



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Chapter #585
Mid Valley of Oregon
PO Box 293
Albany OR 97321

December 2010 Edition

TO:

WHO DO YOU KNOW THAT SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE VVA OR THE ICWVVA.

Tell them that membership in VVA is the Right Choice - VVA is a "home of our own" - a community of fellowship with people who share experiences, needs, and hopes for the future by joining one of our [600 chapters](#) for fellowship, volunteer opportunities, and community service.

They can be as active as their time, talents, and interests allow or, simply be a proud member of VVA, knowing their membership helps VVA work for them and their fellow Vietnam veterans.

The VVA national organization keeps less than half of an individual's membership dues. The rest stays at the state and local level to support programs and services for veterans and their families.

Membership includes a subscription to our award-winning newspaper, The VVA Veteran, which brings updates on issues and legislation affecting veterans, as well as unique articles on the people, places, and history of the Vietnam experience.

Membership is open to U.S. armed force veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

To join, call one of the officers listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Please include a copy of your DD-214 with your membership application.

Families, friends, supporters, and veterans of other eras can join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and receive the same benefits, including a subscription to The VVA Veteran.

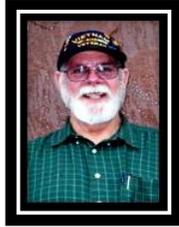
To be added to mailing list contact Gary at 541-259-1482 or email GJS659@centurytel.net



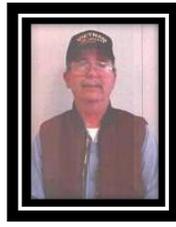
#585

Chapter

Officers



President
Ric Olson
541-401-4639



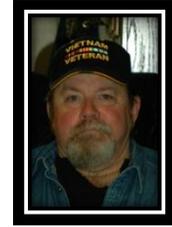
Vice President
Wells Hickox
541-258-6778



Communications
Officer
Gary Smith
541 259-1482



Secretary
Treasurer
Rick Bauman
541-451-3454



Sergeant-at-Arms
Mike Stone
541-367-7937

Please contact any officer to volunteer for VVA events. We need your help.

ICWVVA Officers

President
Cat Olson
541 258-2525

Vice President
John Birch
541 258-2803

Secretary/Treasurer
Nadine Owen
541 451-2203

Monthly Calendar

1st Sunday

Chapter Meeting in Lebanon
10 am at the American Legion
Breakfast available for \$5 before the meeting

4th Sunday

Host Breakfast at the American Legion in Lebanon
8 am to 11 am

3rd Saturday

Host Dinner at American Legion in Lebanon
5 pm to 7:30 pm

4th Sunday

AVVA meeting after Sunday Breakfast at the American Legion in Lebanon

VVA Chapter 585 -- Host Breakfast and Dinner

Breakfast – All you can eat for \$5

Menu: Waffles, strawberries, bacon, sausage, eggs, biscuits and gravy, hash browns, orange or tomato juice, coffee

Dinner – \$10 to \$13 (depending on choice of entrée)

*Menu: New York Steak with mushrooms or Prawns deep fired or sautéed or Combo of both
Comes with Baked Potato, salad and vegetables*

Veterans Diseases Associated with Agent Orange Exposure

Veterans may be eligible for disability compensation and [health care benefits](#) for diseases that VA has recognized as associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides:

- **Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy**
A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange and resolve within 2 years after the date it began.
- **AL Amyloidosis**
A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs.
- **Chloracne for Similar Acneform Disease)**
A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, chloracne (or other acneform disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange.
- **Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (Now Being Expanded to B Cell Leukemias)**
A type of cancer which affects white blood cells. Currently, only chronic lymphocytic leukemia is a "presumptive" disease associated with Agent Orange exposure; however, on March 25, 2010, VA published a proposed regulation to establish B cell leukemias . (includes chronic lymphocytic leukemia, hairy cell leukemia and others) as associated with Agent Orange exposure. Eligible Vietnam Veterans may receive disability compensation for other B cell leukemias when the regulation is final.
- **Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)**
A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.
- **Hodgkin's Disease**
A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.
- **Ischemic Heart Disease**
A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain. On March 25, 2010, VA published a proposed regulation that will establish ischemic heart disease as associated with Agent Orange exposure. Eligible Vietnam Veterans may receive disability compensation for this disease when the regulation is final.
- **Multiple Myeloma**
A disorder which causes an overproduction of certain proteins from white blood cells. » **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**
A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.
- **Parkinson's Disease**
A motor system condition with symptoms that include a trembling of the hands, imbalance, and loss of facial expression. On March 25, 2010, VA published a proposed regulation that will establish Parkinson's disease as associated with Agent Orange exposure. Eligible Vietnam Veterans may receive disability compensation for this disease when the regulation is final.
- **Porphyria. Cutanea Tarda**
A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange.
- **Prostate Cancer**
Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men.
- **Respiratory Cancers**
Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.
- **Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)**
A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.

