



Mike Healy Umpqua Valley

VVA Chapter 805 Newsletter



"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

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January 2012



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Volume 5 Issue 1

Next Meeting

Monday January 2nd 7:00 PM

VA Auditorium

Chapter Elections - Monday January 2nd



News From the Flight Deck

By Rob O'Brien

The Christmas dinner we had was very successful. Old members whom we haven't seen in a long time as well as those who attend meetings regularly showed up, along with our spouses and other family members. Dozens of food dishes were put on long tables so we all could serve ourselves. These included turkey, ham, cold cuts, stuffing, vegetables and salads. Many members brought desserts including pies, cakes and other desserts. There was coffee, tea and sodas too. We all got to greet each other and had a very good time.

A short membership meeting immediately followed the dinner. The two main items discussed were our own Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall and our chapter officer elections.

Officer Elections

Our most pressing immediate item is officer elections. Final nominations were done at the Christmas dinner meeting. The nominations are now closed. For most of our offices there is only one nominee. The current list is:

- President - Tom Johnson
- Vice President - Terry Mooney
- Treasurer - Gary Baxman
- Secretary - JoAnn Compton
- Sgt-at-Arms - Don Hegele

There are now five Board of Directors positions and four nominees: Tom Rapant, Jim Little, Rick Sciapiti and Rob O'Brien. There was another nomination that has been withdrawn at the nominee's request. Chaplin's, committee heads and

other positions are appointed by the Board of Directors. The Board Chairperson is also appointed by the Board. The elections will be held at our January 2nd membership meeting. Linda Mooney has graciously volunteered the AVVA to make the ballots.

The Wall

Our chapter is putting together funding for our own version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. This wall will list all of those from Oregon who lost their lives in Vietnam, some 709 names. We have received a \$2000.00 donation from proceeds at the Traveling Vietnam National Memorial Wall in Sutherlin this past July. \$1000.00 has been allocated from our chapter. More funding

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AVVA News by Linda Mooney Agent Orange Support Gathering

It is so hard to believe the New Year is upon us. Our AVVA Chapter 805 met Tuesday, December 27th @ 6 p.m. at Zen's Mongolian Grill for our monthly meeting to review our past year and make plans for the New Year. Our year has

been full and we have a lot to celebrate!!! I would like to take this time to thank all our wonderful members for seeing our vision and stepping up to the task. As we restated our mission in

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Agent Orange Gathering
Thursday January 26th
6:30 PM
Garden Valley Christian
Assembly
3047 Garden Valley Rd
Roseburg

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President



Tom Johnson

Secretary



JoAnn Compton

Sgt At Arms



Don Hegele

Vice-President



Rick Freund

Treasurer



Gary Baxman

Chaplain



Stephen Dickinson

Women's Chaplain Chaplain Asst



Valerie Williams



Scott Munion

Board Members



Jack Miles

AVVA Rep



Linda Mooney



Chair Rob O'Brien

Board member



Rick Sciapiti

Notes from the Prez

By Tom Johnson

I trust everyone had a Merry Christmas and is looking forward to a Happy New Year. Jane and I just stayed home and enjoyed each others company this year.

We have an up coming election at our next membership meeting January 2, 2012 at 7:00 PM. I hope to see many of our members turn out for the election.

We worked on a grant for our wall project just before Christmas. With a lot of help we were able to get all 21 documents scanned in and emailed to the Three Rivers Foundation just at the wire. The next day I received and email from the foundation informing me it was 24 hours late. My mistake, I misread the application. We will be able to file it in 3 months.

We have also identified 4 other Foundations we will be applying to for

grants in the near future. If you have experience applying for grants I could sure use some help or advice.

I spent a couple of hours with FCC Fixtures in Wilbur, Oregon several weeks ago. They are very interested in manufacturing our Oregon Memorial Traveling Wall. They have the expertise to do a first class job on this. The initial estimate on this part of the project is \$25,000. FCC would be asking employees to donate time to work on this and the materials would be at cost. If they were to do it for a profit they would be charging \$40,000. We needed this estimate so we can apply for grants.

