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Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune

Vol. III, Number 8

VVA Chapter 106

September, 1986

CHAPTER GENERAL ELECTION

SEPTEMBER 24, 1986

Looking back at the September 9th State General Election we find that about 30% of the registered voters turned out to the poles. This might break down to about 15% of all available voters for a particular party exercising their right to vote. This is pretty average for a general election, but what is surprising is the number of uncontested positions and in particular the offices with no names on the ballot (or only a couple where there were six positions available)? One such position was precinct committee person in several precincts.

Believe it or not, these people are elected officials that actually choose the President of the United States, not you or me, but the people in these small elected positions! What happens when these positions aren't filled by appointments. So again, because you and I didn't participate in this critical process we're not being represented. Think it over. Is there any more explanation needed as to why you should get out and participate and get involved?

Annual Chapter elections will be held on September 25th beginning at 8:00 PM at DAV 18. Nominations for officers will be taken at the beginning of the meeting, followed by the election. Nominations for positions as officers as of the August 28th General Meeting are: Dave Croteau, President; John Shirley, Vice President; Mike Brasher, Secretary. The office of directorship: Louie Leos, Neil Mack, Jennifer Wilson and Dave Bently. Needless to say this is a shoo-in election falling short by 2 positions. Who's actually going to be elected to these slots is only determined by your participation. If you're a regular paid member with a DD 214 on Chapter file, just show up and vote. If you want to become active and have time to spare, get your DD 214 and \$20.00 and come on down. A phone bank is currently operating in an attempt to reach all past and current members, but don't wait to make your decision. Hey brother and sister, let's come together again!

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Several members within the chapter are devoted to changing the image the mass media has given to the Vietnam era through educational presentations. U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the events that surround it are not the most popular in the history of the U.S.; therefore it tends to be forgotten. This fact is quite evident in most history books in schools throughout the country by virtue of its non-presence in those books. If you are lucky, you may be able to find one to three paragraphs covering an era that say a president, his brother and a civil rights leader were killed, equal and civil rights coming of age and of course, a place called Vietnam. All of these important events crammed into three paragraphs, maybe. We

Continued on Page 3

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Here we go again, approaching our ANNUAL MEETING this month. The ANNUAL MEETING is the Final phase of the electoral process for the Chapter. At this month's meeting, final NOMINATIONS and Chapter Elections will take place. Please be sure to bring a copy of your DD 214 if you haven't done so already. It will aid us all in getting you YOUR BALLOT for the election.

A year ago, this Chapter found itself with two survivors from the Board of Director's; myself and John Paulus. You might say that they were hard times with a capital "H". The State Council Chairman, Mike Haase, at the August '85 Meeting said that we had to have a Special Election. We did so at the September '85 Meeting. Nominations and elections were held. The following people were elected by the membership:

President:	Albie Ginaro	Directors:	Gene Zabel
Vice Pres.:	Frank Gonzales		Terry Clennon
Secretary:	Bess Jones		Fred Shipman
Treasurer:	John Paulus		Mark Toth

I appointed different people to different committee's as CHAIRPERSONS. It felt good ! We were getting organized. Unfortunately, due to resignations the next 2 months were crucial to V.V.A. Chapter 106's survival. In December, we were down to myself, John Paulus and Frank Gonzales. TOUGH TIMES, but we hung tight ! We said YES when it was popular to say NO, and we were saying it again and again. Then Dave Croteau and John Shirley came on board to fill two Directorships, then Bill Rasmussen as Chapter Secretary and in January Louie Leos as a Director. By earlier this year we were functioning very well. We had a fund-raising event "THE CHILDREN'S VARIETY SHOW" produced by Encore Productions - \$4,000.00 for the Chapter. Everybody to a greater or lesser degree participated in the MONSOON TRIBUNE at different times. We had programs with special Guest Speakers; Dr. G. Manasse on P.T.S.D., Richard Hoover to speak on Paralyzed Veterans of America, Attorney R. Risner on Agent Orange Litigation and Eleanor Reitz on the M.I.A. - P.O.W. issue.

In April of this Year, the Board voted to become ON LINE with National, regarding Committee's and elections. I was personally in touch with National to make sure that we would, by the end of the year be ON LINE. In fact, we are ON LINE NOW. I've been handling Public Affairs/Governmental Affairs for a while, John Shirley has been doing the Newsletter and handling Economic Affairs, Bill Rasmussen was Secretary for a while and handled Fund-raising for a while, Louie Leos has headed the Agent Orange Committee and may co-ordinate a Minority Affairs Committee, John Paulus has handled the Chapter Treasury and the 106 Sub-Committee, Dave Croteau tried Public Relations for a while and later helped establish communications with Incarcerated Vets at the Wilmot facility.

I'd like to add, that V.V.A. Chapter 106 has demonstrated - NO MATTER WHAT, THAT V.V.A. CHAPTER 106 has a PROVEN Track Record. Just like when some of us were in 'Nam, we came in to a Hot LZ, taking fire from all sides, secured the area and set up a base camp. We had a proven track record too. I'm very proud of this accomplishment.

Finally, thank you to all of you who at one time or another, said "Thanks." At times it was the only gesture of kindness that kept me going. It was TOUGH to keep going, but I am VERY PROUD that I had the fortitude to stick it out. Now once again the DIRECTION of V.V.A. Chapter 106 is your decision. To VOTE or not . To attend the meeting or not . To participate or not . To care or not. It's up to you. I met all my responsibilities as your elected Chapter President, serving a full term. Won't you make your voice heard in this election ? Join V.V.A. CHAPTER 106 if you haven't, bring a DD 214 if you're a Vet. Contribute to the cause however you can. PLEASE VOTE - it's the best way to be heard. Say Yes again, PLEASE.

In Camaraderie,

Albie

ALBERT W. GINARO

MEETING DATES

ANNUAL MEETING: - September 25th at D.A.V. Chapter 18, Time 7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING: - September 25th at D.A.V. Chapter 18, Time 8:00 PM

BOARD MEETING: - October 9th at D.A.V. Chapter 18, Time 8:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING: - October 23rd at D.A.V. Chapter 18, Time 8:00 PM

NOMINATIONS SO FAR:

PRESIDENT: Dave Croteau
VICE PRESIDENT: John Shirley
SECRETARY: Mike Brasher
TREASURER:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Louie Leos
(5 Positions Open) Neil Mack
Jennifer Wilson
Dave Bently

Continued from Page 1

...YOUR STORY?

have the responsibility to inform and insist that this important era in U.S. History not be swept under the rug. Objective, candid presentations by those who were there, like the one that was made to high school students at Sahuaro High school in Tucson last spring are a good way to get the history of that important era to the public.

Because the war was so controversial, we as veterans of that war, even with our diversified opinions, have the responsibility to "set the facts straight." Most of us served in different branches, therefore, that event in our lives was, and is different for all of us. All of these factors have influenced how we are today. To be fair and objective, the story must be told by as many of us as possible. In our presentations at Sahuaro High School, students heard the story from two combat vets, an in-country truck driver, a Navy See Bee and a stateside Army photographer. There are many ways to tell "our Story," but one thing it must be is objective. One-sided information is not objective. What's your story?



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

TUCSON CHAPTER 106

P.O. Box 40903 (602) 790-7602

Tucson, Arizona 85717

Vote

GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICE	NAME	PHONE
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Vice-President		
Secretary	Mike Brasher	745-6265
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Name _____ Phone _____

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