Veteran's Day Parade and Memorial Service



For the second year in a row Louie White has provided leadership that has resulted in our community producing 8 days of activities cumulating into what is probably the largest and the finest Veterans Day Parade in the USA. In addition our Chapter won a trophy for the best Float for the third year . Thanks to all of you who participated in decorating the Float

We can all be proud of Bernie Pasquanlini who did an excellent job representing our Chapter by presenting a wreath during the Memorial Service at Timber Linn Park.

Louie White stated that "The Memorial Service at Timber Linn Park was well attended and went off beautifully. And how about those Linn Benton Young Marines handling the colors and Troop 99 Boy Scouts buglers Corey Clemetsen and Eric Thompson? The parade and awards ceremony went beautifully but with people like Patty Louisiana and Bill Clotere running things you really can't go wrong. And how about the weather I brought you! All in all folks we did well. There are so many to thank that I can't start because I will miss someone that provided key help. You all were there when needed and on behalf of the Veterans Commemoration Association, Thank you all for every thing you gave, and for sure you all gave above and beyond."

New Home Loan Program

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has announced their ORVETS Home Loan Program is now offering loan interest rates at near historical lows.

Qualified veterans may now get a 15-year fixed rate mortgage for 3.25 percent with a 1.375 percent loan origination fee (3.518 percent APR), or a 3.75 percent fixed rate with a 1.375 percent loan origination fee (3.902 percent APR) for a 30-year term.

The ORVET Home Loan Program is a state of Oregon veteran benefit and is separate from the federal VA home loan guaranty program. Even if a veteran has purchased a home using the federal VA program, they may still be eligible for an ORVET home loan. "These new reduced rates offered by our agency will allow some veterans to take advantage of a great opportunity for home ownership," said Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. "Oregon veterans have served our country with distinction and always deserve the very best we can offer them." In November, Oregon voters approved ballot Measure 70, expanding veteran eligibility for the ORVET Home Loan as well as eliminating the constitutional 30-year eligibility restriction. The ORVET Home Loan is now a lifetime benefit for eligible veterans. ORVET's current maximum loan amount is \$417,000 for a single family, owner occupied residence.

For more ORVET Home Loan information and rate details, contact ODVA's Home Loan Department at 1-888-673-8387 or 503-373-2051, or visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/HOMELOANS>.

PTSD

Know the Warning Signs and Seek Treatment

If you think you have PTSD, it's important to get treatment, and early treatment can help reduce long-term symptoms.

When To Seek

Assistance:

Feeling out of sync
Jumpiness
Worry
Irritability
Can't sleep
Relationship issues
Sadness
Low motivation
Need for speed"
Suicidal thoughts
Substance abuse
Work problems
Isolating



If You Think You Have PTSD:

Talk to your family doctor.

Talk to a mental health professional, such as a therapist.

If you're a veteran, contact your local VA hospital or Vet Center.

Talk to a close friend or family member. He or she may be able to support you and find you help.

Talk to a religious leader.

You can also fill out an online PTSD screening and take it with you to the doctor. The online screen, available on the National Center for PTSD web site (ncptsd.va.gov), asks about stressful military experiences.

Schedule of Events

January 2, 2010: Monthly Meeting 10am. American Legion Post 51, in Lebanon

January 13, 2010: Monthly Meeting Veterans Commemorative Association 6pm. At the VFW Post 584 in Albany

January 15, 2010: We serve a Steak Dinner at American Legion Post 51

January 22, 2010: Oregon State Presidents Council Meeting will be held in Springfield Oregon 9am. At the American Legion Post 40 , 344 8th ST. .Feel free to attend.

