



McHENRY COUNTY CHAPTER



"The Chapter with a Heart"

March 2010

“THE CHAPTER WITH A HEART”

MEETING: General Meetings are open to the public and are held on the fourth (4) Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P. M. at the Woodstock AMVETS Post – 12320 Davis Road, Woodstock, IL 60098.



**** BOARD OF DIRECTORS ****

PRESIDENT:	Joe Lewis	815-568-8939	DIRECTORS:	Rick Cross	815-403-3613
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Bobby Jones	847-409-1947		Joe Ferrenti	815-653-4114
SECRETARY:	Tony Bilus	815-648-2826		Joe Kotarba	815/616-2116
TREASURER:	Steve Rucki	847-458-9850		Bill Richards	815-344-9591
				John Sorensen	815-338-2063

ADVISORS: All Past Chapter Presidents

****COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS ****

AGENT ORANGE:	Bobby Jones	847-409-1947	NOMINATION/ELECTION:	Joe Kersten	815-338-1796
BYLAWS:	Joe Lewis	815-568-8939	POW/MIA:	Steve Rucki	847-458-9850
PROGRAM GRANTS:	Joe Lewis	815-568-8939	PTSD:	Alan Belcher	815-334-0411
CONVENTION:	Joe Lewis	815-568-8939	“RAP” GROUP:	Jim Masella	815-344-3352
"JIM TOBER" BASKETS:	Rose Lewis	815-568-8939	SERVICE OFFICER:	Ted Biever	815-338-9292
MEMBERSHIP:	Rose Lewis	815-568-8939	VAC: Delegate:	Joe Kersten	815-338-1796
NEWSLETTER:	Rose Lewis, Editor	815-568-8939	Alternate:	Tony Bilus	815-648-2826
	Billie Blair, Asst. Editor	815-385-2905			

“VETERANS HELPING VETERANS” - This is more than our national motto this is the ViêtNow way of life.

“THE CHAPTER WITH A HEART” is our chapter’s motto. We adopted this motto to reflect the positive of ViêtNow and not the negative another chapter had adopted.

Our Chapter’s Beginning - In the early 1980’s there was a group of Vietnam Veterans attending “Rap” group meetings in the McHenry County Health Department building. As time went on some of the vet’s began to deal better with the war but enjoyed the bond that they had come to trust and cherish. Some of the veterans wanted to start an organization because they enjoyed the camaraderie that was in the group. These veterans wanted to stay together because of the bond they had developed. Yet most did not want to be a part of the traditional veterans’ organizations.

Someone had heard of a new group that had formed in Rockford Illinois that called itself ViêtNow. A couple of the vets went to their meetings and liked what they saw. They brought back information on ViêtNow to the group and explained their motto of “Veterans Helping Veterans.” Most everyone liked the idea of starting a chapter here in McHenry County.

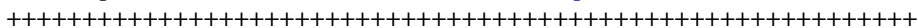
It took a lot of work to get this going. In November of 1983, the State of Illinois issued the “McHenry County Chapter of ViêtNow” their State Charter as an Illinois Not-For-Profit Organization. This gave the McHenry County Chapter of ViêtNow the distinction of being the **first** ViêtNow expansion chapter in this new veteran’s organization.

In the beginnings of our chapter meetings, the founding roots remained a part of the meeting. We would break into small groups and continued the “Rap” group setting. This is what brought us together and this was our common bond with each other during those early days.

****NATIONAL OFFICERS****

PRESIDENT:	Rich Sanders (Mary)	DIRECTORS:	
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Jim Stepanek (Marcia)	John/Augie Augustynowicz (Katie)	
SECRETARY:	Darrell Gilgan (Linda)	John Bates (Dawn)	
TREASURER:	Terry Buscher (Linda)	John Davis (Sandy)	
		Gary Eisenhower (Sue)	

National Office Telephone: 815-227-5100 and E-mail: nationalhq@vietnow.com



EDITORIAL POLICY: The Newsletter Staff will evaluate all articles submitted as to appropriateness and relevancy to the goals of ViêtNow. Newsletter items need to be submitted to the editorial staff by the Chapter meeting each month.

