



V.V.A. Clermont County Chapter 649 February NEWSLETTER 2016

HAPPY GROUND HOG DAY

February 11 - Guest Speaker Author -Williams Fee.

His book, Memories of Vietnam, 1967 is about his service with Delta company, First Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, First Infantry Division, nicknamed the "Swamp Rats". Bill is a native of Cincinnati and the retired General Manager of WCPO-TV.

December- 10, 2015 - Christmas Dinner :

Family's and guest of Chapter 649 gathered at the Owensville Fair Grounds for our annual Christmas Dinner. A brief chapter meeting was held, Chapter president , Ken Williamson welcomed all members and guest, followed by the pledge of allegiance, our POW / MIA Ceremony, presented by, Former chapter 649 President, George Kinnaird. Chapter 649 Chaplain, Bill Graybill, presented the invocation. All members provided a covered dish, Chapter 649 provided the Hams & Turkey, Chapter 649 member Jerry Bridges, provided the soft-drinks and Coffee. Thank You to all who attended. Thank you to our AVVA members who kept the buffet

December 13, 2015 - Veterans Helping Veterans

Chapter 649 presented eleven gift-cards to eleven "Clermont-County Veteran Family's In Need". For the past few years, chapter 649 would have a canned-food drive to provide assistance to veterans in need. After receiving a donation check from the Goshen School students, early in 2015, the chapter decided to forego the canned -food drive, and provide each family with gift-cards, which would allow each family to purchase the food they wished to eat. The chapter purchased 11, Kroger Gift cards. Chapter 649 also purchased 11, Visa Gift Cards, to assist the family's in need. One of our Chapter members also provided 11, Wal-Mart Gift Cards , so that each family would be able to place a Christmas Gift under the Christmas Tree for the younger children within their family. Thanks to all Organizations, and Chapter members donations, we were able to provide over \$ 6,000.00, to be divided equally, amongst eleven separate families.

* **Note** - AVVA Chapter Mary Pratt provided a Award Winning Quilt she had made, to raffle at our Christmas Dinner, with the proceeds to go to our **2016**, Christmas, Veterans In Need project.

VVA Life Membership Fire Sale

Chapter 649 wishes to Thank all Chapter 649, VVA and AVVA members who took advantage of the special Life Membership cost reduction offer, and have now become a Life Member within our chapter. Upwards to 50, Chapter 649 members, have now become Life Members. Thank you for supporting Chapter 649.

February 13th and 14th - Meet & Greet at Amelia Kroger

Chapter 649 will be having a "Meet & Great Booth" at the Amelia Kroger Store, so we may inform Veterans, and their family members, of Veteran Benefits, which they may not be aware of, and are entitled to. Also Veteran Service Office assistance available to them.

Message From Mark Brandon - Meet & Greet - Chair-Person

We are scheduled for a Meet 'n Greet at Kroger's in Amelia on Saturday and Sunday, February 13th and 14th from 10 AM - 6 PM. This Kroger's is located on SR 125 at Amelia-Olive Branch Rd.

Ten people including me have signed up so far, but I still need more people (at least 6 would be ideal), especially for Sunday the 14th, since only 2 people have committed for the 10 AM to 12 PM shift that day.

We will be inside, out of the elements.

If you wish to participate in our Meet & Greet, booth, Please contact: Mark Brandon - 513. 309. 3568

E-mail Mark - brandon4514@yahoo.com

OUR NEXT MEETING Thursday FEBRUARY 11

LOCATION

Union Twp. Civic Center
4350 Aicholtz Road
Clermont County, Ohio
Food Served @ 7:00 PM
Business @ 7:30

**Guest Speaker immediately
after the pledge of allegiance**

**March Meeting Date
Thursday - March 10**

AVVA Membership

Associates of Vietnam Veterans
Members actively participate and work
in supporting VVA
If you have a friend or relative who is
not eligible to join VVA, talk to them
about joining AVVA



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February V A Hospital - Bingo Night

We are committed to sponsor a Bingo/Horse Race night at the VA Medical Center at 3200 Vine Street in Cincinnati on Monday, February 15th. The activity will take place in their newly remodeled auditorium.

Volunteers are asked to be there by 6:30 PM. We should be done by 8 PM.

So far 4 people including me have volunteered. Another 5 would be great.

The VA patients really appreciate our efforts to alleviate their boredom and monotony.

If you wish to participate in this event, Please contact: Mark Brandon - 513. 309. 3568

LIFE MEMBERSHIP COST CONTINUED ! NO DEAD-LINE DATE !!

