



V.V.A. Clermont County Chapter 649 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2017

THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED - Feb. 3, 1959

Buddy Holly / Ritchie Valens / J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson

February 9 - Guest Speaker

Mr. Todd Sledge, Chief of Public & Community Affairs for The Cincinnati VA Medical Center will be our guest speaker for the February 9th meeting.

Todd, a graduate of Xavier University, has extensive experience within the VA system.

Don't miss this opportunity to get answers to your questions about the VA. - *mental health injuries or loss to suicide.*

Chapter Elections :

Chapter Elections are coming up on April 13th. Talk to a board member about how you can run for office and help Chapter 649 continue to be a leader in Clermont County.

More information will follow next month. This will not be your only election notice.

Pursuant to the Bi-laws of VVA Chapter 649, a post card will be mailed to every member around the first of March notifying them of the date and time of the election with instruction for contacting a member of the nominating committee.

F. Y. I.

With December, and January now behind us, the Clermont County Farmers, (*what few we still have amongst us*), still predict that February will bring lots of cold, and snowy weather. The beginning of every new year is always slow, as for our chapter having Meet & Greets, or any type of fundraisers, which leads to, not having much to post in our newsletter.

Although, while most of us are using January, as a month to relax due to the, winter-coat & mittens weather, Bobby Bennett and Tom Olenick dawned their winter coats, and placed 13 Commemorative Bricks at our Memorial, last week.

Our Chapter President, (Ken Williamson) and the Golf committee held a meeting at Everything Bagels, to prepare for our **September Fundraiser**. Note* The Player who has a Hole-In-One, wins a new car. ... *No Don, ... We're not providing your Ford Pinto that you bought in 1972, . . . this car will have a gas tank !*

Ken Williamson, (B.S.C. District 3 Director) has scheduled our Spring, District Directors meeting in late **March**.

April, will bring Mike Newman (1st Vice) and the Scholarship Committee together, to look at Scholarship Applications submitted by, Clermont County students. We will be providing two Scholarships this year.

Note * The Deadline for Submitting applications is, . . . Postmarked No Later Than : April 7.

The month of **May** will bring us together at our Memorial Day Event , to be held at Union Twp. Veterans Park.

Please keep in mind, from February 1st, through December 23rd, Mark Brandon (2nd Vice) and members, of our chapter, will be having Meet & Greets, at various locations through-out all of 2017, to inform Veterans, & their families, of the VA Hospital entitlements due to the veteran, and also of the assistance available from the Clermont County - Batavia, Veteran Service Office.

Stay Warm, Stay Healthy, Stay Safe

VVA 649 Board of Directors

OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday Feb. 9

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 9**

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



V.V.A. Clermont County Chapter 649 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2017



This story is confirmed in Elmer Bendiner's book, *The Fall of Fortresses*. *Sometimes, it's not really just luck.*

Provided By : Bob Ireton - Chapter 649

Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during WW II. He tells this story of a World War II bombing run over Kassel, Germany , and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks. "Our B-17, the Tondelayo, was barraged by flak from Nazi antiaircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit.

Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. "On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. .

The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but 11 had been found in the gas tanks. 11 unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. A near-miracle, I thought.

Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn.

"He was told that the shells had been sent to our armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that our Intelligence Unit had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer. "Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shells, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless.

Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech.

The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note.

It set us marveling. Translated, the note read: *"This is all we can do for you now, Using Jewish slave labor is never a good idea."*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02 / 03- Kathy Bixler - Avva
02 / 04- Clifford Findley
02 / 05- William Barker
02 / 07- Robert Willenbeink
02 / 08- Rufus Waugh

02 / 13- Joe Hutchinson
02 / 13- Rod Osborne
02 / 14- Gary Sears
02 / 14- Joseph George
02 / 15- Tommy Emery

02 / 16- Richard Noyes
02 / 17- Joseph Moore
02 / 18- Claudius Barger
02 / 21- Robert Biglow
02 / 24- Kenneth Ellis

Chapter 649 - Board Of Directors 2017

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
Mark Brandon	2nd Vice	Gene Wilt	B.O.D.	Michael Newman	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Dan Schulte	Secretary	Bill Barker	B.O.D.	Gene Wilt	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Wayne Gregory	Treasurer	Thomas Olenick	B.O.D.	Tom Bixler	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term

A.V.V.A. - Chapter 649 - Elected Representative - Joann Gregory

To all of our New Members, & subscribers, who may not be aware of;
Other VVA Websites Links, that you may wish to "Save", for easy access.

- VVA - Chapter 649 Website - <http://www.vva649.org/index.html>
- VVA - Buckeye State Council Website - <http://www.vvaohio.com/index.htm>
- VVA - National Website - <http://www.vva.org/>