President's Ramblings for March 2010

Joe Lewis

Elections for Chapter and National Boards – Nominations for all positions on the chapter's board of director's is open during the month of January, February, and March. If you would like to run for or to be nominated by someone for a chapter seat, attend the March 23rd meeting and make the nomination. This will be the last day for nominations for any chapter seat. However, if you would like to run as a write in candidate for any position on the chapter board, show up for the election and run.

The chapter's election date will be April 27, 2010. Please come out and make your vote count. Just like any other election, your vote could be the one that can change the outcome of an election. Time has passed for requesting an absentee ballot. Sorry about that. Now you will just have to attend the meeting and vote in person. We do look forward to seeing you there.

ViêtNow 25th National Convention – As promised, we do have a little more information available on this year's national convention. A couple of us have been talking recently about that first national convention. The first convention was the brainstorm of past national president Ed Rogers. Every chapter was permitted 10-delegates and each delegate paid their own way. We worked our tails off and accomplished a lot of work in such a short time period.

The National Convention runs from May 13 through the 15, 2010. Sunday morning May 16, the fellowship will end on a high note with the President's Breakfast. If you are interested in attending the Saturday banquet or the Sunday President's breakfast, call me, and a registration form will be forwarded to you. Just remember, all reservations will need to be received at the National Headquarters by April 1, 2010. Everything we have been hearing indicates that this will be another entertaining and enjoyable convention.

Chapter Programs – Which program shall we discuss first? **AGENT ORANGE** Over the years, this program has run a rocky road to say the least. The purpose of the committee is to assist veterans in getting Agent Orange screening and to provide information for Agent Orange Awareness. This sounds like a lot of work doesn't it. It can be depending on how much time someone wants to put into it.

When our chapter first formed, we were very active in getting veterans screened and providing information to our membership and the Vietnam Veteran community. John Sorenson would make calls to the VA hospital in Milwaukee and personally, set up someone's screening. Move ahead 27 years in time, the VA is still doing screening for veterans who are still coming out of the woodwork who need assistance for their illnesses.

In our chapter's eyes, there is still a need for providing Agent Orange information. As time goes along, more and more illnesses become related to exposure to Agent Orange. Your chapter has always been in the forefront of providing this information to the veterans in McHenry County. We always have been and we will always be at the head of the pack here in McHenry County. Call our chapter chair, Bobby Jones, if you have any questions.

Sick Call – Friday February 12, Rosie entered the hospital for a stress test. Upon her departure, Rose had received a stent and found out about three other partial blockages that we have to watch. Rose came home on Thursday Feb. 18th. To say the least, it was one hell of 6-days there. Onward and upward, we shall travel from here. Give her a call to let her know that we care.

Unsung Hero's Among Us – On February 24, 2010, Rose was presented with the "Unsung Hero Award" from Star 103.9. Rose had been nominated for this honor for her dedication to the "Jim Tober" Christmas Baskets. It is a true honor for Rose to be nominated and chosen as a recipient with this award. Our hats are off to a wonderful Rose for everything that she does for the chapter. Rose was presented with a nice plaque for her work and the chapter received a \$500.00 donation in Rose's name. Of course, I am not at all partial towards Rosie receiving this award. Well, maybe a *little* bit.

Just a little note for each of us, Rosie has been home since February 18, after they fixed her heart. Since then, Rose started fund raising to help finance this year's Christmas Basket Program. Rosie is "bored" and wanted something to do. Now Rosie cannot do any exercising, so instead she has been sending donation request letters to business through out McHenry County. There is no holding Rosie down, is there.

Over the years, we have had others who have given a lot of their time and selves in promoting the positive image of our great chapter and our community programs. I will not even attempt to start naming people who have given so much of themselves for ViêtNow. What I will say is this, it is through our many members, past and present, who have made our chapter what we are today. For we are, "The Chapter with a Heart."

**Stand Tall and Be Proud,
YOU are the BEST of YOUR Generation, YOU are ViêtNow**

New (Florida) state bills introduced to combat phony veterans



DEERFIELD BEACH - Beware the phony veterans. That was the message from some state lawmakers gathered at the VA Primary Care Clinic here on Friday.

