



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Chapter #585
Mid Valley of Oregon
PO Box 293
Albany OR 97321

June 2011 Edition

TO:

WHO DO YOU KNOW THAT SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE VVA OR THE AVVA

Tell them that membership in VVA is the Right Choice - VVA is a "home of our own" - a community of fellowship with people who share experiences, needs, and hopes for the future by joining one of our [600 chapters](#) for fellowship, volunteer opportunities, and community service.

They can be as active as their time, talents, and interests allow or, simply be a proud member of VVA, knowing their membership helps VVA work for them and their fellow Vietnam veterans.

The VVA national organization keeps less than half of an individual's membership dues. The rest stays at the state and local level to support programs and services for veterans and their families.

Membership includes a subscription to our award-winning newspaper, The VVA Veteran, which brings updates on issues and legislation affecting veterans, as well as unique articles on the people, places, and history of the Vietnam experience.

Membership is open to U.S. armed force 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.

To join, call one of the officers listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Please include a copy of your DD-214 with your membership application.

Families, friends, supporters, and veterans of other eras can join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and receive the same benefits, including a subscription to The VVA Veteran.

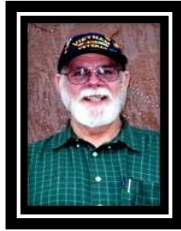
To be added to mailing list contact Gary at 541-259-1482 or email GJS659@centurytel.net



#585

Chapter

Officers



President
Ric Olson
541-401-4639



Vice President
Wells Hickox
541-258-6778



Communications
Officer
Gary Smith
541 259-1482



Secretary
Treasurer
Rick Bauman
541-451-2454



Sergeant-at-Arms
Mike Stone
541-367-7937

Please contact any officer to volunteer for VVA events. We need your help.

AVVA Officers

President
Cat Olson
541 258-2525

Vice President
John Birch
541 258-2803

Secretary/Treasurer
Nadine Owen
541 451-2203

Monthly Calendar

1st Sunday

Chapter Meeting in Lebanon
10 am at the American Legion
Breakfast available for \$5 before the meeting

4th Sunday

Host Breakfast at American Legion in Lebanon
8 am to 11 am

3rd Saturday

Host Dinner at American Legion in Lebanon
5 pm to 7:30 pm

4th Sunday

AVVA meeting after Sunday Breakfast at the at
American Legion in Lebanon

VVA Chapter 585 -- Host Breakfast and Dinner

Breakfast – All you can eat for \$5

*Menu: Waffles, strawberries, bacon, sausage, eggs,
biscuits and gravy, hash browns, orange or tomato
juice, coffee*

Dinner – \$10 to \$13 (depending on choice of entrée)

*Menu: New York Steak with mushrooms
or Prawns deep fired or sautéed
or Combo of both
Comes with Baked Potato, salad and vegetables*

PTSD

Gary Smith

: _____

From: "VA Media Relations" va.media.relations@VA.GOV

To view and download VA news release, please visit the following Internet address:

[. http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel](http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel)

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) App Helps Thousands.

WASHINGTON (May 17, 2011) - The PTSD Coach smartphone application (app), launched by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

and the Department of Defense (DoD), has already helped more than 5,000 users connect with important mental health information and resources.

"This new tool is about helping Veterans and Servicemembers when and where they need it," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We are encouraged so many have already downloaded this resource and hope many more will utilize this convenient tool to access VA services."

Since its launch, the PTSD Coach app has been downloaded by thousands of individuals. While 96 percent of the users so far are located in the United States, the app has also been downloaded in 25 other countries. The app lets users track their PTSD symptoms, links them with public and personalized sources of support, provides accurate information about PTSD, and teaches helpful strategies for managing PTSD symptoms on the go.

Currently, the PTSD Coach app has received perfect customer review scores on the iTunes App Store. Comments from Veterans and family members are overwhelmingly positive and one user describes the app as "a must for every spouse who has a family member with PTSD."

Professionals have sent positive reviews, suggestions and offers to collaborate on research evaluating the PTSD Coach app.

The app has also already proven to be a useful tool for the staff at the Veterans Crisis Line. Within the first two hours of the app's official launch, the Crisis Line staff were contacted by a distressed Veteran who reported being instructed by the app to call the crisis line and was subsequently given an appointment at the local VA medical center. Crisis Line staff have begun to regularly recommend this resource to callers.

