

**“Never again will one generation of Veterans
abandon another.”**



**634 Bowers Lane
Kaukauna, WI 54130-1004**

**January — February
2024**

2024

**Fox Valley's Only Chartered Vietnam Veterans
Organization Serving Area Veterans Since 1987**

CURRENT OFFICERS
Officers / Board of Directors

President	Glen Zimmerman
Vice President	Jerry Clusen
Secretary	Dave Verhagen
Treasurer	Phil Moore
Board of Directors-BOD	Dennis Bowman
Board of Directors-BOD	Wade Van Ryzin
Board of Directors-BOD	Mike Weaver

Committees / Administration

Adopt-A-Family	Vacant
Chaplain	Mike Weaver
Chapter Social Events	AVVA
Scholarship	Wade Van Ryzin
Reflections of Vietnam Coordinator	Jerry Clusen
FV Veterans Council & Recognition	Peggy Garefino
Fundraising/Charity Drives	Vacant
Membership	Joe Eiting
Nomination/Constitution	Board of Directors
POW/MIA	Terry Pederson
Toxic Chemical Issues	Joe Eiting
Sergeant-At-Arms	Vacant
Sunshine	Bill Olcott
Taps	Terry Pederson
Retirement Home Visits	John VandenHeuvel
Webmaster	Angie Coenen
Newsletter Editor	Dennis Bowman

Other

Chapter	920-205-1565	info@vvawi351.org
Dennis Bowman	920-858-2551	dbowmanvva@gmail.com
Jerry Clusen	920-205-4494	jerry.clusen@gmail.com
Joe Eiting	920-205-1565	capteiting@aol.com
Phil Moore	920-750-4110	prespanther@att.net
Bill Olcott	920-250-0112	papaolcott@outlook.com
Dave Verhagen	920-725-6896	mopar1974@aol.com
Wade Van Ryzin	920-734-9638	wvanryzin@aol.com
Mike Weaver	920-470-4674	skipatroldoc@gmail.com
Glen Zimmerman	920-428-1229	glenz49@aol.com

Next Meetings

**VVA 351 will be meeting at:
BOD Jan. 2nd at Veteran's Village
2919 W Glenpark Dr, Appleton**

**Jan. 11th for
General Membership Meeting at
American Legion Club**

Chapter Tales

Holiday Greetings, Brothers and Sisters!

They say Winter has arrived but you can't tell it by looking outside. Surprise! Temps are warmer than normal and there is no snow on the ground. Suits me just fine but I know it won't last. I'm sure most people would like a white Christmas, though. I'd be just fine if it would snow on Christmas Eve and melt away 2 days later.

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank everyone that helped to make our Chapter better than it was a year ago. I asked you to **STEP UP AND JOIN IN** and many of you did just that. That makes all of our jobs much easier. My hope is that together we can build on what we have started and in doing so, make the coming year even better than last year. And a special "thanks" to all the Board Members for all the support they gave me all year long. No one person can do this alone.

Our EDU Program will take a break over the cold Winter months but will get back on track in March, 2024, when we visit Fox Valley Lutheran High School. If you haven't participated in our EDU Program at the local High Schools, I urge you to **STEP UP AND JOIN IN**. You don't have to get up and speak to the students if you don't feel comfortable doing that but you can certainly help man the display and talk individually to the students as they look over all the memorabilia we have assembled. IF there are items you aren't familiar with, ask another vet. We can't all know everything but together we are an encyclopedia of knowledge. So, **STEP UP AND JOIN IN** and be a part of what makes this Chapter so great!

This past Tuesday we celebrated a Veteran's Christmas Party in conjunction with the Appleton VFW Post 2778 and Vets and Friends Coffeehouse, Inc. in Appleton. Close to 190 people were served a great Fried Chicken/Tenderloin Tips dinner with all the fixings at the Capitol Centre in Appleton. I know my wife and I had a great time and, from the comments I have received, I believe everyone else did, as well. About 80+ prizes were given out to Veterans and everyone took something home from the gift swap that took place. All in all, it was a very enjoyable evening and a great way to get Veterans of all ages together for some fun. If you couldn't make it this year, we'll try to repeat it in 2024.

Our next Chapter meeting is scheduled for January 11th at the American Legion Hall in Appleton. Mark your calendars now and stop in to see what exciting things the AVVA has planned for the coming year. I'm sure they'll have more fun opportunities for you to **STEP UP AND JOIN IN**. We need everyone's input to make this a better Chapter for all of us. Please don't depend on the Board of Directors or AVVA to do it all for you. If you have any suggestions, please contact Frank Witt at (920) 422-1266 as he looks for more ways for us to have fun together. Or, feel free to send me any suggestions on what activities or changes you would like to see in the future from your Chapter at glenz49@aol.com or call me at **920-428-1229** and leave a message if I'm not available.

Stay warm through these Winter months and, above all, spend time with your loved ones during this Holiday Season!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, from my family to yours!

