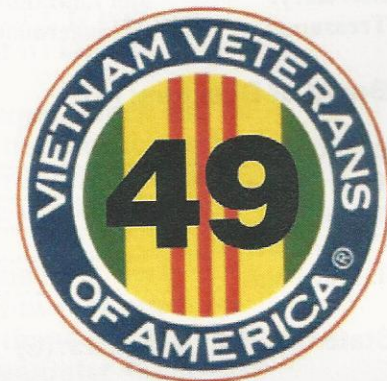


Vietnam Veterans of America



Westchester
County
Chapter #49

If box is checked
your dues are due now.

All the POW's are not home yet!
Do you know?
Do you care?



Westchester County Chapter 49
Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 224
Pleasantville, New York 10570
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VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Chapter Officers:

President: Rick Burns 769-7744
Vice President: Al Zawiski 428-9352
Secretary: Jim LaManna 793-6077
Treasurer: Al Singerman 930-7433

Board of Directors: (5)

Bob Kennedy 669-5411
Terry Keogh 428-9845
Bob Miller 391-8723
Carl DiLiberto 462-0782
Barney Puleo 682-4949

State Council Delegates: (6)

Dan Griffin
Jim LaManna
Barney Puleo
Al Singerman
Al Zawiski
Terry Keogh

Nominating Chairman:

Dan Griffin

Veterans Offices:

Yonkers: Louis Navarro 377-6700
Carmel: Brennen Mahoney 845-808-1620

Vet Center: 300 Hamilton Ave, White Plains, NY 10601

Roger Paulmeno 682-6250
Vinnie Matthews 682-6250

White Plains Clinic 421-1951
23 S. Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

FDR Montrose Hospital 737-4400

Vets Employment Counselor:

Greg Whittaker 997-4138

Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Director: Vito Pinto 995-2146 / 2145

Committees:

Membership Phil Wanderman 963-3034
Legislation Al Singerman 930-7433
Comm. Affairs Dan Griffin 682-4949
POW / MIA Dan Griffin 682-4949
Member Products Jim LaManna 793-6077
Color Guard Rich Palazzo 845-297-1513
Scholarship Bob Miller 391-8723

WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

HOURS:

11:00 - 3:30

914-864-7068

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
AND HOLIDAYS

Chapter 49
Telephone / Fax Number
(914) 682-4949

Website:

www.vietnamvets49.org

E-Mail:

<mailto:Chapter49@aol.com>

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month

at

Armonk Post 1097

35 Bedford Rd.

Armonk, NY 10504

This newsletter is a publication of Chapter 49, however the opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, and as such, they do not necessarily represent those of Chapter 49. All views are welcome for publication. Submit items of interest, including poems, short stories, photographs, etc., to the Editors at the Chapter address or call for other arrangements. Materials submitted will not be returned unless otherwise requested.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email, call us at 682-4949, email us at chapter49@aol.com or go to our web site at vietnamvets49.org. If you are receiving our newsletter both ways; by mail and email, let us know.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a flyer for our annual picnic/barbeque, which will be on September 13th. This notice may be early but it will give you the time to mark your calendar. This event is free and it is a chance for us and our families to meet for the first time or to renew our friendships. I hope to see you there.

I want to thank our Chapter members who have volunteered at the New York State Veterans Nursing Home Gift Shop throughout the year. Thank you very much for leading the effort: Al Zawiski, he dedicates a lot of his time. Also thank you to: Matt Coffey, Carl Diliberto and Mike Fogarty. Matt also teaches our computer skills class to homeless vets.

And throughout the year Jim LaManna runs our Product Sales program, he also sells our products at all of the New York State Council meetings up in Owego.
Thank you Jim.

Take care of yourself and each other

Dan Griffin

Welcome to our newest members

Julius P. Camelio from New Rochelle
Raymond Pena from Dobbs Ferry
John Tkachuk life member from Yonkers
Nicholas Skirka life member from Yonkers

“GOOD MORNING VIETNAM VETERANS”
Northeast U.S.A. Vietnam Veterans
Reunion Association

15TH ANNUAL REUNION 2000 -- 2014

July 25 - 27, 2014



Reunion Association
Greene County, NY

This year we will have members from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund from Washington, DC. They are the people that made the “Wall” possible. Now they are building an “Education Center” across from the Wall. They are requesting photographs of any of the Veterans who are listed on the Wall to be displayed in the Education Center. If you have any photos that you would like posted, please bring them to our reunion, they will be scanned on site and returned to you that day. We are supporting this worthy cause and ask for your participation to help them succeed.

