



Mike Healy Umpqua Valley

VVA Chapter 805 Newsletter

“Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”



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June 2011

Memorial Day May 30

Vol 4 Issue 6

Next Chapter Meeting

Monday June 6th 7:00 PM

VA Auditorium , Building 16

HJM - 26 passes Oregon House 58 - 0

The Oregon Legislature “Return the Roseburg VA Hospital to a Level II Facility”

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News From the Flight Deck

By Rob O'Brien

On May 2nd we held our membership meeting. One of the first orders of business was to change the terms of office for chapter officers from 2 years to 1 year and to serve only 2 consecutive 1 year terms. This went a lot faster than anticipated as it involved a 2/3 majority vote, and was voted in unanimously.

We had 2 new members and guests. Ray Adams is the Oregon coordinator for the Ride to the Wall, May 17 -31, which will be in progress when this newsletter comes out in late May. Local members of the Patriot Guard and others left Roseburg the morning of May 17th. The official ride kicked off from Sacramento, CA May 18th and is now going across the country to visit vets in hospitals, taking our message of our struggle to get our VA hospital to full services and be at the Viet-

nam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. However, I think they will find that VA hospitals and other service cutbacks are not unique to Southern Oregon. These cutbacks are happening all across the country. Talk to any vet in the Midwest or back east, and they will tell you the same. My uncle is a VA personnel coordinator at his VA hospital in Massachusetts. They have been contracting out for years. Fortunately there are at least 4 other hospitals in his immediate area. A veteran friend of ours in Missouri has to go to Little Rock, Arkansas (6 hrs) for his nearest VA hospital. He has some special needs that will require that he be sent to a facility in the Dallas - Fort Worth, Texas area for the nearest specialist for his particular health conditions.

Ray Adams also presented our

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Veterans Hit the Road



Terry Mooney briefs riders at Love's Truck Stop as the riders prepare to hit the road on the “Veterans Awareness Ride” (above)

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President



Tom Johnson

Secretary



Doug George

Sgt At Arms



Don Hegele

Vice-President



Rick Freund

Treasurer



Gary Baxman

Chaplain



Stephen Dickinson

Women's Chaplain



Valerie Williams

Chaplain Asst



Scott Munion

Board



Jack Miles

AVVA Rep



Linda Mooney

Members



Chair Rob O'Brien

Board member



Rick Sciapiti

Flight Deck

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chapter with a special award for our donation of \$200 to buy water for those participating in the Ride.

The Ride has media and internet coverage. The NVAO website will follow the riders as well as Carrie Booth at 541radio.com.

The "Traveling Wall", a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC that lists the names of those killed in action during the Vietnam War, will be in Sutherlin from July 28 - 31, 2011. There will also be the Field of Honor, about 1,000 American Flags posted nearby, which our chapter will be in charge of.

Jim Little, VVA member and President of the Douglas County Veterans

Forum, will be having weekly lunches with VARHS interim director Dr. Max McIntosh, who has temporarily replaced Susan Yeager. (Yeager who transferred to Alaska is supervising rural Veterans healthcare). Luncheons will be an opportunity for Dr. McIntosh to be kept informed of veterans needs in this area. At the last DCVF meeting, Jim said that there will be a \$3.5 million grant to this facility to upgrade telemetry units at this hospital. I hope this leads directly towards the restoration of the Intensive Care Unit at this facility. The consequences of the cut-backs at VARHS could be: nurses telling patients they have to be moved to another hospital, these patients begging to stay at this hospital. . Jim told of a WWII veteran with cataracts who was on a long list for cataract surgery. One evening when he was walking across Harvard Blvd. (outside a crosswalk) He was struck and killed before the corrective surgery. A Vietnam veteran who had liver disease needed fluid

Memorial Day Tribute 1100 VA Cemetery ^{over}

Chapter Office Hours

Monday-Wed-
Thurs 10-Noon

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 805 is a tax exempt organization under the provisions of the IRS Code Section 501 (c) (19) Exemption # 3202 . The Newsletter is published monthly.

Chapter Committee Members

- ✓ Fundraiser : Chair Jack Miles, Gary Baxman
- ✓ Communication:
- ✓ Membership: Chair Gary Baxman, Stephen Dickinson, Valerie Williams
- ✓ Office Manager: Gary Baxman
- ✓ Government Affairs: Rick Sciapiti
- ✓ Public Relations:
- ✓ Newsletter: Editors Rob & Caryn O'Brien,
- ✓ Newsletter Publisher Rick Sciapiti
- ✓ Advertising: Terry Mooney, Rick Sciapiti
- ✓ Veterans Day Float: Tom Johnson, Don Hegele
- ✓ Avenue of Flags: Fred Becker
- ✓ Southern Oregon Stand Down : Rick Freund
- ✓ Women Veterans: Chair Jane Johnson
- ✓ AVVA Secretary: Patti Sciapiti
- ✓ AVVA Treasurer: Christy Mooney

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drained from his abdomen. VARHS couldn't do it - no ICU - so he was sent to Mercy. They were full so they sent him to Portland, then finally to Medford. It took 7 days with him in this painful condition before they could finally drain the fluid. He became critical and died shortly thereafter. There are other examples. It's hard to say whether or not these and other instances were due to cutbacks, but these cutbacks were certainly no help.

