

# Monsoon Notes

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We sincerely hope that everyone had a pleasant and peaceful holiday and let's hope the new year is equally rewarding.

The VVA Christmas party, held on December 12 at the Firemans' Ballroom turned out to be a terrific success with over 60 in attendance, great food, and great entertainment by Dan & April of Moxie Entertainment (Karokie).

We appreciate the generosity of the local firemen for the use of their hall and to Moxie Entertainment for the great tunes.

Prior to the party a small group of chapter members made a trip to the VA hospital to visit with patients, once again a rewarding experience for those that participated. Our presence is always welcome to our veterans in need at the hospital.

**ELECTIONS** - Election of officers will be held in April, nomination of candidates will occur at the February and March meetings as well as prior to the election at the April Annual meeting of the Chapter. Many of you have showed your commitment time and time again but are not involved on the board and regular chapter level. Think about your commitment and govern your destiny by participating actively.

**STAND DOWN 1994 - MARCH 4, 5, & 6 PHOENIX ARIZONA**, Phoenix Chapter 432 is the spearhead of this proven program to assist homeless veterans. Sponsored by VVA, VFW, Arizona VAMC's, state and local authorities the event will offer food, shelter, medical assistance, clothing, employment, VA benefits, legal assistance, substance and PTSD counseling to homeless veterans. I know 432 would welcome our participation and any help we could give. For more info call 602-255-3373 or Chapter 106.

Tucson Chapter 106 many be able sponsor a similar project in 95' or 96' pending the necessary commitment. Funding is available through the VAMC.

**REGIONAL REUNION, VIETNAM HELICOPTER CREW MEMBER ASSOCIATION - FEBRUARY 18, 19 & 20, Nogales AZ.** Anyone interested should call Terry Rollinger at 602-287-8650 (Home) or 602-287-0871 (Work) for more details.

Terry also informs me that the **Sells Rodeo & POW WOW** is coming up soon and we have been asked to participate in the parade on February 5, 1994. Again if you have the interest and can spare the time please call Terry at the above numbers.

**BOARD ACTION** - The board of directors met on January 13th at its' regularly scheduled meeting, most members were in attendance. Among the highlights were the 1994 budget presented by Pete Duerr, Treasurer and a recap of the preceding years expenditures. Pending any unforeseen expenses Pete presented a budget basically designed to break even.

The board unanimously voted to close the 22nd Street office and construct storage facilities at Esperanza en Escalante, the site will also house the Chapter phone for referrals. With this move we will be able to realize a annual saving of nearly \$1000.00. The board meeting will still occur at regular intervals on the 2nd Thursday of each month however the location will probably change from time to time. It is the board of directors responsibility to make best use of the monies available to us. Detailed reports are available any time from Pete if there are any questions.

**ESPERANZA EN ESCALANTE** - With the holidays over the project is going full steam once again. Unit #3 is nearly complete and should be housing more vets sometime in February. Also once again due to gracious generosity of Tucson homebuilders, SAHBA, a 5th unit will start construction in the middle of February due for completion in 4 to 6 weeks, unit 4 is already under construction.

One thing that all of us can take pride in is Escalante en Escalante. Over the holiday season I was contacted by the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans, a Washington watch group and was informed that we are probably the only **operational** project of this kind in the nation.

This does not come easy, nor is the road ahead a shoo-in, funding exists to complete up to 6 Units this year, serving up to 24 veterans and families, but the project needs your help and funding for the social aspect of the program. I think by the great news coverage over the past few months that this has a significant impact on the community and homeless veterans, but road is long and hard and does need our utmost support for success, just ask the veterans we serve. Call Betty Slaybaugh 296-7040 site 571-8294.

**STATE COUNCIL MEETING - January 29th, VFW 10188, 10:00 AM** - This quarterly meeting is being held in Tucson, the agenda includes VVA Foundation, Stand Down update, awards, creation of burial fund, support of National committees and goals & objective for the State Council. Please get informed and involved, our organization can only go as far as you are willing to commit.

**AGENT ORANGE UPDATE** - (Parts reprinted from AZ VFW News) "Vietnam veterans suffering from Hodgkin's disease and porphyria cutanea tarda (a liver disorder) will be added to those now entitled to disability based on service in Vietnam and presumed exposure to **AO** and other herbicides" said Jesse Brown, VA Secretary. The VA already recognizes sarcoma, lymphoma and chloracne and has been paying compensation.

Brown also directed the VA to review its **AO** Registry to identify veterans with these diseases and assist them with their claims. Any veterans who believes they have health problems related to **AO** in Vietnam can contact their VA regional office by calling 1-800-827-1000.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING - January 27, 1994, VFW 10188, 345 E. Roger Rd., 7:30 pm.** Our guest speaker will "Hopefully be a representative from the VAMC" speaking on veteran benefits, if not I'll try and entertain you.

**"The war has not ended, but just begun. Now we need to fight for our rights, those of our community and the veterans we serve."**