All Veterans, their families, and friends are invited to our
Annual Memorial Service

12 Noon Saturday, July 26, 2014
At 5143 RT. 81 West, Greenville, NY 12083

Join us as we salute our fellow Vietnam Veterans, and pay tribute to our missing and deceased comrades who valiantly served our country in Vietnam.

We offer a special welcome to those now serving in our nation’s military and to ALL Veterans who have defended this great land in the past.



There will be Color Guards, Firing Squads,
And An Abundance of
Good Old American Pride!



The Memorial will be followed by great music and food
thanks to the generosity of our wonderful supporters!



Contact information on the reunion e-mail nevietvets@yahoo.com
Or call Jim Sill at 518-966-5295

Greene County Tourism
700 Rte. 23B, Leeds, NY 12451
800-355-CATS or 518-943-3223

For more Information on The Reunion we invite you to visit our website at www.nevietvets.us or
Write or to donate: Northeast USA Vietnam Veterans Reunion, P. O. Box 326, Freehold, NY 12431

THE FORGOTTEN HOMECOMING

More than 40 years have passed and the words have never been uttered
No songs, no banners, no gratitude just people who closed their shutters
No parades, no ticker-tape, no standing ovation
Only silence, and whispers of a protesting Nation

Although there were many who might care to stand,
To reach out with gratitude and shake my hand
There were many more who took FREEDOM for granted
No concern where my mission and feet had been planted

Many had been called upon by our great Nation
To bring hope and democracy for a new generation
I served diligently with honor, humbly fighting to stay alive
The taste of FREEDOM was always my main drive

Now 45 years later as I memorialize in my mind
The battles for FREEDOM and the friends left behind.
Some ungrateful, taking FREEDOM for granted - that's ignorance
They have no concept of the cost of battle for independence

Today as I reflect on the years that have passed
I still see how Patriotism is standing steadfast
As I celebrate and appreciate another year of life
Loving my friends, my children, my wife

I embrace a generation of those that I served
And a new generation that seem un-assured
I hope that democracy, truth and decency are still alive
And the FREEDOMS *many* have died for will continue to thrive

God Bless America and the men and women who have sacrificed
In the name of FREEDOM!

And may I not forget the reason that I wrote this poem –

**WELCOME HOME WARRIOR,
WELCOME HOME!**

**FOR ALL THOSE WHO WERE *NEVER* WELCOMED HOME
(or never made it home) THANK YOU ~ YOU ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN**

My family is GRATEFUL –

**Written by Sandra Eichler-Gonzalez ~ aka ~ PATRIOTCHICK
Patriot Guard Riders - www.patriotguard.org**

VA Antimicrobial Stewardship Program □ What it Does

Ever since Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin nearly 90 years ago, antibiotics have been a powerful means for treating bacterial infections and saving lives. Unfortunately, prescribing practices around these drugs have resulted in “antibiotic resistance.” Whether it’s the use of antibiotics without testing to first confirm infection, improper dosing, or poor communication with patients regarding compliance, the end result is the same. Many antibiotics are no longer effective at killing the bacteria they once killed, making it difficult, if not impossible for doctors to treat certain infections. To ensure antibiotics remain effective, we all play a role – doctors, hospitals and patients. While the first line of defense is to prevent infection, there are also some key points to keep in mind when using antibiotics.

- First, don’t ask for antibiotics when you have a virus such as a cold or flu. Antibiotics don’t work on these infections.
- Next, only use antibiotics when your health care provider prescribes them for you, and follow the directions when taking them.
- Finally, be sure to finish the entire course of antibiotics – even if you start to feel better – to ensure the infection is fully gone.

Antibiotic resistance can also lead to adverse drug reactions – allergic reaction, antibiotic drug toxicities and more – or complications that make patients even sicker, require hospitalization, prolong hospitalization and create a higher risk of death from infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly half of all hospitalized patients are given an antibiotic for at least one day of their hospital stay. That is an alarming statistic, which should worry us, whether we’re clinicians, hospital administrators or patients. Could testing have determined if the drug was needed in the first place? Did the patient understand the dosing instructions, including the importance of taking the entire prescription even if their symptoms cleared up? Because of this, antimicrobial stewardship programs have become a top priority for hospital and healthcare systems nationwide. These programs seek to prescribe appropriately, provide for regular reassessment, and closely monitor patient outcomes, among other goals. The CDC recently recognized VA’s efforts in antimicrobial stewardship. VA’s National Antimicrobial Stewardship Task Force (ASTF), chartered three years ago, oversees a number of activities, including six work groups, monthly educational conferences and the collection and dissemination of a wide variety of resources for VA field offices to use in developing local stewardship policies. As of November 2012, 64 percent of VA facilities had an antimicrobial stewardship policy in existence or in development. Earlier this year, VA reaffirmed their commitment to antimicrobial stewardship through the development and publication of VHA Directive 1031 . Importantly, this directive establishes stewardship programs in all VA facilities by the end of this coming July.