There's a growing epidemic in South Florida of men and women dressed in fatigues, standing at grocery stores and at intersections, asking for donations for military veterans. They are impostors, making up to \$400 a day. They give only about 15 percent to real veterans, lawmakers said.

"Having nonveterans wear [uniforms] to mislead the public into giving up their hard-earned money is unconscionable," said state Sen. Dan Gelber, D-Miami Beach. "Americans who donate charitably deserve to know that their money is going to veterans."

Gelber, along with state Rep. Maria Sachs, D-Delray Beach, announced bills that would make it a felony to misrepresent oneself as a veteran. They were surrounded by veterans, including Gelber's father, who served in World War II.

Already, 14 states have passed or are considering similar legislation, Gelber said. Florida has 1.7 million veterans, Sachs said.

"These bills will make protecting the honor of our veterans and members of the military a top priority," said Sachs, whose late father also was a WWII veteran. "Nothing made my father more proud than to wear the uniform of the United States Army."

The staff of Broward County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs noticed the impostors and became offended. That's where the idea of the bill originated. The federal Stolen Valor Act, expanded in 2006, made it illegal to fraudulently wear a medal of honor or falsely represent that the honor had been received.

On Friday morning, Neal Quittell was dressed in fatigues and wearing a hat that read "Veterans Support Organization" as he collected money on Northeast 17th Street and Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale.

"I'm not a veteran and I know I'm not," he said. "I can't sit out here and lie. We're a nonprofit organization. ... Our money goes out to the veterans and the VA's."

Jacobs' district aide, Franco Ripple — who was also credited with calling attention to the issue — called the Lauderhill-based Veterans Support Organization "one of the largest perpetrators throughout the eastern U.S. and Florida, known as the 'granddaddy' of the offending organizations."

Justin Wells, South Florida chief operating officer for the group, said his organization gives 65 percent of the money it raises to the veterans, and puts up more than 50 veterans in its transitional housing.

Solicitors who are not veterans wear uniforms representing veterans, he said. "You don't have to be a veteran to help a veteran," Wells said. "We agree that vet groups should be more watched and that they should be held to a higher standard."

Street impostors file for corporate status, which requires them to give veterans a portion of their donations, Gelber said, but the public should donate to one of the groups sanctioned by Congress so that veterans get the money intended for them.

"They dishonor us, they take away from us, they tarnish our name," said Eddie Cruz, of American Legion Post 162 and the Marine Corps League, speaking of the "impostor" solicitors. "Unfortunately there are parasites all over."

Staff Photographer Amy Beth Bennett and Staff Researcher Barbara Hijek contributed to this report.

Jerome Burdi can be reached at jburdi@SunSentinel.com or 561-243-6531.
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McHenry County Independent Riders
Present:
The 20th Annual
Adult & Child Rehab Center Benefit
Saturday April 10th 2010
Woodstock Moose Lodge

6:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Must be 21

\$7.00 per person in advance
\$10.00 per person at the door

**All proceeds benefit the
Adult & Child Rehab Center**

\$1,000 in Prize Money

Live Music by: Hans & The Hormones

For advance tickets contact:
Phil Abraham 815-648-4333

There you have it for the month of March 2010. If anyone has any information that you would like seen in the newsletter, give Rosie a call and your item can be placed in the next issue.

For Rosie, See you next month, The "Boxer"

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS



McHenry County Chapter
P.O. Box 998 McHenry, IL 60051

Next Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2009
7:30 @ Woodstock AMVETS Post 269
12320 Davis Road, Woodstock, IL 60098

McHenry County Chapter VietNow Membership Application

DATE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

NAME _____ PHONE (_____) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

SEVICE BRANCH _____ DATES OF DUTY (1957-
CURRENT _____

_____ I am a veteran and want to be a FULL MEMBER OF VietNow

_____ I am not a veteran but want to be an ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF VietNow

Enclosed is my check for _____

**Memberships are \$15 annually renewable June 30th.
Veterans must enclose a copy of their DD214 form.
Send with check payable to: McHenry County Chapter of VietNow
PO Box 998, McHenry, IL 60051**

For a sum of ten (10) times the yearly dues, you can become a LIFE MEMBER