The app is one of the first in a series of jointly-designed resources by the VA National Center for PTSD and DoD's National Center for Telehealth and Technology to help Service members and Veterans manage their readjustment challenges and get anonymous assistance. Given the popularity of mobile devices, VA and DoD hope to reach tens of thousands of Veterans, Service members, and their family members with the new suite of apps.

Information on the PTSD Coach app is on the VA's National Center for PTSD Website: <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/P~RDCoach.asp> More apps from DoD's National Center for Telehealth and Technology can be found at: <http://www.t2health.org/apps>

AGENT ORANGE UPDATES

Agent Orange: Blue Water Veterans

Veterans who served on open sea ships off the shore of Vietnam during the Vietnam War are sometimes called "Blue Water Veterans."

- * [Exposure to Agent Orange](#)
- * [Institute of Medicine Report on Agent Orange Exposure](#)
- * [Need Help Determining Exposure or Eligibility?](#)

Exposure to Agent Orange

Blue Water Veterans must have actually stepped foot on the land of Vietnam or served on its inland waterways anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 to be presumed to have been exposed to herbicides when claiming service-connection for diseases associated with Agent Orange. Some offshore vessels docked to the shore of Vietnam, operated in Vietnam's close coastal waters and sent smaller vessels ashore, or conducted operations on the inland waterways of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. Evidence **confirmed through military records** must show that the Veteran was aboard one of these ships.



Blue Water Veterans who did not set foot in Vietnam or serve aboard ships that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 **must show on a factual basis** that they were exposed to herbicides during military service in order to receive disability compensation for diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure.

Exception: Blue Water Veterans claiming non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as a disability may be granted service-connection without showing inland waterway service or that they set foot in Vietnam. This is because VA also recognizes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as associated with service in Vietnam or the waters offshore of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era.

Institute of Medicine Report on Agent Orange Exposure

VA asked the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (IOM) to review the medical and scientific evidence regarding Blue Water Veterans' possible exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. IOM's report Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange Exposure⁰¹ was released May 20, 2011.

VA is reviewing the report.

VA Benefits Veterans

Eligible Veterans may receive the following VA benefits:

- Health care benefits A full range of medical benefits. There are many ways that a Veteran may qualify for VA health care benefits.
- Disability compensation benefits: A monthly payment for diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure. Blue Water Veterans who did not set foot in Vietnam or serve aboard ships that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam must show on a factual basis that they were exposed to herbicides during military service in order to receive disability compensation for diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure (other than non-Hodgkin's lymphoma).
- Other benefits. Home loans, vocational rehabilitation, education, and more

Survivors

Surviving spouses, dependent children and dependent parents of Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and died as the result of diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure may be eligible for benefits. These benefits include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, education, home loan and health care be

Toll-free Helpline
1-800-749-8387
Press 3

About Agent Orange

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[For Veterans and the Public](#)
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[Compensation Benefits](#)
[Registry Health Exam](#)
[FAQs](#)
[Resources & Materials](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Other Hazardous Exposures

[Noise Exposure Cold and Heat Injuries \(Thermal injuries\)](#)
[Occupational & Environmental](#)

AGENT ORANGE UPDATES CON'T

Exposure or Need Help Determining Eligibility?

Contact VA for help determining Agent Orange exposure, service in Vietnam or on a ship that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam, and your eligibility for VA benefits,

By Telephone

- Toll-free Helpline: 1-800-749-8387 Press 3
- Health Care: 1-877-222-8387 (Ask to speak to the Environmental Health Coordinator or Patient Care Advocate)
- Compensation and Other Benefits: 1-800-827-1000
- TDD (for hearing impaired): 1-800-829-4833

in Person

Health Care: Go to your nearest VA health care facility.
Compensation Benefits and Other Benefits: Go to your nearest VA benefits office.

Why I go to my chapter meetings...

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades. Such good men."