VVA National has agreed to PERMANENTLY change the cost of becoming a "Life Member" to a cost of \$ 100.00

New Membership Forms will be provided soon, Old membership form will still be accepted.

more information will be provided soon

The Beginning Of VVA Chapter 649

Chapter 649 AVVA President (Joann) provides a box, wrapped in Christmas Paper at the table out-side of the food kitchen for the members who wish to make a donation to our "Vets In Need" Christmas Fund, when exiting from the food kitchen.

As a alternative way to create other donations for the cause, I have created a 26 minute DVD slide show, showing photos from 1992 - 2015, consisting of the ground breaking ceremony, photos of each president during the year(s) they were president, and the highlights that happened during their term in office.

If you wish to have a copy of this DVD, please speak with Joann Before or After each membership meeting.

Q & A's - Concerning Becoming a Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter Member

On the Second Thursday of each month VVA -Chapter 649 has a monthly membership meeting at the Union Twp. - Civic Center (East Gate) we also encourage the public to attend our meetings to learn more about VVA.

I recently over-heard a conversation of a guest, at our meeting, who was a Veteran, but did not serve in Vietnam, during the Vietnam War, and assumed he was not eligible to join V V A.

The statement show below, provides the **requirements** to become a VVA member. *Which also applies to the Vietnam Era*

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

Note ** If you did not serve during the Vietnam War Era, **OR** Did not serve in the military at any time, but still wish to become involved with Chapter 649, you can become a member of Chapter 649 Associate Vietnam Veterans Of America.

AVVA Membership cost : \$ 20.00 Per Year - http://www.vva649.org/649_AVVA_AppForMembership_fill.pdf

For our new members receiving this newsletter, our Chapter 649 Website is: <http://www.vva649.org/index.html>

If you have questions to ask, please contact me. 513. 505. 5391 - If I can't answer Your question, I'll point you to who can.

Also you may wish to view VVA Ohio State Council. (Headquarters) <http://www.vvaohio.com/>

Web-link for VVA National (Headquarters:) <http://www.vva.org/>

April is election month. If you are interested in running for a board office or delegate please contact Ken Williamson, President. He will put you in touch with the nominating committee. You must be a member in good standing with a DD214 on file with the chapter, be willing to commit to two meetings per month and be active in the events of the chapter. The board meets on the Tuesday evening before the Thursday general membership meeting.

My apologizes to all our Chapter Newsletter subscribers for not receiving the January Issue.

On December 25, 0-Dark:30 PM, my PC Caught Fire and was down for three weeks due to order of new parts, during the Holiday's, and the PC Hospital Doctors being out of town for the New Year.

("Sometimes, __ IT Happens" - Forest Gump)



Advice from An Old Farmer

Ty Brown

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.
Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled.
Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.
Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.
Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
You cannot unsay a cruel word.
Every path has a few puddles.
When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
The best sermons are lived, not preached.
Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
Don't judge folks by their relatives.
Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
Live a good, honorable life... Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
Don 't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.
Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.
If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
Always drink upstream from the herd.
Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around..
Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.
Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.
Most times, it just gets down to common sense

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01 / 02- Richard Walsh
01 / 03- Jim Wilson
01 / 05- Eddie R. Brierly
01 / 09- Scott Butdres avva
01 / 10- Leonard Muller
01 / 10- Ralph Keller
01 / 18- David Snider

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01 / 19- Ralph Walters
01 / 20- Calvin Sheap
01 / 21- William Bath avva
01 / 24- Dennis Bauer
01 / 24- Robert Flanders
01 / 24- Wayne Hilton
01 / 25- John Moemound

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01 / 25- Louis Akers Jr.
01 / 26- Don Chandler
01 / 26- Ruby Bath avva
01 / 28- Wally Clark
01 / 29- Thomas Mabry
01 / 30- Richard Ballard

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02 / 04- Clifford Findley
02 / 05- William Barker
02 / 13- Joe Hutchinson
02 / 13- Rod Osborne

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02 / 14- Joseph George
02 / 16- Richard Noyes
02 / 17- Joseph Moore
02 / 18- Claudius Barger

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02 / 21- Robert Biglow
02 / 24- Kenneth Ellis
02 / 29- Jack Reeves

Chapter 649 - Board Of Directors

Ken Williamson	President	Don Sheppard	B.O.D.	Don Sheppard	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Michael Newman	1st Vice	Steve Tam	B.O.D.	Steve Tam	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Bob Wilms	2nd Vice	Gene Wilt	B.O.D.	Jim Sullivan	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Jim Sullivan	Secretary	Bill Barker	B.O.D.	Michael Newman	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Wayne Gregory	Treasurer	Thomas Olenick	B.O.D.	Gene Wilt	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term