

This was the Last State Council meeting for the 2010 season. The next meeting is currently scheduled for January 29, 2011. If you haven't been to a State Council Meeting in the past or in a while it might be worth considering.

All of the State Council members who attended the Leadership Conference in Orlando had great comments on the gathering and the content of the seminars. There had been suggestions that it may be time to discontinue the conference but the comments were so positive that the leaders plan to keep it going again in 2012.

One of the biggest concerns right now for New York State is money. Up until 2 years ago the State received \$25,000 a year to operate the NYS VVA Service Officer program. The amount was then cut to \$20,000 and this year the State will only get \$10,000 for the program. This is an extremely important service, which VVA provides for ALL veterans. Not just Vietnam veterans. Without the funds to pay Dee Garcia and our downstate service officers the program will have to be abolished. I would welcome any suggestion anyone has about how to raise money specifically for this project. Like Patrick Welch always says, "If you do nothing, when the time comes and you need the service officer, Nothing may be what you get". Think about it.

President Ned appointed two new Chairmen at the State Council. The Chairman for the Constitution Committee is Bob Lewis from the Frewsburg Chapter and a new Agent Orange Chairman from Chapter 82 is Walter Schmidt.

The Frewsburg Chapter put out a challenge to all in attendance. They will guarantee State \$1,000 from a fundraiser and challenged any other chapter to hold their own fundraiser for the Service officer's program. By the way, Frewsburg has 24 members.

It was mentioned that the National Convention for 2011 would be in Reno Nevada. The dates will be August 14 – 20, 2011. If you want to go start saving your penny's now. If you have any fundraising ideas to help defer the cost and take more members bring them to the chapter leadership and lets get started. It's only 11 months away.

I was given a fact sheet for our Treasurer and Secretary to work off. The document has all the dates our State and National reports are due and which forms are needed. This will be a great help in the future in the event anyone from the general membership steps up and runs for a leadership position.

We need an individual from the membership to do regular reporting to NYS on -Line Interchange. You would have to be semi computer literate and only slightly creative. If ANYONE is interested please see Jack Michel.

One of the fundraising ideas the State Council uses is to use GOODSEARCH and GOODBUY instead of GOOGLE. Each time a member of VVA uses GOODSEARCH the State Council gets money. Each Time you buy from GOODBUY the State Council gets money. It's really simple to use and works the same as GOOGLE. You can even search GOOGLE from GOODSEARCH. Please try it. Here's how:

Go to the NYS VVA web site at www.nyvietnamvets.org. When the homepage comes scroll down the left side a short way and you'll see GOODSEARCH. Just click on it and you're in. From there it's just like using GOOGLE.

Our President Ned Foote has been selected at the Distinguished Veteran of the Year. Ned is the first Vietnam veteran to be selected and the first Vietnam veteran to be chosen for this honor. If you can, please e-mail Ned with your congratulations. It is a great honor for Ned and for our organization. There will be an official presentation and dinner for Ned in November at the NYS Military Museum. If you would like to attend I'll get you more info.

Almost all the hand out material from the Leadership Conference is on line through the National VVA web site.

The long battle for a National Cemetery in the Western New York area is over. The final site has not yet been chosen but it is going to be within a 25-mile radius of the Amherst/I-290 intersection. More on this when I have more.

The National Membership stands at 53,640, State Membership, 5,259.

To date there are still 1,711 American forces unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

Jack Michel has been selected as the Veterans Service Organization representative to work directly with the members of VVA Chapter 489. That chapter if you're wondering, is Attica Correctional. Duties include attending monthly meetings and help get information to the membership that they may request. P.T.S.D. is a big topic as well as substance abuse. If anyone would like to visit the facility let me know.

Dee Garcia still needs help at her office on S. Elmwood. A few hours a week would help her immensely. Please try to GIVE a little of your time to help out Dee and all our veterans.