



In Service to America

Western New York Chapter 77

Tonawanda, New York

Mail Call: July, August, September, 2011

President's Message

By: Mike Walker



This Memorial Day the service had a special meaning. We had found that another brother that was killed in Vietnam was from the Western New York area. With a lot of work from Al Brusetti we were able to confirm that David Height was from Kenmore. So we added his name on our monument. The service was well attended. It was also good to see Mrs. Newbauer, the Gold Star Mother of Ronald Newbauer, at the service. We also found that two MIA's remains were returned and had that noted.

The annual golf outing was held and you couldn't ask for better weather. It was sunny and warm with a nice breeze. The number of players was down from other years, but all seemed to have a good time. I'd like to thank all of the members who got prizes for the event and helped make it as good as it was, without their help we wouldn't have a golf outing as good as it is.

Now its summer and things should get easy. The two biggest activities we have are Cannel Fest and the Labor Day Car Show. We're going to need help with both. We have the tent at the Fest and need to man it from July 17 till July 24. Any time you can give will be a big help. The car show is a joint project with American Legion Post 264, but we still need help. Last year this was a big success. Let us see if we can do better this year.

The national convention is going to be held in Reno, NV in August. As of now we have 4 members going to it. The chapter has 13 votes for voting for the national offices.

The chapter and the Conventions and Visitors Bureau of Erie and Niagara counties have put in a bid to bring the 2015 convention to Buffalo. This would be a feather in the cap of the chapter. I'll have more on this at a later date.

I just want to wish everyone a happy and safe summer.



Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.

VVA CHAPTER 77 LEADERSHIP

(Terms of office are from April 2010 to April 2012)

Officers

President	Mike Walker	693.4479
1st Vice President	Jack Michel	693.4479
2nd Vice President	Bill Parmentier	693.4479
Secretary	Ron Sdao	694.4411
Treasurer	Paul Pietrowski	693.4479
Service Officers	Delores Garcia, NYS Council	857.3344
	Patrick Welch	858.6349
Pres.: Associates of VVA	Linda Sopic	683.0051

Directors

Fred Bansmer	693.4479	Tom Konopka	694.0857
Ken Berger (Hon.)	693.4479	Mike Marchese	693.4479
Ed Bodine	864.6247	Joe Pasek	693-2622
Jim Burns	693.4479	Jack Toth	693.4479
Jerry Caira	693.4479		

Special Duties

NY State VVA Council Delegates	Paul Pietrowski	Patrick Welch
	Bill Parmentier	Al Brusetti
	Jack Michel	
Newsletter Editor	Jerry Caira	
Associate Editor	Paul Pietrowski	

Standing Committees

Agent Orange/Veterans Affairs	Al Brusetti	636.0338
Color Guard:	Paul Pietrowski	693.4479
Community Affairs:	Ron Pilozzi	694.6052
	Paul Pietrowski	693.4479
Constitution Committee:	Larry Covert	823.9118
Economic Affairs	Al Brusetti	636.0338
Education:	Jerry Caira	693.4479
Employment Training & Business Opp.	Tom Konopka	694.0857
Golf Tournament:	Al Schreier	693.3441
Government Affairs:	Al Brusetti	636.0338
	Patrick Welch	688.0129
	Patrick Welch	688.0129
Grant Writing:		
Homeless Vets:		
Information Technology:	Mike Walker	695.2420
Membership:	Paul Pietrowski	693.4479
	Jack Michel	693.4479
Minority Affaira	Ron Polozzi	693.4479
Museum Curator	Paul Pietrowski	693.4479
POW/MIA Affairs	Paul Pietrowski	693.4479
PTSD	Jack Michel	693.4479
Public Affairs:	Patrick Welch	688.0129
Nominating Committee:	Larry Covert	823.9118
Vets History Project:	Patrick Welch	688.0129
Veteran Benefits	Jack Michel,	693.4479
	Tom Konopka	694.0857
Women Veterans	Kathy Cromwell	693.4479

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 77,
57 Main St. Tonawanda, New York, 716.693.4479, www.VVA77.org

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

(Board of Director meeting dates are subject to change. Please call the office to verify dates and times.)

