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VVA CHAPTER 106

May, 1987

CHAPTER UPDATE

Last issue we left you with the results of the chapter picnic held at Reid Park, since then there's been a lot going on and not enough time to put it all out, but here's a summary of what's taken place this past couple of months.

February 23rd Search Air Rescue was presented with medical packs and radio carriers by the chapter. Accepting the donation was Sgt. Chuck Mchugh of the Pima County Sheriffs Department and coordinator of Search Air Rescue. Also attending was Margret Maxwell, of the law firm of Roland & Durrazo, who was presented with a plaque of appreciation for her efforts in the final closure of the 106 helicopter project.

Marck 14th Chapter 106 participated in A & A Days held at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Chapter members and friends set up and maintained a photo replica of the Vietnam Vetrans Memorial in conjunction with Eleanor Reitz of Families of POW/MIA's who was responsible for bringing the " Wall " to Tucson. (See page 4 for more details)

April 11th Although a small turnout Auction 87 proved to be a great time experience for those who attended and a far reaching tool for the chapter. (See page 5)

April 27th Annual chapter elections were held. Elected to a full year term were: Dave Croteau, President; John Shirley, Vice-president; Mike Brasher, Secretary; Mike Smyth, Treasurer; and Albie Ginaro, Corresponding Secretary. Those chosen for Board of Directors are : Lois Leos, Ronnie Lira, Frank Thompson and Gene Voelzow.

And one more note, due to the great response of the Jan. picnic Bernie Croteau is working on another event for this summer, anyone wishing to help should contact Bernie at 792-9190. Let's get together and enjoy another great day of food and fest.

This issue begins with a column entitled "PREVAILING WINDS", whose purpose is to strengthen family relationships among Viet Nam vets and their families. It is written by George Gafner, ACSW, Coordinator of Family Mental Health Services at the V.A. Medical Center. It is George's hope that our troubled families will not only survive, and endure, but also prevail and prosper. Your questions and comments are encouraged! Let us hear from you.

"PREVAILING WINDS"

So much is said these days about "good communication," or "breakdown in communication" that the general topic of communication sometimes seems like a boring or trite subject. Nevertheless, it remains the number one problem area in unhappy families. Families who are stuck in a rut of nonproductive communication typically go around feeling hurt and not understood amidst the regular practice of put-downs, blame, threats, communication cutoffs, mind reading, and the like. People in this rut almost all have one thing in common: they do not listen to others in the family. Unless true listening begins, communication cannot progress to the point where the family can hash out other problems like lack of trust, or disagreement over how to spend money or how to discipline the children. So, how can we listen better? One way - a nearly impossible task for most - is to let one person talk for exactly five minutes, while the other person says absolutely nothing - no comments, no disagreement, nothing. Then the other person gets a turn. Truly easier said than done.

