

THE JOURNEY

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227

The Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter

"Just In Time"



"Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

September 2019



Jay Kalner, Bruce Waxman, Chuck Harris, Len Ignatowski, and Bill Dumsick (R to L) prepare for convention business.



Bill Dumsick (L) and Bruce Waxman prepare to raise cane at the convention.

CONVENTION SUMMARY by Jay Kalner

The 2019 VVA National Convention in Spokane, Washington decided some key issues on our future and the election of officers and directors for a two year term. About 670 delegates, including our chapter's five delegates, attended the convention sessions and numerous business meetings.

The major constitutional amendment assigned responsibility to VVA's National Officers and Board of Directors for planning the eventual dissolution of the VVA, preserving our legacy, and distributing its assets to worthy organizations. The proposed amendment was amended to state that once a dissolution plan was developed, the National Board would have to submit it to the next National Convention in 2021 for ratification by the delegates. After this modification, the amendment passed with more than the two-thirds required vote. Another constitutional amendment to legally dissolve the organization on or about 31 December 2028 failed in a floor vote.

A key convention resolution required the VVA's National Officers and Board Directors to investigate the requirements to change the name of Vietnam Veterans of America to a name that would entice post-Vietnam veterans to join the renamed organization and open up membership to these newer veterans. The resolution was amended by the Membership Affairs Committee to state that any proposed changes to VVA's name would require presentation to delegates at the 2021 National Convention for ratification. This modified resolution passed by a required majority vote.

John Rowan was re-elected as President running unopposed. Tom Burke and Bill Meeks, also running unopposed, were elected Vice-President and Secretary respectively. In a three-way race for Treasurer, Jack McManus was elected. 14 members ran for the 10 At-Large Directors positions. Virginia State Council President Charles Montgomery was edged out in the vote, coming in 11th. This result may make it more incumbent for our Chapter 227 to directly weigh in with the national leadership on matters that really concern us. Finally, our Region 3 Director Sara McVicker handily won re-election over her opponent. We hope to have Sara speak at one of our 2020 general membership meetings.

At the Convention, we had a high-level of representation—myself as President, Vice-President Len Ignatowski, Treasurer Chuck Harris, and former Chapter Presidents Bruce Waxman and Bill Dumsick. I'm proud to say we operated as a

unified team and hopefully represented the best interests of our 320 Chapter members.

Washing The Vietnam War Memorial

Chapter 641 of Silver Spring, Maryland who is the official VVA Wall Washers, has invited Chapter 227 to wash The Wall on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Meet at the flagpole at 6:30 AM. The Park Service provides the washing supplies. Only a heavy rainfall cancels the washing. A post-washing breakfast is scheduled at the Metro Diner, 4711 Lee Hwy, Arlington near the Glebe Road intersection. About twenty washers are needed. Spouses and friends are invited too.

September Meeting: "In My Father's Words"

The September 19th meeting speaker is Laura Cantor Zelman, author of the book, "In My Father's Words: The World War II Letters of an Army Doctor" that describes his service from life in the battlefield to treating US wounded troops and German POWs. Dr. Milton Cantor was Jewish. The book is based on over 500 letters from Dr. Milton Cantor to his wife. Come early for a great meal and meet your fellow members. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Bring your spouse and a fellow Vietnam War veteran.

An important area of focus, VVA seeks the fullest possible accounting of those still listed as POW/MIA, regardless of the conflict from which they went missing or were captured. VVA Chapters such as 227 (Arlington, VA) ensure awareness at the local level through memorials such as the pictured Honor Chair installed beneath the flagpole at Nationals Park, a Major League Baseball stadium.



Photo Credit: Dave Ignatowski, AVVA Chapter 227 (left)

The September page for the 2019 VVA Calendar features our POW/MIA chair at the Nationals Park. Bill Lynch was instrumental in acquiring the chair and plaque and working with the team management for the memorial installation. The memorial is next to the left field flagpole.



Diane Ignatowski, AVVA Representative, (L) presents over 100 insect repellent, sun lotion, and personal care items for the local homeless to Rev. Patti Brown, Asst. Dir. Of Operations and Deacon Dave Larrabee, Dir. of Operations of the Lamb Center. The items were collected at the membership meetings. Photo by Len Ignatowski

to include another court docket for juvenile and domestic relations. One does not have to be a resident of Fairfax County to serve. For questions or to volunteer, contact Tom Davis at 703-629-0111 or tom.davis@fairfaxcounty.gov. The recent graduation of several veterans demonstrates its effectiveness.