These messages and others will be taken across the country with Terry Mooney and others on the Ride.

PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION

On a more upbeat note, Steve Roberts was presented with a Plaque of Appreciation for his years of service to our chapter.

An Avenue of the Flags Committee has been formed and VVA 805 is in charge of this. There are 15 days when these flags are put out, including Memorial Day, V.E. Day, V.J. Day and others. The members of this committee are Fred Becker (chairman), Doug George and Tim Rogers. They will coordinate with other community organizations like the American Legion, Boy Scouts, Bikers for Christ and others. There are 300 of these flags that get posted and cared for.

On committee reports: we have money in the bank. We have 95 VVA members (64 of them being lifetime members). The AVVA has

13 members (6 of them being lifetime members). Our fundraisers do pretty well. The one at Sutherlin Bi - Mart on June 7th will be the raffle for the Wildlife Safari tickets and the Union and Confederate Civil War displays.

At the meeting I won the 50/50 drawing for \$39. Drinks were on me. (LOL)

STATE VETS ADVISORY

Jim Willis, the Oregon State Veterans Director will be at the Veterans Advisory Meeting June 1st from 9:30 - 12 noon at the Legion Hall in Roseburg.

DRIVERS WANTED

The DAV needs drivers to help take veterans to and from medical appointments. Contact the DAV office across from Bldg. 2, next to VA Police Station.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

The Veterans Day Parade Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month, at 3pm in Room 311, at the Douglas County Courthouse. Purple Heart Recipients have been chosen to be this year's Grand Marshals.

VETERANS POWWOW

Note: There will be a Veterans Pow-Wow in White City June 4 - 5, at the VA Domiciliary baseball field. Opening ceremony is at 1 pm Sat., June 4th, Medals ceremony at about 3 pm and a traditional Native American

healing circle at about 8 pm.

ROSEBURG JROTC NEWS

On a sad note, it was reported that the Roseburg High School ROTC Program is being closed down in June, due to funding cuts. Their last official event will be the Memorial Day Ceremonies at the VA Cemetery on May 30th.

STATE COUNCIL MEETING

The State Council Meeting was mostly the State President's report and chapter reports. One chapter is most likely going to fold in the very near future due to lack of member participation. I found out that General Colin Powell is a VVA Life Member. I think if we get more people like

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New Officers for AVVA

Associate members have elected new officers.

The AVVA Representative is Linda Mooney, Secretary Patti Sciapiti, and Treasurer Christy Mooney. Congratulations !


Fundraiser

Winston Bi-Mart

Tuesday May 3rd

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Support Our Troops



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Linda "Liberty" Mooney
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Southern Oregon District Co-Captains



Terry Cell # - 541-817-7673
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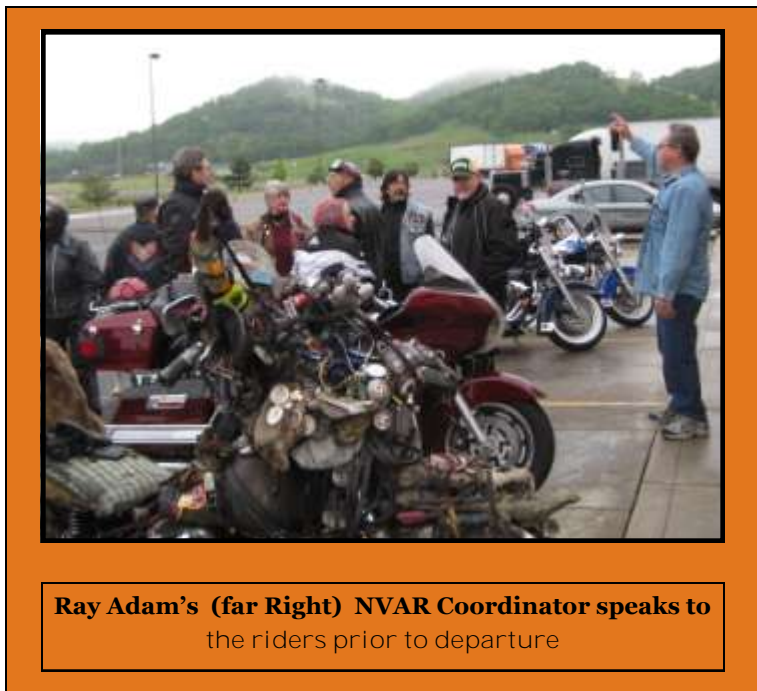
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Vicki Hegele Manager





Ray Adam's (far Right) NVAR Coordinator speaks to the riders prior to departure



Vietnam Veteran Terry Mooney and Ride-Captain of the PGR poses in front of the chase vehicle trailer at Love's Truck Stop

him it will be very hard for anyone to ignore Vietnam Veterans of America. There were other activities in Newport that weekend, including a parade down Hwy 101. The State VVA had a float, which I was privileged to ride on. We had very enthusiastic crowds of folks, heartily cheering as we went by. When I went to check out of The Whaler the next day, the woman behind the desk recognized me from the parade.

