

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
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OF THE YEAR
2017

THE 310 DISPATCH – DECEMBER 2017

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President's Message – David Draper, December 2017

The ladies of the Friends, ladies of the AVVA, and members of our VVA 310 dedicated a new tree at our Vietnam Veterans Memorial on November 4. The old tree, a Bradford Pear, had to be cut down a few months ago because of damage to it. That tree was dedicated in 2003. The tree is in memory of Theresa Mullins, who, before her passing, was very active at the Ann Arbor VAMC and at the Michigan State Council. The new tree is a Crimson Maple. I did not attend the ceremony due to other commitments with the VFW, but my wife did.

We had another successful packaging party on November 5. Volunteer turnout was good and included Miss Michigan and Miss Washtenaw County. I am sure John Kinzinger will be writing something in our Newsletter, naming many who were there. I will have some pictures on our website before this article is published. We packaged 43 boxes at the event. We also had candy coming out our ears! It was good, though. We had a great process flow and were done in about 45 minutes. The potluck meal capped off the evening, with plenty of great food. It was good seeing many of the people we had not seen in a while. Great job everyone!

The Quartermania that was held on November 6 was a great success. The AVVA raised over \$600 that night, all going to the Fisher House Michigan. Thanks again to the volunteers who stopped out to help. The ladies had great prizes to raffle and a lot of participants and vendors. The winner of the 50/50 raffle, Lloyd Lee, donated the money back to the AVVA. Thanks so much, Lloyd, for your unselfish act. Pizza was sold and served to help us get through the night and gain a little more cash for the pot.

"Stories of Service" was presented at the beautiful Hill Auditorium last month as a fundraiser for Fisher House Michigan. Many of our members were invited as VIPs from several avenues of support. I went as part of the Honor Guard. We placed the flags and then were fortunate to meet many of the contributors who donated large donations. Great food and drinks were served also. It was a great night during the program also. Several guests shared their stories and told how Fisher House had affected their lives. It was announced that two donors were matching funds up to \$250,000 for the next few days after the event. That quadruples any donations that were made during that time, as there is another matching funds going on until the end of the month. From our Chapter were Meni and I, John and Jane, Roy and Bonnie, Tim and Kathy, Sandie Wilson, Steve and Shirley, Berry Bourne, and Horace Frazier—a good portion of our Chapter in attendance.

During our November General Meeting I received some great news. Larry St. Antoine announced that he, Scott, and Marv would be taking over the Merchandise Team. As many of you know, I took over the Team temporarily until we could fill the empty positions. Thank you VERY MUCH for stepping up. We will be transitioning the Team over the next couple of months. Look for more great teamwork from our new leaders.

The Saline New Horizons Band performed its Veterans Tribute Concert again this year at the Saline Middle School. As usual, it was full of military tunes and those that were played during our many wars and conflicts. Joe Labuta played a trumpet solo of "Embraceable You," and Coast Guard Captain David Smith sang a vocal solo of "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." Chapter members Larry St. Antoine and John Kinzinger, along with five other Honor Guard volunteers, posted and retrieved Colors. It was a great night of stress relief!

John Kinzinger reflected that this year was our thirtieth year of presenting a Thanksgiving meal to the residents of Dawn Farm. For Meni and myself, this is our third year. It was an opportunity for our Chapter to reach out to our community to give back. As usual, Meni and I, John and Jane, and Roy and Bonnie met at Kroger to shop for all the fixings. That was fun. We had a list put together by the Kinzingers, which we promptly expanded upon—with several hams, vegetables, rolls, milk, juice, and many pies. We took them to the Farm and delivered them to a very grateful staff and residents. Al Merritt met us there to be part of the evening. After blessing the food, participants adjourned to the common area to get to know one another. Meni

and I did stay for this part, but I heard it was very successful. It is a great thing our Chapter does for others, and I am proud to be part of it.

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and were able to spend it with family and friends. Pictures of some of these events can be viewed on our website at www.vva310.org. Look under Events/ Photo Gallery.

Until next month!

Dave Draper
President &
USAF C-130 Loadmaster

From the Editor's Desk: Newsletter Revival!