Quoted from "These Good Men" by Michael Norman This book is out of print, but some copies are available here: [Amazon](#)

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Minutes of Monthly Meetings

VVA meeting 5/1/2011

Call to order 10:00 am

Officers present: Ric Olsen, Wells Hickox, Rick Bauman

Guest Jean Thompson from the American Legion Auxiliary presented a check for \$500.00 for the fishing project

Guest speaker Representative Sherrie Sprenger is running late

Rick Bauman presented the financial report

Thank you and get well cards pasted for signatures

Representative Sprenger arrived and presented information on various bills then held a question and answer session.

It was noted that there are no plans for a Vets Hospital in Lebanon that anyone in Salem is aware of.

Rick Olsen

- The fishing dock is due for placement on the 10th of May and will send maps out so people can be there to help.
VA will soon have VSO training on line for those that are interested.
- Convention is coming up, State council has funds for local chapter delegates to attend we are eligible to send two delegates.
- The VA will provide at no cost, 2 pair per year of custom shoes for diabetics that require them
- Strawberry Parking needs more volunteers
- Mike Stone lost a stepson, memorial services at 1:00 pm on May 14th at the Holley church.
- KP tee shirts are in see Rick Bauman after meeting

Louie - Washing park memorial cleanup is May 21st, bring gloves and tools. May 30th will be the reading of names of POW's and KIA's

Rick O – any new business? None

Any Old business? None

Wells - needs brass toilet tank balls for flag pole projects

Tom – Tornadoes in Alabama created lots of loss for VVA members, they may need financial assistance. Also, spent time 2 weeks ago in Washing DC individual meetings with Representative Merkley, DeFazio and Wyden and urged them to cut duplications in the VA system and pass the recovered funds on to use for medical needs of veterans. Tom also noted that VVA has a good track record on the hill for hanging in there and getting things done.

11:10 am - Meeting adjourned

VVA MEETING JUNE 3 2011

Meeting started at 10:00 A.M., all officers present, 28 members at large. Finance report read by Rick Bauman, \$11,200.00 in checking account. May 21 dinner Gross \$639.00, profit \$176.00, AWA \$70.00, VVA \$106.00 Breakfast May 22, Gross \$910.00, profit \$415.00.

Motion made and seconded, to fine anybody late for the meeting \$1.00, if they are hanging out in the bar or dining area.

Motion passed. We collected \$6.00 in fines.

Motion made by Mike Stone, to give \$100 towards the fund of Dave Cowger, Frenchie moved to raise the amount to \$200

Motion seconded and passed

Ric Olson sent around a sign up sheet for help at free fishing day at Foster Lake next Saturday.

Fishing dock will be delivered on Wednesday. Meet at old Brewster Store between 9:00, A.M. and 9:30, to follow it out.

Tom will go to Reno in place of Chip Straley, who can't go due to health problems. Good Luck Chip.

Gary Smith wants to order T-Shirts with 585 Logo on them. A committee of Bernie Pasqualini, Mike Stone, Dave Davison. Joe Mc Kenzie, Chip and Bernie will make up several designs and check on prices, and present them at the next meeting for further discussion. There was a discussion on helping Bernie Pasqualini becoming VSO, Victor Kuhns is a VSO now and will help Bernie.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15

FYI

On Wednesday June 1st our pier was delivered by Smoker Craft! With help from our members, the pier was placed and assembled on the pond by Smoker Craft personell. Ric Olson, Dave Olson, Bernie Pasqualina , Pual Nichols, Tom Owen Tony Pickins John Kunzman, and "Gator" Alden were present to Expedite the installation.



REFLECTIONS

Another Day

When I think of my youth so long ago
My mind shuts it out
And doesn't want to know.
I believed what they said was true.
Without question
I knew what to do.
I joined the Navy, with a world to see.
Off to fight in Vietnam
To keep us all free.
When I returned--guess what I thought?
But we weren't the heroes,
The heroes never fought.
They burned their draft cards then went north to hide.
The heroes desecrated the flag
That draped the caskets of those who died.
Our honor was gone
And so was the glory in coming home.
Far better off were those ones...not to have known.
What kind of a measure did we undertake?
Who gave us the right to destroy a people
For their freedoms sake?
Is honor found in disfigurement and death?
A war fought not to win--
Just machinery and chemicals to test!
I cry for the waste and insanity of it all.
What were the Vietnamese children's names,
Where is their wall?
Too many to count have gone by the way.
May God forgive me,
I live another day.

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Virgil Ezell