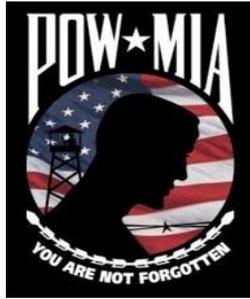


**“Never again will one generation of Veterans
abandon another.”**



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

**March — April
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	Phil Moore
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	AVVA Chairperson
Membership	Joe Eiting
Nomination/Constitution	Board of Directors
POW/MIA	Terry Pederson
Toxic Chemical Issues	Joe Eiting
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 Mar. 5th at Veteran's Village
2919 W Glenpark Dr, Appleton**

**Mar. 14th for
General Membership Meeting at
American Legion Club**

Chapter Tales

Greetings Members!

As we look at the calendar for 2024, we see a lot of activities for all of us to help out with. So, make the pledge to **STEP UP AND JOIN IN!** We need more members to help out with the many programs and activities we have lined up for this year. The Board members and AWA cannot do it all by themselves. Please, stop sitting back and hoping others will do the work! **STEP UP AND JOIN IN!** We are all part of this Chapter and we should all be proud of our service to our Country. Let's show that to the rest of the community around us by participating in any way that we are able.

The coming year has many opportunities for each of us. We will be part of the parades on Memorial Day and Flag Day. Anyone can sit on the chairs on our float and wave at the public – so be there and do it! Show your pride!

In March we will kick off the EDU program at our local high schools. Again, you don't have to get up on stage and speak to the kids if you are not comfortable doing that. But you can sit by the display and talk face to face with them about our fantastic display and your experiences in Vietnam. They love hearing from you and we need to make sure they know our stories and the history of our war. So, again, I ask you to **STEP UP AND JOIN IN.** Sign up to be a part of several of our EDU presentations. The students need you and our Chapter needs you.

In April, we will have our Chapter elections. If you are interested in putting your name on the ballot for any of the Board positions, please contact Mike Weaver at 920-470-4674. I'm sure many of you would be good at these positions and could add valuable insight to running our Chapter. So, **STEP UP AND JOIN IN!**

On May 10th and 11th, we will participate in "MISSION: POSSIBLE – A Veteran & Family Symposium" taking place at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center. This Veteran focused event will feature over 60 displays, mini seminars, food trucks, guest speakers, bands and our EDU display. This is a full 2-day session that will require a lot of help from our members to man the display. So, mark your calendars now for those dates so you are able to help out. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting. Be sure to **STEP UP AND JOIN IN!**

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Editor's Musings

Good Day, one and all!

First of all, I want to second what Glen's message said. The organization has 160+ people, and only a few volunteer at any occasion during the year. Please, come out and help. Due to lack of help for our funding days, we have cut back to two sites, which means that our treasury suffers. It would be nice to have a couple more locations which we had before.

Also a reminder that our Unit will have a celebration for the 35th Anniversary of its beginning. I hope that many of our members can be there. More information will be forthcoming newsletter.

On the 20th of February, we held our annual Valentine's Day dinner at Mark's East Side super club. The gathering was great with 52+ members and guests present. The food was great and the conversation awesome.

We are now entering into election season. I hope you take time to vote!

I am sitting here at home, looking out on a beautiful day, recovering from a cold. Oh, well!

The newsletter is pretty light with not much happening. I decided to get some pictures from our archives.

Just heard about the passing of VVA 351's good friend, Mark Ropella, a wonderful teacher and friend to those of us who served in the military. The Celebration of Mark's Life will be held at 6:00 pm on Friday, March 8, 2024 at the Wichmann Funeral Home, 537 N. Superior Street, Appleton. Since Mark was so supportive of VVA 351 and other veterans, we will be having a Walk-up Tribute on March 8th so be at Wichmann by 5:30. Wear black pants, your white VVA shirt and black shoes. Farewell faithful servant.