Our membership is growing very fast these days. We are at 100 members or better. If you would like to help me with membership please let me know. I think we have found some

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Chapter Office Hours

Tue-Wed
10 am-1 pm

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 in the Chinaberry Studios.

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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education and strength. From our first exposure to our community at the Roseburg Commissary at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in September, our tremendously successful Veteran's Day Parade participation kicking off our plans for Agent Orange Education and Awareness made our mission statement come alive. The success of the Christmas Party made the end of 2011 a joy. Join us on our journey for 2012. Our next step towards awareness and education of Agent Orange is January 26th at the Garden Valley Christian Assembly at 6:30 PM.

We invite all interested in learning more about Dioxin Poisoning/Agent Orange to come and participate with us. Mary Newman will be with us bringing her years of experience in claims.

As we bring the year to an end we remind you that our fundraising for our Agent Orange Project is through the sale of Agent Orange products. Bud Bessey has designed us 9 different shirts that are available, an Agent Orange hat, Agent

Orange/Vietnam pins and now dog tags with the field cross. All the proceeds of these items are for the programs and speakers for Agent Orange Awareness. These can be ordered at meetings or by calling Linda Mooney @ 541-679-2405:

Sizes: Small thru XL	Orange Shirts	\$20
Small thru XL	Black Shirts	\$25
Sizes: 2XL thru 5XL	Orange Shirts	\$22
2XL thru 5XL	Black Shirts	\$27
Designs:		
#1:	Field Cross	
#2:	Death From Above – Aircraft	
#3:	Death From Above – Helicopter	
#4:	Helmeted Skull	
#5:	Skull	
#6:	Survivor Chevron	
#7:	Popeye Blue Water Sailors	
#8:	Field Cross with Flag	
#9:	Never Forget – Eagle w/Field Cross	
Hat-Black w/Agent Orange Patch		\$25
Agent Orange/Vietnam Ribbon Pin		\$5
Agent Orange/Field Cross Dog Tags		\$25



2 Samples of the Shirt Graphics



Don & Vicki Hegele help Santa pass out gifts

Christmas Family Adoption pictures



Buchanan girls and their new bikes provided by the chapter & donations from members

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Terry "Sparky" Mooney
 Linda "Liberty" Mooney
 Patriot Guard Riders
 Southern Oregon District Co-Captains

Terry Cell # - 541-817-7673
 Linda Cell # - 541-817-7646
 Email: Linda.mooney@earthlink.net



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Support Our Troops

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grant requests are being put together now. It is hoped this project will be completed by March or April 2012. This wall will be put on display at special events, and will help recruit new members. It will also be loaned out to other local and state veterans organizations. Can't wait to see it.

Wreaths Across America

In December, lots of people showed up at our VA cemetery to place wreaths representing the different branches of the U.S. military. There was also a wreath for the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. This event was also done at hundreds of other cemeteries across the United States.

Members of the Patriot Guard assembled at the Big Lots parking lot in Roseburg and rode through the grounds of the VA hospital campus and continued on to the VA cemetery on Harvard Blvd.

This event began in 1992 at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. That year Morrill Worchester, owner of Worchester Wreath Company in Maine, delivered a load of wreaths to Arlington. He did this quietly for several years until a photo began circulating on the internet. This caught on like wildfire across the country as people started organizing similar wreath laying at their local cemeteries.

Last year 220,000 memorial wreaths were placed at 545 cemeteries in the U.S. and abroad, including Wil-



**Wreaths Across America
Roseburg National Cemetery**



Chapter members and their families enjoy visiting at the 2011 Christmas dinner

lamette National Cemetery in Portland and 3 other cemeteries in Eugene and Springfield. The organizer for our event was our own Linda Mooney. Patriot Guard members also visited with veterans at the hospital following the ceremony.

Roseburg PD's National Child Safety and Drug Prevention Program

The Roseburg Police Department has asked us to participate in their annual National Child Safety and Drug Prevention education program. We could sponsor 30 children for \$57.00 or 50 children for \$95.00. Gary Baxman has donated \$57.00 out of his own pocket for this. Also, at our December Board meeting we recommended that the chapter should also donate \$57.00. This will be taken up at our January 2nd membership meeting to be voted on. This program is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization.