Meeting Location

Chapter and Board of Directors meetings are held at the museum/office located at 57 Main St. in the City of Tonawanda. The office/museum is open every Wednesday & Saturday from 9 AM - 1 PM. Telephone is 716-693-4479 or visit the website at www.vva77.org

July 9th	Saturday	Saturday Nite Concert , 5:30 PM – 10:30 PM, Chapter will have a food Concession
July 14th	Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting – 6:30 PM, all are welcomed NO General Membership Meeting - Summer Hiatus
July 17-24	Sunday	CANAL FEST Tonawanda/North Tonawanda – Volunteers are needed July 19 th – Tuesday – Parade, 6:00 PM, Color Guard will participate Chapter Food Concession at the American Legion July 23 rd – 24 th – Saturday – Sunday Arts and Craft Show
Aug 6th	Saturday	Saturday Nite Concert , 5:30 PM – 10:30 PM, Chapter will have a food Concession
Aug 25th	Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting – 6:30 PM, all are welcomed NO General Membership Meeting - Summer Hiatus
Aug 27th	Saturday	Saturday Nite Concert , 5:30 PM – 10:30 PM, Chapter will have a food Concession
Sept 5th	Monday	LABOR DAY Classic Car Show - 9:00AM to 6:00PM – Niawanda Park
Sept 10th	Saturday	ORANGE BLOSSOM SALES , Boulevard Mall, 10:00AM to 5:00PM
Sept 15th	Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting – 5:30 PM, all are welcomed General Membership Meeting – 7:00 PM
Sept 24th	Saturday	ORANGE BLOSSOM SALES , Walden Galleria, 10:00AM to 5:00PM
Sept 10th	Saturday	VA Medical Center Veterans Welcome Home & Family Picnic 11AM – 4PM
Sept 25th	Sunday	Gold Star Mothers Service - Time and Place to be announced

Any other activities will be communicated during the Board, General Membership meetings and e-mail distributions.

TYCZ SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

By: Jerry Caira

The deadline for the Peter P. Tycz II Memorial Scholarship was May 1, 2010. All applications were checked for completeness, sorted, numbered and are now being rated by the education subcommittee. This year, we received over 80 applications from superbly qualified applicants from schools throughout Erie and Niagara Counties.

Again this year, our fund raising efforts have been outstanding. We raised over \$5000.00. This was due in part to continued support from individuals, labor unions, and our spaghetti dinner fund raiser which included an AVVA Chinese raffle.

This year the major donor (donations of \$250 and above) was the Veterans Committee of the UAW AFL-CIO Local 774.

I am proud to announce that, after considering the finances of the scholarship fund at its May meeting, the BOD decided to award 18 scholarships this year with a total value of \$4,500. This will make a total of 150 scholarships awarded since its inception in 2005 with a total value of \$37,500. I would like to give my sincere thanks all those who have helped to make our scholarship a success.

AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY (for our offspring)

BY: Jack Toth

Just a reminder for all Vietnam Veterans! The effects of Agent Orange may be inherited and your children and grandchildren may suffer from the same afflictions as we do because of the exposure to Agent Orange. There may be help for them in the future but they must register now; if they have forgotten, it is not too late.

A stand-down was held at Connecticut Street Armory on May 25th. Chapter was well received and well represented. Unfortunately the Agent Orange Registry still has not been made public. We had numerous Viet Nam Vets attend that were unaware of the Agent Orange Registry for our offspring. Through our efforts at the stand-down, we were able to make many Veterans aware and gave them instructions as how to respond to the VVA National's request for their families to be registered. I was proud to be a part of this as a representative for the Chapter!

A program, the Agent Orange Registry (for Children and Grandchildren of Vets exposed to Agent Orange), is now underway. Its goal is to Educate, Campaign for, and Register offspring who suffer from the same afflictions that we do. All it takes is just a few minutes of their time, just call Mokie Pratt Porter @ (301) 585-4000 Ext 146. Mokie is the Director of Communications & Publications for Vietnam Veterans of America; 8605 Cameron Street, suite 400; Silver Springs, MD 20910-3710.

Just as we, the Veterans, are receiving help after all these years (40 years now), this project will also take time. Who knows what the next few years will bring in health issues for our offspring. If we don't do our share in helping our children and grandchildren now, they will get nothing in the future. This program may help them receive some kind of health or monetary assistance with their health issues, after we're long gone.

KIDS DAY

By: Tom Konopka

On Tuesday, April 26th, we participated in the annual Buffalo News Kids Day fund raiser for Women and Children's Hospital. The weather was great and a good time was had by all. Our valiant sales team sold 360 newspapers and collected \$492.44. Many thanks to Mary Cameron, Mike Marchese, Jim Rosten, Jack Toth, Bob Sargis, Andrea Sargis, Tom Konopka, Jim May, Nelson Ellis, Bill Parmentier, and Paul Rudnicki for dodging the early morning traffic and supporting this worthy cause.

CANAL FEST

It's that time again, Canal Fest 2011. As usual we will need help during the week starting on Sunday July 17th to Sunday July 24th. This is a major fund raiser for the chapter. Below is a list of the time we need to man the tent on the bridge.