The response from VVA310 and AVVA members has been inspiring. We are developing an easy flow of tasks, including careful checkers to make sure all i's are dotted and t's are crossed. Don't forget to send your feedback for articles that are especially in good taste of that provide good information. I was once an international correspondent for a minor paper in New York, and I always enjoyed receiving readers' notes.



In terms of software, I have been using Microsoft Word, which is fine, but there are other types of software that can do a better job. The point is how best to serve the needs of our veterans. When doing good things, we also need to report about those good things. The Dispatch Newsletter fulfills that function for our chapter, together with the vva310.org website. One must also not forget this our newsletter is a historical records for the many wonderful things that our chapter is doing on a daily basis.

In this number, especially look for seasonal greetings from Rev. Gordon Moore and also a minor section for alacrity and a pause for humor. One final note: When you write an article, you get extra credit if you send a picture.

— Paulo-Juarez Pereira
Dispatch Editor
December 2017

Chaplain's Corner — December 2017 By Rev. Gordon Moore

From the beginning of creation, God had a plan that included the coming to earth of His Son to live among humankind and to reflect the Father through what He spoke and did. It was meant to give people direction for life and salvation from what would be the Fall in the Garden of Eden.

The Covenants given to Adam, Abraham, and David reflected His promise of redemption through forgiveness of sins brought about through the Atonement of a Savior, who Himself bore no sin. The prophets filled in the Covenants with insight into what this Redeemer was to do through His fulfillment of the Covenants. And after millennia of people trying but failing to live up to the standard they were created to maintain, God sent His answer, His Yashua Hamashia, Jesus the Messiah.

As Paul said in Galatians 4:1-7

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

And in Luke, we read of the history leading to the birth of Jesus, which included the prophetic promise that the Messiah would need a forerunner, who would fulfill an earlier prophecy to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of righteousness, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. And the angel of the Lord suddenly appeared before the shepherds as the glory of the Lord shone all around them with the glorious words that fulfilled a long-ago promise:

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." And then suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

God did not want humans to miss the enormity of the message and the moment. What about us today? Does Christmas bring the same joy and hope of a loving God who has brought to us a Redeemer to make us His children? I share with you the blessing of our God that He commanded His priests to give to His people: "The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace; the peace that comes through the Prince of Peace."

Peace and joy be upon you,

-- Gordon

31st VVA Christmas Program — by John Kinzinger

This year will be the 31st annual VVA Christmas program at the Ann Arbor VA. There is a change this year. VVA 310 and Friends will be doing our portion on Friday, December 15th. So, please be in the VA lobby at 5:30 p.m. We will be joined by the

Saline Fiddlers. We will also be passing out the embroidered shirts by the widow of Vietnam Veteran David Colby, Linda, our great friend. Throughout the year, Linda gets great buys through her business, Unique Appeal; then, she embroiders our special logo over the left-breast area. They go only to hospitalized Veterans. This is a great event to get you in the Christmas spirit. This event will put smiles on the faces of our hospitalized Veterans.

So, be there on Friday, December 15th at 5:30 p.m.-- John K.

Highlight: Gold Star Mothers – by Jane Kinzinger

On November 4, 2017, Gold Star Mother Eugenia Fuller celebrated her 90th Birthday at a dinner hosted by her children in Ypsilanti, Michigan, where she had lived until recently. In the fall of 2016, Mrs. Fuller relocated to Maryland to live with her son because her family did not wish for her to live alone. Mrs. Fuller was the first family member engaged with our Memorial since she met Committee Chairman John Kinzinger in front of the Gault Village Kmart when he was fundraising for the Memorial in 1989.

The 76 young men from Washtenaw County listed on our Vietnam Veterans Memorial left behind 76 Gold Star Mothers and Families. There are few Gold Star Mothers still living. Starting in 2008, the Friends group of VVA Chapter 310 began hosting annual fall luncheons for these mothers at Weber's Inn Restaurant. Friends provided transportation for mothers who needed to be driven there. We became acquainted with these wonderful women and fondly remember the particular things about each of them.