January 23, 2010: WE serve breakfast at the American Legion Post 51 in Lebanon

June 15, 2010: Pre Convention Meeting , Reno Nevada. Purpose is to preview and discuss events That will transpire, such as legislation , proposals. classes elect. More information to follow at a later date

July 16, 2010: Atomic Veterans Day

August 16-20, 2010: National Convention Reno Nevada

TUESDAY

All Offices open (Ejections, Credentials, WA, Media, Registration) Veterans Collectibles open National Board of Directors Meeting Conference of State Council Presidents Meeting Welcome Home party¹¹ (details coming later)

WEDNESDAY

New delegate briefing
Opening session / General session
AWA Luncheon
Committee Hearings
Regional Caucuses

THURSDAY

Service Representatives Breakfast General Session
Registration deadline for voting eligibility Regional Caucuses

FRIDAY

Women Veterans breakfast
Elections/Voting General Session
POW/MIA Ceremony

SATURDAY

Legislative Coordinator breakfast
National Board of Directors meeting (new board)
Book signings/Celebrities s autographs
Catholic mass
WA Awards Banquet and Dance

Year in Review

This past year has certainly been an interesting year for our chapter. From the election of new officers to working for and being awarded one of the two sites for the installation of a veterans home.

On April 11th we held our election and elected new officers . Our new President, Rik Olson has been a member for 6 years and had served as our Sergeant-at-Arms for 3 years. Our AVVA also held elections, and elected Ronda “Cat” Olson President, and John Birch Vice President. In addition John serves as the Preident of the State AVVA as well as being the Assistant Director of District 8 National AVVA.

Our outgoing President, Tom Owen ,who did an outstanding job for our Chapter , was elected to the position of President of the State Council of President’s .After attending several Council meetings as an observer and once representing our Chapter , I can assure you that Tom is continuing to provide leadership to our organization on the state level

In April Jim Willis ODVA, made the official announcement that Lebanon had been chosen for a new Veterans Home , which will be called Patriots Place. Linn County is required to provide approximately 1/3 of the initial cost of construction. Our Chapter went to great lengths , in conjunction with other veterans organizations, to promote measure 22-94, which would provide funding for the county. It was passed as well as measure 70 which lifted the 30 year limit on veteran home loans.

I was not able to participate this year in the parking of cars at the Strawberry Festival, but I understand that once again our Chapter performed well , and hopefully we can negotiate a satisfactory agreement this coming year.

It is my pleasure to report that we have finally worked out the legal agreement for our “Lake Project”, and we will be presenting our requirements for the production of our Pier to Smoker Craft in the very near future. We still face a tremendous amount of detail that will have to be resolved along the way. There is no doubt in my mind that we will accomplish our goals.

As a Chapter we have pledged our support to VVA Chapter 271 in Salem to build a memorial park at Patriot’s Place when it is built.

This year Vietnam veteran by the name of William G. Todd was the recipient of our Linn County Vietnam Veteran Memorial Scholarship . It was hearting to hear and to see the appreciation that he felt.

Dave Olson was our Chapter Veteran of the Year. Dave served his country in war and continues to serve his fellow veterans and the community.

Our Chapter and Auxiliary Presidents attended a Leadership Conference in Orlando FL. this year and stated that it was very productive and well worth the trip.

Many of our members participated in the “Reading of Names” Ceremony during the Newport Loyalty Days. Other projects we have been involved in this past year: The installation of a flag pole at the Bob Smith Memorial Park. Continued support of the Young Marines. The Singing Tree Production, in Sweet Home. We also paid the postage to send Christmas Boxes to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan

Jim Willis ODVA Director was named the prestigious regional Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year.

Louie White has served as President of the Veterans Commemoration Association and many of our members have participated in the organization, which has resulted in finest Veterans Day Parade in the country.

The monthly serving of a dinner and breakfast continues to be a source of income for our Chapter, but it does not provide enough for us to fund present and future endeavors.. If you have ideas which may be a source of income for us please attend our meetings or contact one of our Chapter Officers to present your views.

This coming year our Chapter faces some unique challenges to meet our goals and objectives but from what I have witnessed from being associated with you all there is no doubt in my mind that we will persevere. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gary Smith

Communications Officer



Quad 50- 1967

Got Any Vietnam Photos?

Let me know if we can
print them here, OK??



2 1/2 Ton AFTER Land Mine