

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 2020

VOTE EARLY **IF YOU CANNOT VOTE ON ELECTION DAY**

SITREP: NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET!

VVA survived the initial virus tsunami with the Federal PPP program, which was later followed by necessary staff reductions, event cancellations, budget cuts, and teleconference meetings. VVA is basically operating as a work-at-home format with a skeleton office staff. The Household Goods program was reactivated, but the big question is how fast will store sales recover.

You are encouraged to view the July 18th Board Special Meeting teleconference, which discussed the current issues. Go to VVA.org; top tool bar: Information for Members; VVA Board Special Meeting—July 18, 2020. Current developments indicate that VVA will be a last veteran standing organization. The younger veterans are more social media oriented than our veteran generation. If for any reason, VVA has to prematurely “close the door,” chapters can still legally exist without the services of the national office. The VVA Veteran magazine is only available online at the VVA website as a cost cutting measure for now. Times are changing.

The Chapter’s current financial position is good, with the same uncertain income future. Our key benefactors may limit future donations due to the current economic downturn and the pandemic. Future Household Goods income may decrease as well. The chapter is counting its pennies.

The Board voted to return the 2019 membership rebate to National. The amount was rounded to \$3,000. Over the years the National office has supported the chapter in many ways from the DMZ to Delta® dance to representing VVA at national events. President Rowan wrote a Special Thank You to the chapter. The approved chapter budget was reduced with major savings from the cancelled Leadership Conference, chapter social events, and state council meetings. Expenditures for veteran assistance were not reduced. Members are strongly encouraged to provide their email address for the free newsletter delivery and the Minuteman Alerts for special events and announcements. *If you change your email address or want to be on the email list, notify Len Ignatowski at grunt69@gmail.com.*

Board and chapter meetings are conducted by teleconference (Zoom). The June, July and August membership meetings were well attended. Special thanks to Don Drunsic for setting up the program and solving IT issues. At this time, the chapter plans to continue the teleconference format. Login directions are emailed to members.

Whether one likes it or not, we are in the wireless communications age. If you use a cell phone or computer, then you can attend a chapter meeting and receive the newsletter and Minuteman Alerts. If not, go to the local library to use a computer. Other communications modes are our website, www.vva227.org, and our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VVA227>. The newsletter will be mailed to members who desire a printed copy. If you have a question or comment, please call Jay Kalner, President, 703-346-2013 or Len Ignatowski, Vice President, 703-255-0353.

Most importantly, if you or another veteran are experiencing stressful or despondent feelings, call the Veteran Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. Stay safe in this time of national crisis, and keep an eye out for your neighbor.

CHAPTER TIBITS AND CASH GRANTS!

- Membership Teleconference Meeting Speakers at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Bring your own pop corn. Login at Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7818325547?pwd=U0hqOXc2VXlFOUJlRmdOa1lsMHdFdj09>):
 - Sept. 17: Ending Veteran Homelessness, LTC Deborah Snyder, Ret. US Army
 - Oct. 15: Engineers in Vietnam, Dr. Boyd Jones, PhD.
 - Nov. 19: Speaker Needed. Call Jay Kalner at 703-346-2013 if you can recommend a speaker.
- Financial Grants (The need continues)
 1. \$1075 Two Rent Assistances: One for \$400 and one for \$675
 2. \$1000 to Capital Care Health for its new prescription meals for military veterans program
 3. \$ 100 for immediate food purchase for a new VASH client (homeless veteran)
 4. \$ 500 to Veteran Fishing Adventure: Special feature boat for disabled veterans to fish on the Potomac River
- Need at least fourteen new members to regain our status as the 21s largest chapter. We dropped to #22 despite gaining one new member. Chapter size does not include AVVA membership.

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

WE NEED 14 MORE

QUESTIONS

CONTACT

BILL LYNCH

AT 703-474-4891



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. Place your order by calling Bill Lynch at 703-474-4891. Postage will be charged. The coin is a great birthday gift and also an addition to a challenge coin collector.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ® INC.

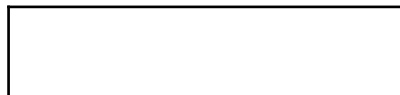
CHAPTER 227

DEAN K. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CHAPTER

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Address Service Requested



OUR MISSION

*To "Serve Military Veterans, Their Families,
Our Community and Our Country"
Since October 11, 1985*