Eugenia Fuller, mother of Hermon Fuller, Jr., was the longest regular attendee at our luncheons. She would attend with her daughters or maybe one of her many friends. Laura Eglinsdoerfer (Larry Eglinsdoerfer) is 93 years old and has the distinction of being a Rosie the Riveter during WWII. She lives with her daughter and always entertains us at our luncheon with wonderful stories. Her husband was a WWII Marine.

We lost three Gold Star Mothers in 2014. Mary Hoag (Earl Hoag) was a faithful attendee at our luncheons and drove from Plymouth every year to be with us. Her two other sons, Richard and Gerald, also served in Vietnam and are members of Chapter 310. Mary passed away at age 86 on November 25, 2014. Elizabeth Bulifont (Roger Bulifont) joined us nearly every year and was much appreciative of being included with the other mothers. She last joined us in 2013 as she passed away on May 26, 2014 (Memorial Day). Johnnye Johnson (William H. Johnson) joined us for the first time at our 2014 luncheon at age 90, when her granddaughter brought her to our event. She passed away the next month on November 22, 2014. At her advanced age before her death, she would drive herself to the Memorial Day Remembrances at our Memorial

Another spunky mother was Lois Brown (Charles "Chuckie" P. Brown), who supported the Memorial Committee at the various meetings while they attempted to have the Memorial built in Veterans Memorial Park in Ann Arbor. She died at 92 in October 2017 in Arizona, where she had lived with her grandson. Her husband was an Ann Arbor firefighter. Della McIntire (Walter McIntire, Jr.) showed her Mexican heritage with her fierce love of the United States. She met her WWII husband, Walter, during the war. Della and Walter raised 4 children on South Seventh Street.

At the 2010 luncheon, we were pleased to meet two daughters of Gold Star Mother Cleo Johnson (Danny Johnson), who was unable to attend, since she was

suffering from Alzheimer's disease. In 2010, Grace McKenzie (Dale McKenzie, Jr.) was unable to attend, when we were informed that she was a resident of Brecon Village in the Memory Unit. Grace, who died at age 88, had always helped the Boy Scouts put the carnations in the pegboard cross at the Memorial weekend ceremony at Arborcrest Cemetery. Her husband, Dale, and she had attended the Dedication of the Memorial and assisted in unveiling the monument, along with other Gold Star Family members.

The last Sunday of September each year is Gold Star Mother's Day. The American Gold Star Mothers is an organization that honors those women who lost a son or daughter in service to our country. The founders of this organization chose to wear all white rather than black. White celebrates their children's contributions, while the gold star acknowledges their sacrifice. We remember all Gold Star Family members whom we have met during the building of the Memorial, at the Dedication with General William Westmorland on November 10, 1991, or at the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication in 2016. -- Jane Kinzinger

Care Packaging by VVA 310 Members—by John Kinzinger

In early November, VVA 310 members held their annual early-Christmas packing party. In about one hour we packed 43 large packages, ready to go to troopers serving in the Middle East. That was a wonderful group of people, who came together, starting in prayer. We have two great seniors, Pat and Arno Buhrer, who have been with us for at least ten years. There are many others, who religiously come out for our troops every time. You know who you are. I personally thank each one of you.

For a little history, we members of VVA310 began packing boxes about 14 years ago. For the first year or so, we packed them in our living room. And our packing parties have continued since. Our efforts have brought our total shipped to 4,060. We cannot imagine how much morale-building we have given to thousands of troops. Over the years we have been fortunate to receive some great items to put in the packages. For years, until they moved a local office, we mailed over 5,000 Harley Davidson shirts. One time we mailed a set of horse shoes. Beanie Babies, I bet we have shipped around 3,000 of them. The troops give them to local children; some in hospitals over there.

Of course, we have had to pay the postage on all these mailings. My estimate is that the average cost per package has been \$18.00. At that rate, the total postage cost is approaching \$75,000. Thanks to Elmer's donation at each packing party—totaling over \$10,000—and to donations from so many others, we have been able to do this. Thank you all who have donated funds, items, and great potluck food after our packings.