BOARD TALK

Notes from the February Board meeting

Re: Goals--Annual event. Gene Voelzow introduced Tom Patterson from Brewster House who gave a presentation on their organization. Brewster House is a shelter for abused women and children. They provide a place to stay for victims of domestic violence. Each year they hold a biathlon to raise funds. Brewster house cared for 415 women last year. Due to a lack of facilities they had to turn away 80 families last year. They are always in need of the basic items to care for these families. The board was invited by Mr. Patterson to visit Brewster House and see first hand what is going on there. Several board members expressed an interest in visiting and Gene Voelzow will set the visit up..... Chuck McHugh from the Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue gave a presentation on his organization. Although the full time personnel in the organization are paid by the Sheriff's Department, many of the people who work on the actual search and rescue operations are volunteers who work long and hard hours with no compensation. Many of them spend a great deal of money out of their own pockets and travel many hundreds of miles to help out when someone needs help in the Tucson area..... Officers and Directors reports.... Treasurer--Mike Smyth. He reminded everyone that dues are to be paid by Feb 28th. Also dues must be paid up in order to vote in the April elections. Two donations by the same person totaling \$ 278.84 have been given to the chapter for use in sending delegates to the National Convention..... Agent Orange--Louie Leos. He received an article from the Eagles about Agent Orange. After reading it he discovered no new information..... VVA Product Sales--Shawn Swartzmiller. He stressed the need to be given more money so that the Chapter could stock up on VVA items to be sold at Davis-Monthan during A and A days. The board voted to buy more items..... Gene Voelzow spoke of the need for more visibility for the organization. He said that one way is to volunteer to answer phones during the next KUAT public television and radio fund raisers. If ten people volunteered for a block of time we would get a lot of exposure. The board agreed. How about it? If you're interested in being on TV let us know YOU could be a star!..... Old business..... Service Representative. Dave Croteau passed out a letter from National concerning criteria for a service representative. Basically, from the letter it was evident that we can't qualify to send someone to service representative training. The position of Service Representative will have to wait until the Chapter has enough money coming in to be able to pay a full-time Service Representative..... Public Affairs. It was decided by the board that a more important position to fill is a Corresponding Secretary..... New business..... The board voted to spend \$125.00 to sponsor the T-ball team being coached by Bill Rasmussen. The cost will cover baseball hats for the team with the VVA logo. Bill will also take the chapter banner to the games to hang on the dugout. We now have a team to root for and Bill is going to get us a schedule of the games so we can go out and watch..... It was voted to contribute \$10.00 per day to sponsor a walker in the upcoming POW/MIA walk from Tucson to Phoenix. It is estimated that the walk will take seven days for a total of \$70.00. It was further decided that we will ask for contributions from the general membership at the next meeting and that any portion of the \$70.00 not collected in that manner will be made up from the treasury..... It was voted to expand the Board of Directors by one person to create the position of Corresponding Secretary. Albie Ginaro was elected to that position. **Congratulations ALBIE**..... Steve Nelson and Frank Thompson were nominated for the position of Nominating Chairman for the upcoming election in April..... Dave Croteau spoke of his visit to Casa Grande. They are in the process of trying to re-establish their chapter..... Dennis Calhoun a member of a WA chapter in Michigan was a guest at the meeting and spoke of his chapter. Dennis will be moving to Tucson toward the end of the year. He will be a great asset to the Chapter..... It was announced that Channel 40 is putting on a show about Vietnam Veterans on March 2nd and asked for a list of our members for possible interviews. The board decided not to release the list because it was unclear as to the content of the show and some members may not want to be contacted and the privacy of our members comes first. It was also decided that in the future not to give our membership list out. If anyone wants to interview Vietnam Veterans we can run an announcement in the newsletter and anyone wishing to participate can do so..... Mike Brasher will be out of town for the month of April and Albie Ginaro volunteered to take over as Secretary for the month. Thanks Albie!!!

HOMELESS VIET NAM VETERANS

As I was passing by a park my eyes were magnetized towards the homeless individuals that were there. Curiosity struck me and I decided to seek Viet Nam Veterans. the individuals that I approached became cautious and defensive, but as time went on I feel that I gained some confidence with them.

Of course being homeless is uncomfortable, for in order to survive many have to find a place to sleep, shower, eat, clothe, find employment; bluntly speaking - SURVIVE! I found it interesting to find out that amongst themselves they catagorized themselves in three areas: 1-Homer, 2-Tramp and 3-Transient. The Homers are individuals that have already learned to survive in Tucson. These individuals know where food, clothing and help is along with times and dates plus locations of donations. They also share this information with any newcomers. A Tramp is an individual who doesn't work and just bums around. Now the Transients just travel from city to city. They usually work temporarily and either jump a train or hitchhike to another location.

There was a rescue station nearby and I talked to a worker and he hypothetically stated that they feed around 300 individuals or more daily and that he believes that 65% are Viet Nam veterans.

I write this to share this with my brothers so they can know that there is a need with homeless veterans and also for the homeless to know that we are aware. Hopefully we as the chapter might be able to implement a program to assist the homeless veterans. Of course, time will tell.

By Ronnie Lira

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

AMPHITHEATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

All available positions in the district are advertised by means of the employment message telephone and updated on a "needs" basis. At any time during the day or night, and on weekends, you may call this number to learn the current available positions. 887-8388

EMPLOYERS! Anyone interested in furnishing employment opportunities for Vietnam Veterans, please send information to: Employment Officer, Chapter 106, P.O. Box 40903, Tucson, Arizona 85717 or the Newsletter staff at 884-7544.



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA TUCSON CHAPTER 106

P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, Arizona 85717

GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
President	Dave Croteau	792-9109
Vice-President	John Shirley	884-7544
Secretary	Mike Brasher	298-6426
Treasurer	Mike Smyth	297-2315
Corres. Secretary	Albie Ginaro	749-4469
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The Secret Agent

Vietnam's Last Battle' Agent Orange Update

1. We are a long way from resolving the controversy surrounding this issue. But progress is being made.
2. As of September 23, 1986, 29,191 have filed claims with V.A. claiming disorder; the believed are caused by Agent Orange.

