



# VVA Clermont County Chapter 649 January 2018 Newsletter

The mission of Chapter 649 of the Vietnam Veterans of America is to provide fellowship, advocacy, education about veteran benefits, as well as financial assistance, as appropriate, to veterans of all eras, pursuant to the founding principle of the Vietnam Veterans of America,

*"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*

## January 11th General membership Meeting-New Location

Just a reminder that we will be meeting in our new location on January 11th. We are still in the Union Township Civic Center, but one door down in the Senior Center at the opposite end of the building. The meeting room is on the first floor. Guest speaker has not been confirmed as of this printing.

## Veterans In Need

On Sunday, December 17, chapter members Don Sheppard, Phil Dodge, Ben Joehnk, Samuel Bray, Tom Olenick, and Michael Newman delivered Christmas gift packages consisting of Kroger and Visa gift cards to eleven different Clermont County veterans in need. The gift cards were purchased with funds donated to Chapter 649. Families were selected based on need; most had young children and many were single parent families.

## Raffle Report

One of the highlights of the Christmas party was the drawing for our firearms raffle. The first prize winner was M. Hebenstreit who elected to take the rifle. The second winner was E. McCurdy, who received the pistol. The raffle was a big success, grossing over \$7000. With expenses of \$1000 for the weapons plus the cost for printing the tickets we were able to net almost \$6000.

Congratulations go out to the 20 VVA and AVVA members who sold raffle tickets this year. Ticket sellers included Mark Brandon, Steve Tam, Gene Wilt, Michael Newman, Ben Joehnk, Phil Dodge, Don Sheppard, Tom Olenick, Samuel Bray, Ray Autenreib, Ed Karlis, Tommie Bixler, Joann Gregory, Roy Honeycutt, Jim Fabin, Richard Hebenstreit, Richard Day, Dan Haglage, Ken Williamson, and Dave Ehrnschwender.

## WA 649 Meetings

VVA 649 meets the second Thursday of every month.

**NEXT MEETING: Jan 11th**

### LOCATION

Union Township Civic Center

### Senior Center

4350 Aicholtz Road

Eastgate Exit of I-275

Food served at 7:00 PM

Meeting at 7:30 PM

Guest speaker immediately following the pledge of allegiance.

### AWA Membership

Associates of Vietnam Veterans

Members actively participate

and work in supporting VVA.

## Wayne Gregory Draws Winning Tickets



### Business of The Month

The VVA 649 Board of Directors selected Poochie's Place in Amelia as our Business of the Month for November 2017. Poochie's Place, a veteran friendly restaurant, is open for breakfast and lunch and provides a 10% discount with military ID. Poochie's is a participant in our Memorial Brick program.

### Apartment Fire - Veteran In Need

An apartment fire in late November has displaced Bobby and Linda Bennett. Bobby is one our more active chapter members. Most of you will recognize Bobby as the guy who sells the 50/50 raffle tickets at our meetings. He is also part of the team that installs the bricks at our helicopter memorial.

Bobby's living room and dining room suffered a complete loss and all of the small kitchen appliances were destroyed. His apartment is being repaired and he expects to be able to move back in late February or early March.

The chapter has received donations to date of about \$2000 from various individuals as well as VVA Chapter 10 (Cincinnati), VVA Chapter 92 (Dayton), VFW Ohio Charities, and Southwest Ohio VFW Memorial Team. The Go Fund Me website has received \$450 to date. The Go Fund Me website is: <https://www.gofundme.com/6ys6b-everything-lost-in-fire>

Chapter members wishing to donate money can send donations to VVA 649 (Fire Fund), PO Box 426, Batavia, OH 45103. For those with household items to donate, the chapter plans to publish a list on our website of those items destroyed in the fire and an accompanying list of items already donated to replace them. Contact Michael Newman at (513) 607-9309 to coordinate.

### Georgetown Veterans Home Visit

On December 9th Michael and Joyce Newman, Bill Graybill, Dick White, Paul Hornschemeier and his friend Ken Tarter, and Mark Brandon braved the snow to visit the Georgetown Veterans Home to sponsor Bingo games. VVA 649 donated \$50 in prize money and Paul Hornschemeier personally donated 5 gift certificates to O'Charley's as door prizes. About 35 residents attending the event. Many thanks to all who participated.



**(Photo, above right)** On December 2nd at Everything Bagels, we met many veterans, and we received \$414.00 in donations (\$236.00 from Jungle Jim's alone) and sold \$155.00 in gun raffle tickets. Many thanks to Phil Dodge for coordinating the event as well as working it and to Ed Karliss, Joel Foreman, and Bobby Bennett for also manning the table.

### January Birthdays

01 / 02- Richard Walsh  
 01 / 03- Jim Wilson  
 01 / 03- Richard Willenbrink  
 01 / 05- Eddie R. Brierly  
 01 / 09- Neda Nutley AWA  
 01 / 10- Leonard Muller  
 01 / 10- Ralph Keller  
 01 / 12- Daniel Bauer

**01 / 18- David Snider**  
**01 / 19- Ralph Walters**  
**01 / 20- Calvin Sheap**  
**01 / 20- Robert Lehmkuhl**  
**01 / 24- Dennis Bauer**  
**01 / 24- Robert Flanders**  
**01 / 24- Wayne Hilton**

01 / 25- John Moemound  
 01 / 25- Louis Akers Jr.  
 01 / 25- Richard Hebenstreit  
 01 / 26- Don Chandler  
 01 / 28- Wally Clark  
 01 / 29- Thomas Mabry  
 01 / 30- Richard Ballard

From The President

Christmas Party

The chapter's annual Christmas Party went over very well. We had over 115 people who had signed up and it looked like they all showed up. The party was catered by Mama's Grill of Williamsburg. The food was great and included turkey, ham, potatoes, vegetables, and pie. If you haven't been to Mama's yet you really need to go there. They have an extensive menu and the prices are very reasonable I think it's important to patronize the local businesses that help our chapter

Christmas Committee chairman Joann Gregory deserves many thanks for her organizational skills. Joann's daughter Lisa Hart (AVVA) and her boy friend Chad Russell, along with Joann's sister, Betty Conover worked the chow line.



The music was provided by the acoustic guitars of Tommy Cox and William Newman out of the Lynchburg, Virginia area. They played music of the Vietnam era — Beatles, Rolling Stones, Gordon Lightfoot, Credence Clearwater Revival, and Chuck Belly.

The chapter provided a few door prizes which were augmented by prizes donated by various chapter members, which included wood carvings made by Dave Ehrnschwender, one of our most recent life members. Other donated door prizes included a portable DVD player, and various DVDs, one of which was a set of the Ken Burns Vietnam War videos. The big prize was a 32" television, won by Tommie Bixler. Tommie donated the TV to Bobby and Linda Bennett, who had lost many of their belongings in an apartment fire earlier in the month. Thank you Tommie.

*Happy New Year 2018*