Contact the office if you would like to volunteer: 693-4479

Sunday, July 17 th	noon until 10:00pm
Monday, July 18 th	4:00pm to 10:00pm
Tuesday, July 19 th	parade day, museum will be open
Wednesday, July 20 th	4:00pm to 10:00pm
Thursday, July 21 st	4:00pm to 10:00pm
Friday, July, 22 nd	4:00pm to 10:00pm
Saturday July, 23 rd	craft show, 10:00am to 10:00pm
Sunday, July, 24 th	craft show, 10:00am to 6:00pm

It is a busy week and any help, whether it is an hour or more, is appreciated. Also, the chapter will be working with the American Legion Post 264 at the Saturday night concerts at Gateway Harbor, the legion has the beer concession and Chapter 77 has the food concession. We will be selling hotdogs, hamburgers and Italian sausage. The dates are July 9th, August 6th and August 27th, the concerts start at 5:30 to 10:00pm. We will need your help starting at 4:30pm to set up and work the food tent and possibly the beer tent. Again Post 264 and Chapter 77 will split the proceeds. If you can help please call the office at 693-4479 and leave your name and number

WELCOME HOME NEW MEMBERS

Peter Bunting	Bruce Hosmer	Jerry Leopold	David Mendel	Paul Michel
Peter Misner	William Van Horn	Daniel Weitz	William Walters	William Woods

MEMORIAL DAY



This past Memorial Day was a busy weekend for the chapter. It started out on Sunday at St. John Vianney Church in Orchard Park with a mass for Veterans; from there we marched in the parade in the City of Tonawanda. On Monday, we had our service at the Naval Park at which Luke Moretti, from News 4, did an excellent job of reporting. I would like to mention a member who is really dedicated to what he does for our services at the Naval Park; his name is **Dean Lilac**, our bugler. Dean is a talented musician and really looks forward to playing TAPS. I know we all agree that a live rendition is better than a recording. Just so you know Dean was at a jazz festival in the Thousand Islands and traveled 550 miles to get back for our service. Thanks Dean, a job well done. Presentation of Colors and a gun salute were performed by Chapter 77's Color Guard.

PAUL'S PAGE (Part 2)

By: Paul Pietrowski

The ceremony also included a Placement of a Wreath. Various people, including myself, Tom Konopka and Jack Michel made speeches praising the service and dedication of veterans.



AVVA NEWS

By: Linda Sopic

Greetings to all now that Spring is finally here! Chapter 77 has many activities to participate in this summer, so here is a chance to show our support, and genuine thanks for our veterans unwavering bravery in Vietnam.

It is never too late to pay our respects to a wonderful, unique woman who was such an important part of our chapter. Our beloved Gold Star Mother, Lois Schroeder, passed unexpectedly in December, 2010. Her life was celebrated in a meaningful service at Tonawanda United Methodist Church She was the mother of the late 1st Calvary Vietnam Veteran James Saurini, Billie, Clair, Beverly, and Belinda. Being a proud Grandma of eight, and Great-Grandma of six, she was always very much a part of their lives.

Many at our chapter will fondly recall Lois as being down right honest, who spoke her mind. I can humorously recall how Lois had no problem telling Pasta Pete how his spaghetti and meatballs rated compared with hers!! She added a great dimension of laughs, stories, and fantastic energy to our functions which we will always remember.

Always present at our Gold Star Mothers ceremonies, she spoke so graciously with a humble pride about James. Chapter 77 members were extremely close to her heart; she had a special love and gratitude for each one of our veterans, which as most of us know, became Lois' trademark. On behalf of Chapter 77, Linda Costanzo and the AVVA, we would like to kindly extend our condolences to Lois' beloved family. She will always remain an important part of those "Kodak moments" of Chapter 77.

Sincere condolences also go to Linda Costanzo and her sons, Brian and Josh, in the untimely passing of their husband and father. Most of us know that Linda has always put her heart and soul into our Gold Star Mothers Day ceremonies for the past 9 years and that her sons have also volunteered in many capacities at the chapter since they were in elementary school.

Many, many heartfelt thanks to all the helpful and hard-working volunteers that participated in the annual Postal Workers Food Collection in May. That is always a huge job to get the food to the basement, then sort and shelve it. The rainy weather made it more of a challenge! Hats off to JoAnn Michel and Mary Cameron who spent many hours in that basement to get all the food sorted, up to date, and organized. We have baby formula in our food pantry. Call the chapter for more details. Please remember our food pantry is for any veteran needing assistance.