Glen Zimmerman, President

Editor's Musings

Happy New Year to you all,

I hope you are having a wonderful Holiday Season! Kathleen and I are going to see both of our sons, which is always nice.

It has been a quiet period for VVA 351. The Visitation Team had their Annual Veterans Day visits at a number of senior citizen facilities in the area. Great job brothers and sisters. You always are a welcomed group to visit our fellow veterans.

It has been almost a week since the funeral of our brother, Gary Brynjulfson. He was a very valuable member of VVA 351 as well as VFW Post 2778. He was helping us even through his illness. He was a friend of all of us, smiling during pain when most of us would have huddled in a corner.

May God be with us in the years to come!! Again, Happy New Year, Brothers and Sisters!

Dennis

Farewell Brother Gary
Rest In Peace!

Wisconsin Vietnam War Casualties

The casualty list contains the names of our brothers lost during the months from January — February. The name listed are from the three from the five county area and seven from the rest of the state.

January

JAHNKE RONALD EDWARD	USMC	PFC	MENASHA	WINNEBAGO	1/8/1966
LIND JAMES JEROME	ARMY	SGT	OSHKOSH	WINNEBAGO	1/5/1968
LANGENFELD CHRISTIAN ALAN	USMC	PFC	OSHKOSH	WINNEBAGO	1/27/1968
THOMAS ARTHUR GERG	USMC	PFC	BROOKFIELD	WAUKESHA	1 /12/1967
LEE ROGER DANIELSON	ARMY	SGT	CADOTT	CHIPPEWA	1 /12/1968
ROBERT DALE ERICKSON	ARMY	SP4	SUPERIOR	DOUGLAS	1 /13/1967
MARK PHILLIP RUDOLF	ARMY	SGT	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	1 /13/1970
HARLAN T PACHE	ARMY	PFC	ARLINGTON	COLUMBIA	1 /14/1968
ANDREW LESLIE MOODY JR	ARMY	SGT	GERMANTOWN	WASHINGTON	1 /16/1967
PAUL STUART GEE	USMC	CAPT	MANITOWISH WATERS	VILAS	1 /16/1968

February

FREDERICK SCHMITT	ARMY	SFC	KIEL	CALUMET	2/1/1969
TOM RICHARD MUELLER	ARMY	SGT	SEYMOUR	OUTAGAMIE	2/1/1969
THOMAS LEON ARMITAGE	USMC	PFC	MEDINA	OUTAGAMIE	2/12/1969
BURGERT ROBERT	ARMY	SGT	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	2/13/1963
SCHUETT JEROME ALAN	USMC	PVT	REEDSBURG	SAUK	2/13/1968
BUNGARTZ FREDERICK WILLIAM	USMC	PFC	CHIPPEWA FALLS	CHIPPEWA	2/14/1968
RICKLI RODNEY HOWARD	NAVY	SN	FOND DU LAC	FOND DU LAC	2/15/1967
PODEBRADSKY ANTHONY JOHN	ARMY	SGT	LENA	OCONTO	2/15/1968
FEIERABEND PETER MATTHEW	ARMY	PFC	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	2/16/1964
FORAN JOSEPH PAUL	ARMY	SP4	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	2/16/1967

Thank You From Veterans Court

Wisconsin VVA Quarterly Meeting Info

Waupaca

12/2/2023

Item 1. The State VVA is considering cutting back on the number of meetings that are being held each year from 4 to 2 since the State is losing several Chapters every year as members die off. There are 4 meetings scheduled for 2024 at this point but, based on feedback in the coming year, that may change by 2025.

Meeting dates for 2024: March 16, June 22, Sept. 22 and Dec. 8.

Item 2. National Park admission cards are now FREE to ALL Veterans.

Item 3. With the possible disbanding of the National VVA, there has been a big turnover of employees and Directors at the National level making it more difficult to get answers or things approved.

Item 4. If you are mailing anything to National, use the following address:

VVA National Headquarters

P.O. Box 49030

Silver Spring, MD. 20910

Item 5. Under the new PACT Act, Vietnam Vets are NOT eligible for Burn Pit Disability Payments. There are approximately 30,000 Vietnam Veterans in Wisc.

Item 6. Approx. 1 in 5 veterans require Long Term Care. A study is currently being done at the Veteran's Home in King to determine how to better handle these veterans. The study should be completed by June of 2025.

VVA 351 attendees at the meeting included: Frank Witt, Wade Van Ryzin, Chris Van Ryzin and Glen Zimmerman

Sincerely,

Chelsea Niemuth, Coordinator

VVA Chapter 351 EDU Schedule (updated 11OCT2023) School Year 2023-2024

Date	School	Scheduled Moderator	Phone	Location	Scheduled Driver	Phone
7-Nov	Kaukauna HS	Mike Weaver	(920 470-4674)	Kaukauna	L. Cavanaugh	(920 264 7919)
28-Oct	Rawhide	Jerry Clusen	(920 205 4494)	New London	D Grossman	(920 740 6920)
15-Nov	Valley Christian Sch.	Mike Weaver	(920 470-4674)	Oshkosh	D Grossman	(920 740 6920)

Events & Offers

Saturday Morning Breakfast at Angel's

We now meet on every Saturday morning at the regular time of 0830 — 1000 hours. Join us on Saturday mornings.