VETERAN OUTREACH

- **MEMORIAL DAY WRITERS' PROJECT:** A grant of \$225 was provided for the Project's tent rental for Memorial Day near The Wall. The open air stage provides an outlet for veterans to shed their combat ghosts through poetry, short stories, and music. Many chapter members helped form this unique veteran outreach.
- **RENT & PERSONAL EXPENSES:** A \$500 grant with other VSO's assistance paid outstanding rent and utility bills for a veteran due to unforeseen employment loss.
- **AVVA PROJECT FRIENDSHIP:** A \$100 grant on the behalf of the chapter's AVVA members was given to AVVA's Project Friendship that resulted in a \$17,561 grant to Volunteers of America that operates homeless veteran transitional housing in the Spokane area.
- **TEE BOX:** The chapter sponsored a Tee Box for the Operation Renewed Hope Foundation Golf Tournament that services the needs of homeless veterans. The amount is \$150.
- **VERSACE MEMORIAL REPAIRS:** A \$100 grant was given for repairs to the Capt. Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veteran Memorial in Alexandria. The plaza honors Medal of Honor recipient, Captain Rocky Versace. After being taken prisoner by the NVA after he provided cover for a CIDG unit to escape the ambush, he unsuccessfully escaped three times and tormented his captors in assorted ways. On September 26, 1966 the VC radio announced his execution.
- **MOVING UP!** The chapter is now the 22nd largest VVA chapter and the largest one in Virginia with 317 members. Only six new members will secure the 21st largest spot. Use the newsletter membership application to get these eight new members.
- **LYONS VAMC PTSD UNIT VISIT:** On June 19th, Ben Buckley, Bill Shugarts and Dick Weaver welcomed another class of combat veterans from the Lyons VAMC, N.J. Ben greeted the class, and he and Dick Weaver distributed campaign ribbon tags while Bill photographed the event. The visit highlight was when a Vietnam veteran proudly proclaimed "How great to be an American!" Our welcome of our brothers and sisters fulfills our founding principle, "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another!"
- **VETERANS' COURT MENTORS NEEDED:** The successful Fairfax Veteran's Court Docket is in desperate need of mentors to maintain the one-on-one ratio for each case. The program has expanded

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for our information booth at the Americans in Wartime Museum Open House on September 7 and 8 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Call Stan Derr at 703-278-9322 to volunteer. The museum is in Nokesville. The program features a large display of military vehicles and military reenactments. Come on down!

BASEBALL GAME: BRAVES VS NATIONALS

Although our winning attendance record is now history, we can revive the winning spirit by attending the September 15th Nationals game against the Braves. The game may be crucial for first place as the red-hot Nationals continue on their winning pace. Game time is 1:35 PM. The seats are in Section 408 along the third base line in the shade. See our POW/MIA chair and plaque by the U.S. flagpole. Only six tickets are left. Mail your ticket payment — \$19/each — and make checks payable to Jay Kalner, 1846 Patrick Henry Drive, Arlington, Va. 22205.