We should all be very proud for what we have done with this program. The proof is the feedback we have received from them, which has been so great. VVA 310 members and Friends should all be saluted for this work of our group. Our next packing will probably be in April or May of 2018.

Vietnam Veterans of America Charles S. Kettles Chapter 310 — General Membership Meeting — 09 November 2017

Meeting called to order by President Dave Draper at 1904 hours. Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for POW/MIA's, their families, for those serving in hazardous places around the world, and for those who are sick within our Chapter. Roll call: A quorum was established. Welcome Home Everyone. Guests: None.

Motion was made by Sandie Wilson and seconded by Tim Clarke to approve the 12 Oct 2017 General Meeting minutes as printed in the Dispatch. Motion was unanimously approved.

President's Report:

Dave Draper, President, stated tomorrow is the Marine Corps 242nd Birthday. He also mentioned that he attended the "Stories of Service – An Evening with Veterans" ceremony at Hill Auditorium on the University of Michigan campus last night which featured five speeches discussing experiences from WWII to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Among the featured speakers were Noah Galloway as Master of Ceremonies who recently appeared, among other events, on Dancing with the Stars as an amputee after suffering an injury from an IED in Iraq. In addition, Art Holst, a WW II veteran sang "There's a Long Long Trail" which was first sung in WW I.

Treasurer's Report:

Jon Luker, Treasurer, presented and explained a Statement of Revenues and Expenses and performance against budget year-to-date and a Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Balances. He stated that the allocation of the Certificate of Deposit between Building at 58% and Non-building at 42% has been corrected from last month. There being no further questions, Jon concluded his report.

Committee Reports:

Food Pantry – No report

Merchandise – Dave Draper reviewed the October merchandise sales and purchases activity.

Memorial - Due to the tattered condition of the POW-MIA flag, it has been replaced.

Website – No report.

Membership – No report

Newsletter – No report. Paulo-Juarez Pereira, Secretary, newly appointed *Dispatch* Editor, was not in attendance.

VAAHHS – John Kinzinger reviewed the following events at the Ann Arbor VA Center.

28 Oct - Halloween Party with 15 dressed in costumes.

15 Dec – Shirts will be given to the veterans. Meet in the lobby at 1730 hours.

VVA 310 has been giving Christmas gifts to veterans in the VA since 1987.

7 Jan – Underwear will be given to the veterans. Meet in the lobby at 1400 hours.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Jon Luker and Vance McCrumb have been working on a new Chapter logo due to the Chapter name change. A motion was made and properly seconded. It was voted that the lower half will state Charles S. Kettles instead of Washtenaw County Chapter which will be presented as a rocker under the patch. Concern was expressed about the placement of Life Member.

Good of the Chapter:

Bob Field, also a member of Ann Arbor Lions Club, discussed the importance of raising money for Fisher House due to matching of funds that will take place. Certain funds will be matched at 100% and then certain other funds will be matched at 100% and then again at 100%. Thus, a \$5,000 could result in a \$20,000 contribution towards the \$3.5 million goal.

Breakfast – No breakfast at the Bomber Cafe in Ypsilanti tomorrow. Meet at Denny's Restaurant on Washtenaw at 0700 hours.

Concordia University Veterans Day Celebration will begin tomorrow, 10 Nov, at 0900 hours at the Kreft Center for the Arts.

John Kinzinger stated that the Packing Party last Sunday raised \$1,775 with expenses at \$1,870. A total of 43 boxes 10# per boxes were packed. This makes a grand total of 4,060

boxes packed since the program was started. In attendance and assisting in packing was Miss Michigan and Miss Washtenaw Country.

John further stated that on 10 Jan at Sidetracks in Ypsilanti a WACU fund raising party will be held with live music starting between 1700 – 1730 hours.

16 Dec - Wreaths Across America will be sent a donation for 20-25 wreaths.

Ken Rogge stated that Michigan State Veterans Council has secured approval from the state to raise money to help.

John Kinzinger mentioned on 12 Nov, this Sunday, that Saline High School will present a concert honoring Veterans at the Middle School beginning at 1600 hours.