An issue between the Roseburg VA Hospital and the City of Roseburg is a proposed bike path that would go through the hospital's grounds. The Douglas County Veterans Forum understands that the City has or will receive a large grant for this proposed project. The City says they will maintain, or help maintain, the bike path. If this is a confidence builder, just think of the parking lot at the Cemetery.....

On another note, the Roseburg Police Department is trying to raise funds for one or two police dogs for its upcoming K-9 program. Even if this is not directly related to veterans issues per se, we should support this program any way we can. Law Enforcement and other police work is hard enough as it is, almost every other police department has police dogs. Roseburg should as well.

Lastly, I am concerned about membership participation in VVA activities. We only had 4 people at our last Board of Directors meeting. Our president was out of town, our vice president had a family emergency

and some of our other officers also were unable to attend. Those of us present checked our by-laws to see if we had a quorum. We decided that we had and went on with the meeting. It set a record for short meetings, as it was only 25 minutes long. Topics the membership wanted us to discuss weren't able to be addressed.

THINK ABOUT SERVICE

I know a lot of us have personal family and health issues, others of us have other priorities like American Legion, Stand - Down, volunteering at the VA and so forth. We have 95 members, but it seems to be just a few of us that do the most. What we can do as an organization depends mostly on the level of participation of our members. The opportunities are here. Officer elections are coming up in January 2012. We have Avenue of the Flags. We have fundraising. Some of us attend the Veterans Forum and the Veterans Advisory meetings. We need folks to work on our Veterans Day parade float. There is no shortage of things to do. We don't have a communications committee officer, but those of us with names on the phone tree can and should continue to use it to keep us all informed about meetings and other events that affect us as veterans. Members, stay in touch with each other. Talk to those of us on the Board and other officers, let us know what you would like to see us involved with. Lets take as many opportunities as we can to bring in new members. We are growing and can do more. Rob



Sutherlin Traveling Wall
 Planning meeting Thursday
 June 23 7:00 PM Sutherlin
 Community Building
sutherlintributewall.site

HJM-26

Front page headline

Salem OR. Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Director Jim Willis, Roseburg City Councilman Bob Cotterell , and Douglas County Veterans Forum President Jim Little testified before the House committee on House Joint Memorial 26 “Return the Roseburg VA Hospital to a Level II facility” on Wednesday May 18th. The next Monday May 23rd , on the floor of the Oregon House , HJM-26 passed unanimously 58-0. Co-House Speaker Bruce Hanna and Representative Tim Freeman from Roseburg spoke in favor of the memorial (resolution) prior to the vote and urged their colleagues to vote in favor . It goes to the full senate and then delivered to the Secretary of the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Erik Shinseki. A “Victory” for the fight!



DCVF President Jim Little

Notes From the Prez

Hello to all the members of VVA 805! Jane and I have landed back in Roseburg after 4 weeks on the road and in the air having visited 4 brothers, 2 sons, and 7 grandchildren. Over all we had a great trip.

The first thing I would like to talk about is the upcoming Memorial Day Event. We need help taking the Avenue of Flags down at the end of Memorial Day. We sent out an email asking for help and have yet to have anyone say they will be there to help. **PLEASE CALL ME AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN BE THERE (541-643-1954).** We will start at the south gate to the VA at 6 pm.

As I write this note we are 6 months out from our chapter elections. I know some of us are really burnt out. The membership voted to change the by-laws from 2 year terms to a 1 year term. The membership passed the change to the by-laws and they have been amended. So, please think about stepping up to run for an office. We have grown in size and if we are to stay a productive member of the Veterans community we need to share the load. Please give this some thought.

For the past week I have been trying to play catch up with all that has happened with the campaign to keep the Roseburg VA Hospital open. My hat is off to member Jim Little. Jim has been on a speaking tour to Veterans Organizations, Civic Organizations and even testified to the Oregon Legislature. I understand something passed the Legislature and is headed to the desk of VA Secretary Shinseki. Thank you Jim!

Rick Sciapiti has been doing overtime with his duties as our Government Affairs Officer and as the Secretary of the Douglas County Veterans Forum. Thank you Rick!

We are looking for a few members that want to help with the manning of our office. We only have about 3 members who are stepping up to do that. Our office is one of the tools we have to help other Veterans, but if no one is there we are not much help to anyone. Please give this some thought.

I hope to see many of you at the Memorial Day Service in the Veterans Cemetery on Harvard May 30th. Remember the picnic afterwards at Stewart Park.

Tom

Fundraiser



Rob O'Brien, Don Hegele and Pat Coffey
volunteer at the Winston Bi-Mart fundraiser