



VVA Clermont County Chapter 649

October 2017 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.”*

Our Next Meeting - Thursday, October 12th 7:30 PM

Our guest Speaker will be Ken Williamson, Buckeye State Council, District 3 Director, and VVA 649 member. He will be talking about how to protect your computer against viruses, scams and email fraud.

VVA Fund Raiser - Gun Raffle

Our primary fundraiser this year is the rifle/pistol raffle. First winner gets choice of an AR-15 rifle or a Sig Sauer 1911 .45 caliber pistol; second winner receives the other firearm. Tickets are \$5.00 each, or five for \$20.00.

We have raised just over \$3,000 towards our December goal of \$12,000. We currently have 19 members selling tickets. Our top 3 ticket sellers averaged over \$600 each in sales. Way to go guys.

We can still use a few more people selling tickets. It's a pretty easy sell – 5 tickets for \$20. If you would like to sell a few, contact Michael Newman at (513) 607-9309.

VVA 649 Meetings

VVA 649 meets the second Thursday of every month.

NEXT MEETING: Oct 12th

LOCATION

Union Township Civic 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.

AVVA Membership

Associates of Vietnam Veterans
Members actively participate
And work in supporting VVA.

From Mark Brandon - Community Service Committee

Many thanks to all of you for giving of your time this past weekend, September 23 and 24, to participate in our chapter's Meet and Greet at Kroger's. Through our efforts we were able to contact many veterans and the family members of veterans to explain benefits to which they may be entitled. Hopefully, we will have encouraged some people to become new members. We also collected \$705.00 in donations.

Chapter 649 will sponsor a Meet and Greet at Bill Goodman's Gun and Knife Show on Saturday and Sunday, October 14th and 15th. Bill Goodman is providing a free booth to the chapter. The location will be at the Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Road, Sharonville, Ohio. The event times are Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM and Sunday 9 AM - 4 PM. Volunteers will be needed to work a shift(s), and will be asked to sign up at the next general meeting on October 12th. This will be a great opportunity to sell gun raffle tickets. Questions? Call Mark Brandon, 513-309-3568.

12th Annual Golf Outing A Success

Thanks to all VVA members who helped with the golf outing on September 9th. A special thanks to the committee who began their work in November 2016: Ken Williamson, Michael and Joyce Newman, Don Sheppard, Bruce and Neda Nutley, Ben Joehnk, Jim Wilson and Ed Karlis.

We salute our corporate sponsors, TQL, Park National Bank, Auxier Gas and Deltec and thank our many hole sponsors who came together to help make this year's event successful.



Teeing off at the Par3 - Hole 2 trying for a hole-in-one to win this brand new Chevy Cruze. Better luck next year!

Business Of The Month - July

Our Business of the Month for July was the Union Township Maintenance Department. Because we were not able to hold a regular meeting in August due to the convention, we presented the certificate at the Union Township Trustee's meeting on September 14th.



Business Of The Month - August

At our September board meeting, we chose Auxier Gas, Inc as our Business of the Month for August. Auxier Gas donated \$500 for our golf outing – totally unexpected. Michael Newman presented the certificate to Jodi Stephens in the absence of Doug Auxier.



VVA 649 Future Events Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATON
Oct 14 & 15, 2017	Meet & Greet	Goodman's Gun & Knife Show -Sharonville
Oct 21, 2017	Bingo	Georgetown Veterans Home, 2 PM
November 10	Veterans Day School Visits	To Be Announced
November 11	Veterans Day Ceremony	At The Helicopter Time to Be Announced
November 13	Veterans Day School Visits	To Be Announced
Dec 9, 2017	Bingo	Georgetown Veterans Home 2 PM
Dec 14, 2017	VVA Christmas Party	Clermont County Fairgrounds

From The President

Blue Water Navy

After the September meeting it occurred to me that there may be some members that are not aware of the significance of the Blue Water Navy issue in Congress and the reason for the Action Alert which was sent out in last month's newsletter.

Back in 1989 Congress passed the Veterans Agent Orange Exposure Act. Although accepting navy veterans with boots on ground or those operating in the rivers of Vietnam (Brown Water Navy), in 1991 the VA took it upon itself to deny AO benefits to certain navy veterans stationed aboard ships operating in the waters of Vietnam (Blue Water Navy).

These Blue Water Navy vets were exposed to the hazards of Agent Orange when their ships pulled into various ports in Vietnam or when flown in on occasional COD (Carrier Onboard Delivery) flights. VA is requiring each of these navy veterans to prove their case on an individual basis, which calls for them to find and research ship's logs and whatever else they can find fifty some-odd years later to prove their case.

As a result of your advocacy on behalf of our Navy veterans, 304 members of the House have cosponsored H.R. 299 and 43 Senators have cosponsored the companion bill S. 422.

Hurricane Harvey Donation

I want to thank all the members who contributed to the Hurricane Harvey fund at our last meeting. In addition to the \$100 that the chapter voted to donate, one of our members passed the hat and collected another \$311 to add to that. The money was sent to VVA Chapter 292 who will ensure it goes to needy veterans. Bravo Zulu – Well Done.

New Meeting Site Effective January 11, 2018

Beginning January 11, 2018 we will be holding our meetings next door at the Union Township Senior Center. We have been able to reserve their meeting room for the entire year. Our Board of Directors has been meeting there since June. This new venue is due to recent changes in procedures for reserving meeting rooms by Union Township which makes it impossible for us to guarantee a meeting room for a given date and time. The Township has been a gracious host for the past several years providing us a place to meet at no charge and we appreciate everything that they have done for us. Thank you.

Christmas Party

Our Christmas Party is on Thursday, December 14th, our normal meeting night, and is tentatively scheduled to be at the Clermont County Fairgrounds. We have a musical duo coming in from Virginia, William and Tommy. They play a mean set of Beatles music, along with oldies from back in the day. A pair of great entertainers. The music will be provided through a donation from one of our chapter members. At this time we are looking at having the event catered. More news on this later.

October Birthdays

10 / 02- Joyce Newman avva	10 / 08- Roy Wilson	10 / 20- James L. Farquer
10 / 02- Vernon Barns	10 / 10- Dennis Skeene	10 / 22- Regina Herbolt Avva
10 / 03- Charles Hundley	10 / 10- Ron Bratten	10 / 23- James Johnson
10 / 05- Michael Newman	10 / 10- Stephen Workman	10 / 23- Larry Bush
10 / 05- Robert Wilms	10 / 11- Gerald Haas	10 / 24- Ed VonStrohe
10 / 06- Wayne Gregory	10 / 11- Joel Foreman	10 / 25- David H. Anspach
10 / 07 Don Sheppard	10 / 11- Mary Jane Ward Avva	10 / 27- Judith Gustin
10 / 08- Joann Gregory	10 / 11- Raymond Calhoun	10 / 28- Guy Ford
	10 / 14- Ralph Bratten	10 / 28- James Sadler
	10 / 15- James H. Wagner	10 / 31- Howard Daugherty
	10 / 18- Paul Halas	10 / 31- James McSorley