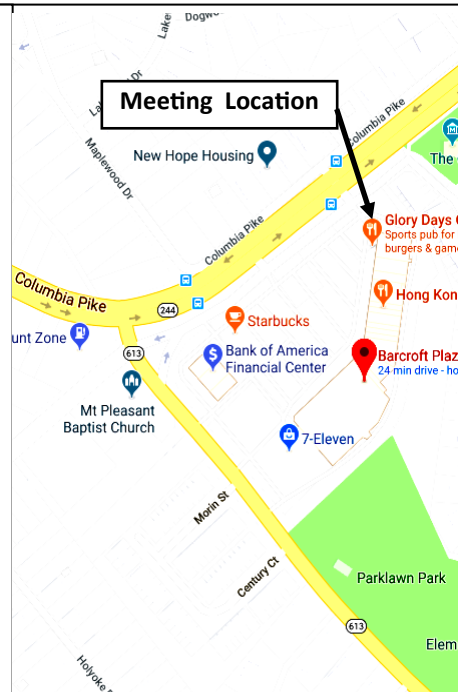
CHAPTER 227 DOG TAGS

September 2019



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHAPTER 227

President: Jay Kalner, 703-346-2013
Vice President: Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353
Secretary: Bob Tecklenburg
Treasurer: Chuck Harris
Immediate Past President: Bruce Waxman
Sergeant at Arms: George Jones
Board of Directors: Bill Dumsick, Bill Lynch, Tom Stryer, Jonathan Olson, Gus Howard, Dennis Stephens, Stan Derr, George Jones, Scott Hurley, and Bob Pezold.
AVVA Representative: Diane Ignatowski
Newsletter Editor: Len Ignatowski 703-255-0353
School Speaker's Panel: Tom Stryer 703-323-9032
Guest Speaker Program: Jay Kalner 703-346-2013
Membership: Bill Lynch 703-474-4891
Used Books (Vendor Needed) : Andy Bender 559-575-2748



MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of the Month except July, August, and December

Glory Days Grill
 6341 Columbia Pike,
 Barcroft Plaza,
 Falls Church, Virginia
 22041

Ph.: 703-992-6060

- 6:30 PM Dinner (Optional)
- 7:30 PM Meeting

WEBSITE:
www.vva227.org

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/VVA227>

September 2019:

- 05: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 07: Washing The Wall at 6:30 AM and Post Washing Breakfast
- 07-08: National Museum of Americans in Wartime 10:00 AM to 4 PM; Information Booth, Volunteers needed.
- 15: Annual Chapter Baseball Game: Nationals vs Braves See newsletter on ticket purchase
- 18: Happy Birthday, AIR FORCE! 72 Years of Exceptional Service
- 19: Membership Meeting 7:30 PM: Laura Cantor Zelman, "In My Father's Words: The World War II Letters of an Army Doctor"
- 20: POW/MIA Recognition Day

October 2019

- 3: Board Meeting 7:30 PM: American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, North, Vienna, Va.
- 13: Happy Birthday NAVY! 225 Years of Exceptional Service
- 17: 34th Anniversary Meeting 7:30: LTC. Deborah Snyder, US Army (Ret) "Operation Renewed Hope Foundation"

SHOW YOUR VETERAN PRIDE — Purchase custom chapter attire at

<https://militarybest.com/vva-chapter-227-dean-phillips-merchandise.html>

Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: Bill Lynch, Attn: VVA Chapter 227, 5328 Taney Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22304-2039

Name _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

H () _____ C () _____ Email _____

Chapter No. **227** Sponsor _____ Sponsor's ID No. _____

- Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, for Vietnam-era veterans. Return this application along with a copy of your DD Form-214.

Life Membership: \$50

- Payment Option: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card (Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- ☐ I am a spouse/family member or friend of a Vietnam Vet and would like to join Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).



WE WANT YOU

QUESTIONS

CONTACT

BILL LYNCH

AT 703-474-4891

September 7th Washing The Wall

Washing The Wall and Breakfast

September 7th & 8th Fair Booth—Help Needed

Americans in Wartime Museum Open House

September 15th Annual Nationals Baseball Game

See Newsletter for Ticket Purchase

September 19th Membership Meeting

“In My Father’s Words”

VVA Chapter 227 Facebook!!! <https://www.facebook.com/VVA227>



CHAPTER CHALLENGE COIN

The chapter’s challenge coin is on sale at \$10 each for chapter and AVVA members and \$15 each for non-members. The attractive coin is made of metal with detailed engraving and bold colors from the lettering to the images. The coins will be sold only at the monthly chapter membership meetings. Make checks payable to VVA Chapter 227. The coins will be given to the monthly guest speaker and for other special occasions. The coin is a great birthday gift and also an addition to a challenge coin collector.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.

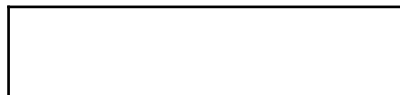
CHAPTER 227

DEAN K. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHAPTER

P.O. Box 5653

Arlington, Virginia 22205-0653

Address Service Requested



OUR MISSION

*To “Serve Military Veterans, Their Families,
Our Community and Our Country”*

Since October 11, 1985