None have been allowed. Re. No evidence of the conditions within six month of leaving Vietnam.
3. More than 214,000 Vets have received medical examinations under V.A. Agent Orange Examinations Programs as of last July. The V.A.'s computerized registry also showed 46,345 Veterans received follow-up exams.
4. The only health disorder the V.A. will recognize as linked to Agent Orange is the skin condition called Chloracne. No claims have been allowed for Chloracne, also no evidence within six months of leaving Nam.
5. Despite Veterans convictions most studies on Agent Orange and dioxin have reportedly determined that no conclusive evidence exists linking the herbicide to cancer or other serious illnesses.
6. V.A. recently contracted with New England Research Institute to begin preliminary work on a medical study of women Vietnam veterans that would look at possible health effects related to exposure or Agent Orange and other medical problems.
7. Meanwhile the Second Court of Appeals has granted a notion to stay the distribution of Agent Orange payments established under the settlement of class-action litigation in August.

The action freezes any further movement on the cash distribution plan. If and when the stay is lifted about 150 million in settlement funds, plus interest, will be paid to contain totally disabled Vietnam Veterans and to survivors of certain deceased Vietnam Veterans.

Eligibility criteria for the payments will be announced later.
8. Called the last battle of the Vietnam war the Agent Orange Controversy-although progress is being made-doesn't appear to be reaching a swift conclusion.

Louie Leos
Chapter 109 Vietnam Veterans
Tucson, Arizona
Agent Orange Committee

¹ American Legion Magazine, February, 1987, page 41.

BOARD TALK

Notes from the March Board Meeting

Treasurers report—Mike Smyth. \$70 was raised at the last general meeting to sponsor a walker in the POW/MIA march from Tucson to Phoenix..... A vote of confidence was made by the board supporting John Shirley as a fund raiser for the Chapter..... John Shirley announced the date of the auction. April 11 at the Black Angus Restaruant 7:30 pm lets have a big turn out!!!..... It was voted on by the board to send a letter to the membership concerning the auction and the fact that memberships now expire on Feb 28th and most members dues are due..... It was voted on by the board to have the Corresponding Secretary write to the Arizona Daily Star to include the Vet Center in it's list of servide organizations..... Frank Thompson gave a report on the Nominating Comittee. There is one each nominee for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary. There are ten nominees for the Board of Directors..... Frank Thompson also gave a report on the visit to Brewster House by himself, John Shirley, Dave Croteau and Gene Voelzow. There was a discussion by the members. It seems that the Brewster House needs folks to perform tasks around the house such as painting and repairs more than they need money. Any handmen or women out there?..... Agent Orange—Louie Leos. There is no new information. Like everyone else he keeps getting the same old story..... There was a discussion on the up-coming A and A days at Davis-Monthan..... Membership. We are required to have 35 members in order to remain a chapter. May 15th is the deadline!!! All memberships now expire on Feb 28th so we must get the word out to the members to re-new. **Please** send your dues in so we can continue to service our fellow Vets..... Albie Ginaro announced that he will be running for Regional Director for this region..... Information was passed out on the Military Order of the Purple Heart.....

Till next month.....

YOUR BOARD

AUCTION '87

VVA Chapter 106 had it's first major fundraising event since the Helicopter Project. The auction took place at the Black Angus on Broadway in Tucson Arizona. Fifty businesses in the community donated items to the cause and around sixty people participated in the transaction.

Many wonderful items were displayed and a variety of people were able to make some good deals. The items ranged from hair care, automotive service, photographs, paintings, stereo equipment, wine & beer, household goods, mirrors, skylites and so forth. The auctioneer's name was Dan Fahey and he added a harmonious atmosphere as he displayed his professional skills.

As a chapter, we were able to reap a couple of hundred dollars. VVA Chapter 106 would like to thank John Shirley for his dedicated coordination with the auction, and we would also like to thank everyone else for their support and participation in the fund raiser. We ask that you look for the future events such as the Gun Raffle and a concert in the fall.

VVA PRODUCTS

Many of you have been asking for more varied items, such as caps, patches and different stickers. Buying your VVA Products through your chapter will save you time and postage. Here's a (growing) list of the items:

VVA Bumper Sticker (strip)	\$1.50
VVA Bumper Sticker (round)	\$1.25
VVA Lapel Pin	\$3.00
VVA Patch	\$3.00
Foam "Huggers"	\$2.50
Cap with VVA Logo	\$6.00

Some of the above items are limited! Requests for other products such as books, coffee mugs and shirts will be taken. Stop by any meeting and ask for Shawn.



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Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is open to Vietnam Era Veterans
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