ALL Veterans of the US Armed Forces and spouses are welcome; bring a vet buddy along—there is a lot of room. We have Vets of all wars at our table. **Angel's** is at 1401 E. John St. Appleton —between College & John St. roundabouts.

Vets and Friends Coffeehouse of Wisconsin Inc.

The coffeehouse initially served a sandwich and soup on **Saturdays from 11:00am – 1:00pm** but has now expanded its meal selection to a rotating menu of hot foods including ham, beef, pork and chicken along with all of the fixings. The Coffeehouse also serves a full breakfast on **Friday mornings from 8:00am till 10:00am**.

Sunshine COMMITTEE

If you know of a Chapter member that is not feeling well or is having surgery, please contact Bill Olcott at 920-733-8199. Bill sends get-well cards to these folks so they know that the Chapter has their well-being in mind.

VETS & FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN Inc.

Meets at St. James United Methodist Church, 100 W. Capitol Drive in Appleton WI 54911. We serve Wednesday lunches from 11am-1pm and Friday breakfasts from 8am-10am. Please join us for camaraderie, great food and a relaxing atmosphere!

Visit to Appleton Retirement Community and Brewster Village



The WA 351 Visiting Team went to the residents of Appleton Retirement Community on their annual Veterans Day visit on November 17th.



Our Visitation Team made a visit to Brewster Village. The veteran attendees enjoyed their presence on November 17th.



Willow Lane EDU Visit



The VVA 351 Visitation Team made contact with the residents of this fine Senior citizen facility in North Appleton on November 17th.



Wisconsin VVA Quarterly Meeting Info

Waupaca

12/2/2023

Item 1. The State VVA is considering cutting back on the number of meetings that are being held each year from 4 to 2 since the State is losing several Chapters every year as members die off. There are 4 meetings scheduled for 2024 at this point but, based on feedback in the coming year, that may change by 2025.

Meeting dates for 2024: March 16, June 22, Sept. 22 and Dec. 8.

Item 2. National Park admission cards are now FREE to ALL Veterans.

Item 3. With the possible disbanding of the National VVA, there has been a big turnover of employees and Directors at the National level making it more difficult to get answers or things approved.

Item 4. If you are mailing anything to National, use the following address:

VVA National Headquarters

P.O. Box 49030

Silver Spring, MD. 20910

Item 5. Under the new PACT Act, Vietnam Vets are NOT eligible for Burn Pit Disability Payments. There are approximately 30,000 Vietnam Veterans in Wisc.

Item 6. Approx. 1 in 5 veterans require Long Term Care. A study is currently being done at the Veteran's Home in King to determine how to better handle these veterans. The study should be completed by June of 2025.

VVA 351 attendees at the meeting included: Frank Witt, Wade Van Ryzin, Chris Van Ryzin and Glen Zimmerman

AVVA

Veterans, You may have seen more active participation by spouses and friends of Veterans and wondered why. As family and friends many of us were supporting and helping “behind the scenes”. I was especially interested in the education of toxins and environmental exposures which brought me to the VVA sponsored Town Hall meetings and the state VVA/AVVA combined quarterly committee meetings in Waupaca where I was asked to join the AVVA. We are not just a “ladies” group, we are men and women who want to “stand by all Veterans.” So here is more information about AVVA. Perhaps more would like to become a part of a great program. (920) We generally meet early evening at the Vet Center on North Richmond St Appleton)

What Is AVVA?

As Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (920) AVVA), we are passionate about our work and the real life issues facing Veterans and their families. We strive to create a positive impact on our Veterans and their families by making life better. AVVA is a national, nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to advancing the awareness of issues affecting Veterans, their families, and their communities. AVVA strives to ensure that ALL Veterans attain the honor, respect, and benefits they deserve. We lend our expertise, support, and leadership to all veteran related programs, community service, and social activities, while remaining actively involved in our own programs and educational endeavors.

Who can become a member?

AVVA is made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans, and all persons who support Veterans' issues. AVVA is a catalyst for action, healing, reconciliation, mutual support, and fellowship. With more than 10,000 members, we are a thriving and strong organization. AVVA is a non-partisan, tax exempt organization.

Regular membership shall be granted to any persons who are ineligible for membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (920) VVA) and who wish to further the purposes of both VVA and the Corporation.

Dual membership shall be limited to those who are eligible for membership in VVA.

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.

Chris Van Ryzin

cbvanryzin@gmail.com 920-734-9638