

The Voice of 436

May 2014 ✪ Major Louis. F. Guillermin Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 436



Next meeting:

7:30 p.m.: May 13th
@ VFW Post 845
4601 West Lincoln Hwy.
Downingtown, PA 19335
610 269-8818

<http://www.vva436.org>

Bad weather cancellations:

email notices will be sent to you
or call Post 845 for updates

Chapter officers 2014-2015

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| President | Ken Schweitzer |
| 1st VP | Doug Forsythe |
| 2nd VP | Barry Amole |
| Secretary | Michael DiPuppo |
| Treasurer | Dave McTavish |
| Directors | Bob Gallagher |
| | John Maher, MD |
| | Bud McCullough |
| | Chris Pitt |
| | Phil Prinzi |
| | Jim Doedderlein |

Our guest speaker at the April meeting was Ellen Endslo, Curator, Chester County Historical Society

Ms. Endslo spoke of the Society's plans for an exhibit focusing on the 60s scheduled for next year. She said the resounding response from all quarters was this event must include the Vietnam War and its Veterans. She and the Society are reaching out to us to bring this aspect to life. They also asked us to "loan" much needed items from this era.

The 60s are loosely defined as running from the late 50s to the early 70s. The CCHS' focus is to exhibit how the 60s affected our society then and still today.

The exhibit will be, by its nature, nostalgic, but it is also intended to be educational. One issue is what was it like to be 18, male and have something like the draft hanging over your future.

Ms. Endslo was a child during this decade. Her first early memory is she hearing the term "POW-MIA".

Other elements for the 60s exhibit are "the car culture", equal rights movement, music, films, fashion and others.

You can "loan" your personal 60s treasures to this event by calling (610) 692-4800. Ask for Ms. Endslo.

In October, VVA 436 answered the clarion call by VVA National and held an Agent Orange Town Hall meeting at West Chester University. We had a remarkable panel of nationally known Veterans and children. The day was meant to be an educational well spring for the damages still being done to succeeding generations.

The general public needs to know the poisoning our government did not end with us. All of our offspring suffer greatly due to our altered DNA. The struggle to educate doesn't end with one day. It goes on for all affected.

Organizations are moving forward and holding the government's feet to the fire in hope of getting help for the inflicted.

VVA National's *Faces of AO* is pushing Congress to provided health benefits with [Bill S.1602](#). Our elected ones are saying the right things but getting what is needed takes dogged effort. We wish our National group the best luck with their mission.

A lot depends on their success because there are many innocents who need the government's help.

June edition: [CoVVHA](#) Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance.

Upcoming meetings

May 13- Our speaker will be Chris Pielli, a Lawyer in Chester County who is heavily involved in Veterans issues especially jobs. Mr Pielli can also answer questions relating to issues around what documents a senior citizen may want to have as he/she ages. Mr. Pielli works with the county, the OIC and the VA in Coatesville relating to jobs, and interfaces with other groups dedicated to Veteran housing and finances. He is a US Army Veteran.

May 15- Veterans Expo will be held by State Senator John Rafferty located at 144 West Schuylkill Rd., Pottstown. Times are 10 a.m. to Noon. We are offered a chance to set up a table and pass information to prospects. Register at <http://www.senatorrafferty.com/veterans-expo/>

Newsletter: vva436@gmail.com Staff: John Morris, Writer/Editor -- Jim Doedderlein, Fulfillment Director. Your articles are always welcomed. Send your article by email NLT the last Sunday of the month.

Honor Guard: We have been invited to participate in the following Memorial Day parades: Kennett Square on May 26th @ 1000; Malvern on June 1 @ 1330 and Downingtown on May 26 @ 10:000 a.m. The Honor Guard is to choose the events it will attend. Direct all requests to Bob Gallagher ROBCGAL@aol.com.

Website: www.vva436.org Phil Prinzi updates our website continually. If you're on FaceBook or Twitter, send a post directing other Veterans to our website and to our numbers.

Membership: Vietnam Veterans of America #436 = 127 members. Associates of VVA 436 = 8 members.

Membership form

Regular membership in VVA is open to any Veteran who served **anywhere** during the Vietnam War era.

Mail to chapter address

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Email: _____ Born: ____ / ____ / ____

- Dues: \$20.00/year (regular and associate memberships)
- I served in the US military, for other than training purposes, between 8/5/64 and 5/7/75
- I served in the US military in Vietnam between 2/21/61 and 8/5/64.
- DD214 enclosed (Applications without DD214s will be processed as associate memberships)
- I wish to join the Associates of the VVA. (No military service needed) (No age limits)

● From President Ken:
 The Annual Banquet was a success. We had 36 people attending and a wonderful guest speaker, Chester County Sheriff Bunny Welsh. Her topic was the Right to Open Carry in PA and gun owner responsibilities.