Dennis

VVA Chapter 351 EDU Schedule (updated 29 Feb 2024) School Year 2023-2024

Date	Location	Lead	Driver
27-Mar	Fox Valley Lutheran	Glenn Zimmerman	Jerry Clusen
May	Hilbert HS	Marty Huss	Jerry Clusen
May	Little Chute HS	Marty Huss	Open
10-11 MAY	Fox Cities Convention Center	Glenn Zimmerman	John Wiesner
15 May	Neenah HS	Mike Weaver	Dave Grossman
17 May	Hortonville HS	Jerry Clusen	Jerry Clusen
12-13 Sep	MPVA Convention—EAA	Jerry Clusen	Jerry Clusen

Wisconsin Vietnam War Casualties

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

March

ALLEN DARYL PAPPENFUS	ARMY	PFC	APPLETON	OUTAGAMIE	3/15/1967
ROBERT HARVEY REINKE	ARMY	CPL	APPLETON	OUTAGAMIE	3/21/1967
JAMES ALLEN COREY	USMC	LCPL	KIMBERLY	OUTAGAMIE	3/2/1968
JEFFERY EVANS MEAD	USMC	LCPL	JANESVILLE	ROCK	3 /12/1968
FRANKLIN JAMES RUNGE	ARMY	SP4	GILLETT	OCONTO	3 /12/1969
DONALD PETER JOHNSON	USMC	LCPL	GILMAN	TAYLOR	3 /13/1967
WILLIAM JAMES HONDEL	ARMY	2LT	WEST ALLIS	MILWAUKEE	3 /13/1968
KENNETH WAYNE HAAKENSEN	USMC	PFC	RACINE	RACINE	3 /13/1968
MICHAEL LAWRENCE WHITE	ARMY	PFC	NEW BERLIN	WAUKESHA	3 /13/1968
DARWIN STUART PETERSON	USMC	PFC	PLEASANT PRAIRIE	KENOSHA	3 /13/1970

April

GENE JAY HOWARD	ARMY	SP5	NEENAH	WINNEBAGO	4/2/1968
THOMAS FRANCIS DAZEY JR	ARMY	SP4	NEENAH	WINNEBAGO	4/9/1968
JOHN R DAGOSTINO JR	ARMY	SGT	GREEN BAY	BROWN	4/30/1968
GEORGE CHARLES STEINBERG	ARMY	CPT	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	4 /11/1966
EUGENE RICHARD KRITZ	USMC	SGT	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	4 /11/1967
DOUGLAS RICHARD WEIHER	ARMY	SP4	MILWAUKEE	MILWAUKEE	4 /12/1968
DANNY WILLIAM HOULE	ARMY	PFC	HILES	FOREST	4 /12/1969
CURTIS STEVEN WOODS	USMC	PFC	LA CROSSE	LA CROSSE	4 /12/1969
STEPHEN JOHN WESTPHAL	USMC	PFC	IXONIA	JEFFERSON	4 /13/1968
WILLIAM C PIERSON III	ARMY	CW3	MADISON	DANE	4 /13/1969

Valentine Get-Together



A wonderful occasion was held on February 20 a belated celebration of Valentine's Day. The food was great at Mark's Eastside Restaurant. A total of 54 VVA and AVVA members and their guests enjoyed a time for friendship.



Big Thank You!

VA 351 would like to thank the following businesses for being our fundraising locations:

Festival Foods on Northland Ave.

Fleet Farm

Woodman's

These locations will again be the locations for our upcoming June Campaign. Our help is needed!!!

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 Inc. 2508 N. Richmond St. Appleton WI 54911

Free hot meals are provided to veterans and their spouse/friend on the first Saturday of each month. We have a FUN TIME activity from 4-5pm to socialize, play cards, pinball and records on the jukebox. MEAL TIME is served at 5pm.

A special announcement: We are building a memorial wall to honor the 1,163 Wisconsin Vietnam veterans that died in Vietnam. A soft dedication is planned for this summer.

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!

5TH ANNIVERSARY!

Homecoming for Vietnam Veterans Menasha High School

On Saturday, March 9th 2019, 53 Vietnam Veterans returned from their Trip to Vietnam. They were greeted to the playing of the 84th Army Band and over 3000 cheering well-wishers as they came into the Fieldhouse at Menasha High School. The cheering was deafening as they made their way into the Fieldhouse. Many of us present, felt as though we were being welcomed home also. Here are a few pictures from the Homecoming.



Welcome Home!

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

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In June, we will be celebrating the 35th Anniversary of our Chapter with a luncheon and presentation ceremony. We are inviting VVA leadership members from National and State to join us. We will confirm the date at our next meeting and I will get that information out to all members shortly after.

Our next Chapter meeting is scheduled for March 14th at the American Legion Hall in Appleton. Mark your calendars now and join us to see what exciting things your Chapter has on the horizon. We are going to have a very busy year in 2024 and we will need everyone's involvement and assistance to make it all work smoothly. So, **STEP UP AND JOIN IN.** We need everyone's help to keep this Chapter working for all of us.

Feel free to send me any suggestions on 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.

My thanks to the Board, AVVA and all those who keep our Chapter running smoothly.

Glen Zimmerman, President

