganttme@yahoo.com or 248-348-5359.
- Kathy has one Purple AVVA T-Shirts size XL, and Black and Navy AVVA Ball Caps. You can order your embroidered T-Shirts. They are \$23 and the embroidered Ball Caps are \$15. Purple is AVVA Region 5 color, but you can order a T-Shirt in any color. Please contact Kathy to place your order. Members at the meeting placed their orders for Purple, Green, Safety Yellow and Red shirts and black hats.
- AVVA and VVA will dedicate the new Friends Tree on Friday, November 3rd. Sandy Martinez has the Friends plaque.

New Business:

- Memorial Service for Nancee Hay, diseased Life Member of AVVA 310 and Friends Member, will be on Saturday, October 21st.

Other / Ongoing Concerns:

- Lois Perrault Memorial Fund Balance: \$2,208.25
- Kathy notified Bonnie Woods, Saline American Legion Auxiliary, that AVVA 310 will be sponsoring two 2018 Girl State delegates from Saline High School Junior class. They are Devon Mercer, whose father Paul Mercer is a US Army Veteran

and served in the 1990's, and Savan Saiya-Cork, Tim and Kathy Driscoll's Granddaughter. Both Devon and Savan are on the Saline High School Honor Roll.

Upcoming Events:

- 5 November Chapter Packing Party
- 6 November Quartermania to benefit Fisher House Michigan
- 10 November Concordia University 10th Annual Veterans Day Celebration
- 10 November VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
- 14 November VVA Merchandise Sales Kiosk on 3rd floor at Ann Arbor Healthcare System Veterans Day Ceremony

Next meeting November 9th, 2017 at 6 pm.

Kathy Driscoll

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

Place
stamp
here

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