VA adds ships to Agent Orange list
The VA announced in September that it has expanded its list of ships that served in Vietnam that qualify for disability compensation for Agent Orange exposure. Those who served on these ships between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 can file claims for 15 medical conditions that the VA presume to have been caused by Agent Orange exposure. Vets can find the list of navy and Coast Guard ships at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange. They can also call the

VA's special Issues Helpline at: 1-800-749-8387 and press 3. However, service on ships anchored in open-watered harbors such as Da Nang Harbor, or other ships on open waters around Vietnam during the war is still not considered sufficient for presumption of AO exposure, even though studies by other countries whose navy served with the U.S. Navy clearly indicated that those who served on ships in the Vietnam area were exposed to Agent Orange. So our fight to have service aboard all ships in that area continues.

December Board meeting - new member

At our December Board meeting we signed off on 7 new members applications. This now brings our membership to around 100. We signed off on 3 or 4 applications at November's Board meeting, and at previous Board meetings. We seem to sign off on an average of 3 new membership applications monthly. We are growing, slowly but surely.

December fundraiser

At our December fundraiser (it was long johns cold out there) at the Winston Bi-Mart where we raffled off the prizes for the public raffle. Winners should have been notified by now.

Well, hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays and we are looking forward to 2012. See you all at the January meeting.

Happy New Year, The O'Brien's



Christmas Dinner Guest speaker was Douglas County Veteran Service Officer Mary Newman

Chapter Adopts Family for Christmas



Santa is seen here visiting with 4 of the Buchanan kids prior to the chapter showering the family with gifts

We were able to adopt a Gulf War Veteran and his 5 children this year for Christmas. Tadd Buchanan lives in Myrtle Creek and shares custody of 4 of his children. The boys, Logan 16 and Hunter 14 live with Tadd most of the time. His oldest daughter McKenzie is attending college in Fresno, CA. The younger daughters Brooke 6 and Grace 8 stay with mom most of the time.

Valerie Williams our Woman's Chaplain and Jane and I met with Tadd and his mother Linda to go Christmas Shopping. Tadd was ready to get it done and knew what he wanted. Tadd has issues with being in crowds. The younger girls each got a new bicycle and some clothing. The boys got clothing, boots and a game controller of some type. McKenzie was mailed a nice University of Oregon hooded sweat shirt. We had lunch at Elmer's and got to know Tadd and his

Tadd served as a Corpsman in the Navy. He was assigned to the Marines during Desert Storm. They deployed to the North, up with the Kurds. Tadd lives on his disability and does the best he can taking care of his children.

On Friday night Jane and I met the family at the Festival of Lights and paid for their ride on the horse drawn wagon. The owner of the horse team and wagon, George Day, had Brooke and Grace up on the drivers seat with him. I asked the girls when they returned how they liked the lights, and all they could say was, "What lights". Both the young girls really like horses. We stopped for a piece of pie and hot chocolate afterwards to get warmed back up.

Vicki Hegele, Jane and I wrapped the presents at the office one night and on December 23rd we delivered them to the Buchanan residence. Don and Vicki, Jane

and I along with Santa Claus delivered the packages and food to the family. I think all of the kids were a little overwhelmed with everything. Tadd was smiling ear to ear as his children opened their presents. We also delivered about 100 pounds of food to them.

I am sure this is a Christmas they will all remember. I can not thank you all enough for supporting this event. I only wish more of us could have been there.
Tom

PREZ NOTES

Continued from Page 2

secrets to gaining new members. I am going to pick up the chairmanship for membership this year.

We are in the process of scheduling next years fundraising. If anyone would like to help Terry Mooney with fundraising this year please talk to Terry. We are ready for some fresh ideas.

Our Veterans Family we adopted this year was a great success and I will cover that separately.

Thank you to each and every one of you for all you have done over the past year to support your Chapter in attaining many of our goals. The slide show at the Christmas Potluck sure reminded me of many of the things we did last year. What an amazing group of Brothers and Sisters to be part of. I look forward to another amazing year to come.

Tom