We are always accepting donations for our annual Chinese Auction in January. Many have already donated items, and I thank you, in advance, for thinking about us. I am appreciative of the thoughtfulness that goes into making, or purchasing and assembling unique, quality baskets for our scholarship fundraiser. All of your efforts are acknowledged, and family and friends seemed quite pleased with the one-of-kind items and baskets!

ODDS & ENDS

By: Jerry Caira

Tom Konopka is looking for a couple of used computers to donate to the VA facility at Main and Hertel. Call Tom at 510-1345 to discuss a donation. A computer professional will scrub the hard drive of all information.

So far this year, Joe Pasek has raised \$1584.00 in Orange Blossom Sales. He would like to thank everyone who came out and helped, even if it was only for a few hours. The Orange Blossom Sales will resume in Sept. Check the calendar of events for the dates, times and places.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

By: Al Schreier

Our 17th annual golf tournament was held on Sunday, June 5th at Rothland Golf Course. The weather was perfect and the condition of the golf course was great. Once again, the tournament was successful.

Thanks to those members who bought prizes or got donations (especially Don Helmbrecht, Bob Lillis & Jim Burns) and the businesses that supported us. We wouldn't have had a successful tournament without them and the golfers who have supported us for the last 17 years.

A special thanks to non-golfers Mike Walker and Sheila Cain who worked the sign-in table, took the pictures and helped in any way possible. Thanks to Sheila and my wife, Pat, for the great job selling raffle and 50/50 tickets. The raffle and 50/50 drawings are a huge part of our financial success. Thanks also to our emcee Bob Sargis and to Paul Pietrowski who handled the score cards.

See you next year.

Al Schreier, Chairman, 693-344, amschreier@verizon.net

THANKS TO THE MANY SUPPORTERS OF OUR GOLF TOURNAMENT

Al-E-Oops Restaurant

Batavia Country Club

Dave Battaglia

David J. Bielski

Allstate Insurance Co.

17 Main St.

Tonawanda

Ed Bodine

Al Brusetti

Buffalo Brew Pub

Buffalo Sabers

Jim Burns

Carrabba's Italian Grill

Jim Cederman

Chef's Restaurant

Clarence Country Donuts

Linda Jenkins Costanzo

Darien Lake

David Eisenhauer

Remax Real Estate

Dunlop

Eagle House Restaurant

E. B. Green's Steakhouse

Megan Farry

New Era Caps

Harris Hill Golf Center

Don Helmbrecht

Joe Hiller

The Hollow Bistro

Impressive Imprints

Keller Chevrolet, Inc.

Dan Kennedy

Tom Konopka

La Hacienda Brighton

Bob Lillis

Bill Lindner's Golf Service

Mike Marchese

Jim May

Dave McGeein

Bob Metz

Jack Michel

Mr. Bill's Restaurant & Bar

Outback Steakhouse

Pane's Restaurant

Paul Pietrowski

Record Theater

Red Lobster, McKinley Mall

Russ Salvatore,

Russell's Steaks,

Chops and More

Salvatore's Italian Garden

Al & Pat Schreier

Shear Mobility

Smokey Bones

Bar & Fire Grill

Sonoma Grill

Ed Strickland

Swiston's Beef & Keg

Terry Hills Golf Course

Tom Thielman

Jack & Sandy Toth

Dennis Turkasz

UAW Region 9 Vets Council

VVA Chapter # 77

Mike Walker

Pat Welch

Bill Wilson

Jay Wopperer

Rick Zurak Golf

Vietnam Veterans of America
WNY Chapter 77
57 Main St.
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Permit #2
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Application for Membership

Please send this application, with you dues payment and a copy of your DD-214 to: VVA Chapter 77, 57 Main St., Tonawanda, NY 14150

Name _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
Address _____ e-mail address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone number _____ Sponsor (optional) _____
Membership Type: Individual – 1 year \$20 Individual Member – 3 years \$50
Life Member: \$250 (age 49 and under) \$225 (age 50 – 55) \$200 (age 56 – 60)
 \$175 (age 61 – 65) \$150 (age 66+) Time Payment Plan: \$50 down, \$25 per month

Eligibility: Membership is open to U.S. armed forces 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. You must submit a copy of your DD-214 with this membership application.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- I am a spouse, family member or friend of a Vietnam veteran and would like membership information about the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America.
- I would like information on membership for permanently hospitalized Vietnam veterans.
- I would like information on membership for incarcerated Vietnam veterans.
- I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families. Please accept my tax-deductible donation: \$10 \$20 \$50 Other: \$ _____

(VVA is a non-profit, veteran's service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.)