We are now deputy sheriffs sworn in after her talk. The meal was excellent and a very hardy well done to the co-chairman Jed Burns and Doug Forsthye. All in attendance had a great time.

This year is off to a GREAT START.

- Take your DD214 to the Social Security office as you retire to get the maximum Veteran allowance.
- Incoming communications included:
 1. Four theatre tickets as a thanks for our donation. These tickets were raffled off at the banquet.
 2. Invitation to attend the [Fallen Heroes 5K + 1 miler](#)
 3. Thank you for donation to [Operating Cecilia Base](#).
- Jeb Burns reported on the upcoming banquet. Pres. Ken read the 27 names of those planning to attend
- Our chapter reaffirmed our commitment to sponsor a second luncheon at the *Coatesville VAMC*.
- Barry Amole and Ken Schweitzer will visit *Veterans Helping Vets* to better understand their mission.
- *American Helicopter Museum's* upcoming events are scheduled.

FATHERFEST: June 15, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 ROTORFEST: October 11 & 12, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Vietnam War Helicopter Commemorative:
 Nov. 12 - time tba
- Bob Gallagher is our go-to guy for these events, and he needs help. ROBCGAL@aol.com.
- Thanks to Bob Stone and [CoVVHA](#) for this [hotlink](#) about recent Agent Orange discoveries in Vietnam.
- It is sad to report, but we left a real mess at the April meeting. The VFW forgives us but wants to see better policing actions in the future. Let's remember we are guests at their home.
- State Council: PASC seeks to raise \$25,000 for a Veteran memorial in Bedford County. VVA membership in PA is 3,835 / 544 AVVA members.
- Barry Amole is again spearheading our annual outing to the Reading Phillies. He's looking at August 8 (Cannonball Night)
- Barry Amole noted to collect a VA pension a Veteran's annual income is to be not much more than \$12,000.
- Here's the [hot link](#) for John Morris' interview by Ellen Endslo on WCHE's PASSING TIME segment.

Blue print = email addresses • Red print = website hot links

- *Southeast Veteran Center* and [VVA 565](#) will host a car show in summer or fall 2014. They need volunteers to hand out to attendees.
 - Veteran breakfasts at the Cafe 100 will be held on May 6, May 27 and June 7. Events starts at 6:00 a.m.
 - Your prayers and get well cards to Chaplain Joe Crescenz, 10 Juanita Drive, Coatesville, PA 19320.
 - If you're looking for a low priced vacation, try <http://www.veteransholidays.com/>.
[Try here](#) for a list of three companies offering Veteran discounts. Retired and current military do better.
 - On March 28, US Senator John Walsh, D, MN introduced a [bill aimed at reducing](#) the rate of suicides by Veteran now running around 22 per day,
 - These motions were made/seconded/passed:
 1. Donation to the *Chester County Historical Society*.
 2. Donation to fund post-parade luncheon at *Downingtown Memorial Day ceremony*.
 3. Donation to *Socks for Heroes*.
 4. Donation to *West Grove Fire Company's* golf outing
 5. Donation to *Hunts for Healing*
 6. Donate branch flags to *Southeast Veteran Center*
 7. [Donation to fund tractor trip](#) across America to benefit *Wounded Warriors Project*.
 8. Explore having a chapter pig roast.
 - Annual election: President Ken ruled to set the ballot as written allowing the maximum six slots on the State level. John Morris read the names on the ballot. Nominations were closed and Barry Amole made a motion to direct the Secretary to cast one vote for each office where only one name per slot exists. Seconded by John Maher. Approved by acclaim.
 - A Memorial Day event will be held at Marshall Street Park on May 31. No other information is available.
 - *Boscov's Friends helping Friends* will be October 21. Chris Pitt will have tickets at upcoming meetings.
 - The 2014 "[Salute to Veterans](#)" event will take place on Thursday, May 22, at Clipper Magazine Stadium, Lancaster. Your host is PA State Rep. Steven Menzler.
 - The average Veteran suicide is an alarming [22 each day](#). More than half of these suicides are by Veterans aged 50 years and older.
- Simply put, if you are having dark thoughts about hurting yourself, reach out to a VVA 436 member or [contact the VA](#) at 610 384-7711. Don't hesitate. Someone who cares wants to help.
- Veterans helping Veterans is more than a sound bite to us.



Major L. F. Guillermin Memorial Chapter 436

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Email: vva436@gmail.com

website: <http://www.vva436.org>

VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE

"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another."

