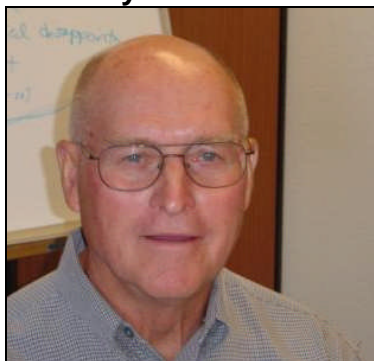


VVA High Desert Chapter 820

BEND, OREGON

In Memory of Dr. Ron Kokes



Dr. Ron Kokes, a well-known and deeply respected veteran's counselor at Bend VA Clinic, died on Friday, May 29th. Dr. Kokes helped many Vietnam veterans coping with PTSD gain a more meaningful and positive outlook toward life, and to adapt the skills to deal effectively with the effects of their trauma. He was greatly admired by veterans for his dedication, compassion, and deep love for his fellow man. The knowledge and wisdom he passed along to those he counseled will continue to reside in their hearts and minds. Dr. Kokes is a man who made a difference. He will be warmly remembered by all who knew him.

Chapter 820 By-Laws

By-Laws of Chapter 820 are being amended and prepared for presentation to the Board of Directors prior to the June meeting. Once approved and accepted by the Board, the Chapter By-Laws will be submitted to the

membership. The membership will have an opportunity to read and review the by-laws and to suggest or offer edits, corrections, and additions prior to adoption by the Chapter.

Goals of the VVA Newsletter

To inform the membership and potential members of events and activities of VVA Chapter 820, High Desert Chapter, in order to improve awareness, involvement and participation of the membership.

New Officers Elected

New officers were elected in the May meeting of VVA Chapter 820. Officers serve a one-year term. The newly elected officers are all enthusiastic about the coming year.

President:	Terry Rasmussen
Vice President:	Tony Jermaczonak
Secretary:	Greg Tracy
Treasurer:	Bob Cusick
Sergeant-At-Arms:	Mike Provost
Chaplain:	Doug Cole

Goals for 2008-2009

To have meaningful and effective programs and activities to promote brotherhood and camaraderie, to create an informed and involved membership, to foster support and participation of the membership in VVA committees, and

to ensure a better financial stability of the Chapter through fund-raising activities. Your support of the officers of VVA Chapter 820 to meet these goals will help us to fulfill the mission of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

VFW Membership

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was formed in 1899 and has long been an advocate for the veteran of US military service. VFW 1643, our parent post, has a membership of 383, most of them veterans of the Korean War and World War II, with some Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan veterans. I recently attended my first VFW meeting and was impressed by the rituals and ceremonies. Consider joining

the VFW if you aren't already a member, and to attend the next meeting held the first Thursday of each month. The VFW needs your support to follow the "Greatest Generation" and to see that the VFW is there for the next generation. Do it for the Iraq and Afghanistan vets! There is no meeting in July. The next meeting will be held on August 7th at 1800 hours.

VVA Chapter Website

A website for all Oregon VVA Chapters provides contact information and info about activities and events. We need

a contact person to keep the Chapter 820 site updated. Go to VVA-OR.org

VVA Committees

Each of the committees listed below needs the leadership and membership of VVA members. Do you have some time or expertise to offer in any of these areas? We need chairpersons and your assistance to get things rolling.

These are the committees:

Membership – L.B. Marr, Chairman

Public Affairs

COVO – Stu Steinberg, Executive Director

Community Services

Veterans Benefits

Veterans Health Care

Veterans Affairs

Agent Orange

Finance

Fundraising & Events

Concessions – Greg Tracy, Chairman

You can get informed about the committee of interest to assist in forming and implementing goals, inform the membership, and help to provide service and support to your fellow veterans, VVA members, and the Chapter.

Talk to an officer or a chairperson about what you can do to get started.

Public Affairs? to publicize and promote the VVA, keep the website updated; Events? to get the membership together outside the monthly meeting – a cookout, fishing trip, etc;

Finance? We need to have a couple of people to work with the Treasurer to put together a budget for the Chapter.

COVO needs volunteers to help with all kinds of things – community services, client intake, answering phones, etc. See Stu, Anne, or Capt. Rick. COVO meetings are held 3rd Wednesday, 1030 hours.

Fundraising Events of VVA

There has been a very strong show of support to assist with our fundraising events. These events will allow us to develop a more solid financial footing to help with our service to veterans.

Mark your calendars to be available to help.

Flashback Cruz – August 1, 2, and 3
High Desert Thunder – September 12, 13
Veterans Day – November

Marine Corps League Detachment Formed in Bend

Hey Marine! A Detachment of the Marine Corps League has been formed in Bend. Officers were elected at the first meeting in April – Mark Wirges is the Commandant. Plan

to join us for a good time at the next meeting on June 26th at VFW Post 1643 at 1800 hours.

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VVA Honor Squad

The VVA Honor Squad performed the ceremonial rifle volley at Deschutes Memorial Gardens on Memorial Day.

The Honor Squad will also attend the Celebration Memorial for Dr. Kokes on Saturday, June 7th.

Notice of VVA Chapter Meetings

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month at the VFW Post 1643, located at 4th and Olney (one block east of Black Bear Diner) at 1800 hours.

...June 24th ...July 22nd ...August 26th ...

VVA Chapter Needs

Do you have a P.A. system or a Karaoke machine that we could use to make announcements and to play CD's at our VVA fundraising events?

Thanks to Phil Emmitt for donation of a freezer!

This newsletter was created by Greg Tracy, Secretary of VVA Chapter 820.

If you have comments or suggestions send them to greg@tracyemail.com.