The annual event at Dawn Farm will be on 21 Nov. Meet at Kroger's on South Maple at 1600 hours or at Dawn Farm at 1800 hours.

Marv Rivers, Larry St. Antoine, and Marv Rivers have volunteered to take over the Merchandise Team. Dave Draper will work with the team to transition this responsibility.

Upcoming Events:

Concordia University Veterans Day Celebration will begin tomorrow, 10 Nov, at 0900 hours at the Kreft Center for the Arts. LTC Charles S. Kettles will be in attendance.

14 Nov – Merchandising Sales at VAAHS from 0800 – 1400 hours.

2 Dec – PTSD Town Hall Meeting at Saline American Legion from 1300 – 1600 hours.

Next Meeting:

1900 hours on Thursday, December 14 for General Membership which follows the Board of Directors meeting at 1800 hours.

Next Chapter Breakfast:

No breakfast at the Bomber. Instead it will be at Denny's Restaurant on Washtenaw at 0700 hours.

Closing Prayer:

Gordon Moore gave the closing prayer.

Close Meeting:

President Dave Draper led the group closing the meeting at 2004 hours with a salute to the Flag.

Respectively submitted, Berryman L. Bourne, Acting Secretary

Put the Flag Back Up and Leave It There – by Jon Luker

It is time to rethink the raising, lowering, and raising/lowering again of the symbol of the greatest, freest, strongest nation in the recorded history of the world. I am recommending a return to the "old days" when the American flag was not lowered except for one day to mourn the death of a sitting President of the United States or to mark the burial of a former president.

After 9/11, somebody decided that U.S. military servicemembers should not be treated like Vietnam War-era veterans. I agree with that sentiment, since I still remember how I was treated back then. However, I disagree with two tactics that have been used to carry out that policy. The first is minor: the use by noncombat troops of combat uniforms—to show solidarity with those in harm's way, but at the cost of no longer appearing to be the outstanding professional military organization the world both feared and trusted above all others.

But the second tactic disturbs me to the bone: lowering the flag to half-mast for the death of any person who died in a politically disliked way, regardless of the nation's actual concern for the person who died. There are two parts to my distress about this new custom. First, when it comes to the death of U.S. military servicemembers who went to Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and such places, lowering the flag accomplishes the opposite of the reason why the servicemember

volunteered to serve: to keep the flag flying over a free, democratic republic. Now that we are lowering the flag for police, firefighters, EMS, and some others in public service, that point might be lost. Adding those extra reasons to lower the flag means that America no longer holds up the flag as a powerful symbol to the world about what it means to be American. We should be reluctant to walk around with our heads bowed and our flag lowered when all these great people are paying such high prices to keep our heads high and our flag raised.

I think it would be better to honor the fallen in the way they would have us to honor them: Honor the living. Do not send troops into combat with unreasonable rules of engagement, unclear objectives, and feeble commitment to win. Do not treat veterans like an economic problem. Stop discharging servicemembers for trumped-up mental conditions when it is obvious that the servicemember is just suffering from combat stress. Treat the living like you should, and people will know how you feel about the fallen.

But what makes the flag-lowering tactic worse is the policy of ignoring the Vietnam Veterans again. Yesterday—and for that matter, every day this week, every day this month, and every day this year--a Vietnam Veteran has died because of injuries sustained in the line of duty. Why do we not lower the flag for them? Don't Vietnam veterans count yet? If lowering the flag for those servicemembers who die in the line of duty is a good idea, shouldn't we lower the flag for all servicemembers who die in the line of duty rather than just those who have political favor?

And what about the 21 servicemembers who die each day from suicide related to military service? How many of those would still be alive if we had kept our promise to living servicemembers to provide healthcare and education?

Yes, we should mourn our losses. But in a time of strife, when we have troops engaged in combat, we should mourn with our resolve high, our enthusiasm for peace and freedom high, and our flag as high as we can.

What do you say about a country whose symbol means more to people living in other countries than to people living in the United States? Let us at least show that those who died in an American military uniform did so for a great, free, and democratic republic, which is worth dying for and worth fighting for. Let us raise the flag to full staff and leave it there, unless a sitting president dies in office.

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AVVA Newsletter December 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.

AVVA 310 members have been very busy in November.

AVVA Members were busy volunteering and supporting AVVA and VVA projects in November

- Members supported VVA 310 Merchandise Sales at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
 - Inventory of the VVA Merchandise and ticketing all new merchandise items
- Members attended Veteran Day celebrations across Washtenaw County at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System and Concordia University to name a few.
- Members Meni Draper, Shirley Hitte and Kathy Driscoll attended and registered attendees at the Cohabiting with PTSD Town Hall on Saturday, December 2nd.
- AVVA and VVA 310 members supported our Quartermania benefitting Fisher House Michigan
 - We raised \$780 for Fisher House Michigan in November. This includes \$700 raised at AVVA Quartermania in November plus private donations from AVVA members, Gena Hecker and Kate Kirkpatrick.
 - There were nine VVA and seven AVVA members at Quartermania. Thank you! AVVA 310 and VVA 310 working together made this a successful fundraiser. Our next Quartermania will be in March 2018. Date to be determined.
- 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.

AVVA Michigan State Association News

I attended the AVVA Michigan State Association meeting on Sunday, December 3rd. AVVA Michigan State Association raised \$405 with the Gift Card Envelope Pull Fundraiser.

2018 is the election year for Local and State AVVA. Our chapter will be electing the Chapter Representative for a two-year term. The election will be in April same date and time as VVA 310 Chapter elections. More information at our January meeting.

I was on the committee to design a AVVA Michigan State Association Challenge Coin. The coins will be \$10 and available in the Spring 2018. AVVA Michigan plans to sell the coins at the AVVA/VVA Michigan State Convention. Here is the design.

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.

AVVA November 9, 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.

- 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:

- AVVA 310 Quartermania to benefit Fisher House Michigan will be held on November 6, 2017 at the Milan American Legion, Post 268. We raised \$645.00. This brings our total for Fisher House Michigan balance to \$1,423.58.
 - Motion by Carol Talbot, second by Shirley Hitte to round up donation to \$1,500. Motion passed.
 - Next Quartermania is Monday, December 4, 2017
- Scrapbooking for Soldiers Fundraiser raised \$55 in donations from attendees. Mary Gantt will mail us her donation of 20% of sales as soon as she closes the Creative Memories Fundraiser.

WCCV

- Kathy will attend the WCCV meeting in January 2018. There was no November meeting due to Thanksgiving.

AVVA Michigan State Association:

- Kathy will attend AVVA Michigan State Association meeting on Sunday, December 3rd in Howell, MI. AVVA 310 members donated \$35 from their members and \$145 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
- National Board Meeting was October 19th in Silver Spring, MD. Kathy will have a report at the December Membership meeting. Minutes from this meeting have not been published on www.avva.org.

Old Business: None.

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.
- Kathy has 1 Purple AVVA shirt in size XXL. Please contact Kathy if you would like to purchase this shirt.
- AVVA 310 and VVA 310 will dedicate the new Friends Tree on Friday, November 5th at 10:00 am.

Other / Ongoing Concerns:

- Lois Perrault Memorial Fund Balance: **\$2,008.25**. AVVA Chapter sent \$700 to American Legion Post 322 to sponsor two Saline High School Juniors. They are Savan Saiya-Cork, Kathy and Tim Driscoll's granddaughter and Devon Mercer, daughter of US Army Veteran Paul Mercer.

Upcoming Events:

- 14 November VVA Merchandise Kiosk Ann Arbor VA 3rd floor

- 15 December VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System Christmas visit. VVA 310 and AVVA 310 members will distribute embroidered shirts to the patients
- 16 December Wreaths across America at Great Lakes Veterans National Cemetery
- 7 January VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System VVA and AVVA 310 members visit to distribute underwear and pajamas to patients.

Next meeting January 11, 2018 at 6 pm.

Kathy Driscoll

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AVVA Michigan State Association Vice President
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Please Forward, Thank You