Up to now, the ASTF has focused primarily on stewardship initiatives for hospital settings and is now seeking to develop similar initiatives for outpatient settings and long-term care facilities such as Community Living Centers. ASTF has also worked closely with VA’s Office of Research and Development, to develop a solid evidence-base for new practices and policies. You’ll be hearing more about the VA’s Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in the coming months. For more information about antimicrobial stewardship, visit the CDC’s “Get Smart for Healthcare” at <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/healthcare>.

[Source: Vantage Point | Melinda Neuhauser and Gary Roselle | 21 Apr 2014 ++]

VA Travel Allowance Update 15 □ General Rules

Here are the general rules as to who gets reimbursement for VA appointments and how it works:

- If you are 30 percent or more service-connected by the VA.
- If you are less than 30 percent, then the treatment you are receiving must be for a service-connected condition.
- If you receive a VA pension, Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits.
- If you are traveling in relation to a Compensation and Pension (C&P) exam.
- Veterans with an annual income below the annual VA pension rate (determined by a means test).
- The current allowable reimbursement amount is 41.5 cents per mile. There is a \$3 deductible for each one-way visit, or \$6 for each round-trip visit. Upon reaching \$18 in deductibles or six one-way (three round) trips, travel payments made for the balance of that particular month will be free of deductible charges. A waiver of these deductibles is given to eligible veterans with low income.
- You must have an appointment to be eligible for travel pay. Visits that are solely for obtaining pharmaceuticals or lab tests are not considered appointments. If you have separate appointments on the same day at the same location for medical different conditions, you can only receive one travel pay for the day.
- Travel reimbursement is not solely given for appointments at the Veterans Affairs' Regional Medical Centers. If you travel to a VA clinic and you meet the requirements as laid out above, you are eligible for travel reimbursement.
- You qualify for special mode transportation (Ambulance, Wheelchair van etc.) if you meet one of the first 4 eligibility items on this list and:
 - a. Your medical condition requires an ambulance or a specially equipped van as determined by a VA clinician, and
 - b. The travel is pre-authorized (authorization is not required for emergencies if a delay would be hazardous to life or health)
- It is your responsibility to apply for any VA travel benefits. You can go back normally 30 days to claim any travel reimbursement. You should be able to obtain the travel form at any VA facility. You can complete one online and download it at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-3542-fill.pdf> .
- You have the option to direct deposit the reimbursement in your banking account.

[Source: http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/access/Beneficiary_travel.asp Apr 2014 ++]

***** 16



CHAPTER PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 13nd 12:00 UNTILL?

ARMONK AMERICAN LEGION PAVILION

**CHAPTER WILL FURNISH HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS,
CORN, CLAMS AND SODA**

PLEASE BRING SALADS AND CONDIMENTS

THIS PICNIC IS FOR US AND OUR FAMILIES

WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY ARE ATTENDING

SO CALL THE CHAPTER OFFICE 914-682-4949

Or email chapter49@aol.com

BY SEPTEMBER 5th

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DONATE

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE

JULY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 pizza Party FDR stress unit 5:30	23	24	25 reunion Vietnam vets Greenville, NY	26 reunion Vietnam vets 12:00 Greenville, NY
27 reunion Vietnam vets Greenville, NY	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 meeting Armonk 6:30dinner 7:30 meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 pizza Party FDR stress unit 5:30	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	5	6 Armonk American Legion barbeque
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 VVA Barbeque 12:00
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 5:0PM	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 pizza Party FDR stress Unit 5:30PM	29	30	31 Halloween	



★ **MEMBERSHIP** ★



WE NEED YOU IN THE VIET-NAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND FEES

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL WHO SHARE OUR CONCERNS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS, AND FAMILIES, VETERAN OR NOT. WE ENCOURAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 1959 TO MAY 7, 1975.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (IND) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.
- ★ ASSOCIATE MEMBER (ASO) - A NON VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT (LMPP) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAYMENT (LMPP) FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT (ALPP) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAYMENT (ALPP) FOR ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ THE PLANNED PAYMENT REQUIRES COMPLETION WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS.
- ★ FEES: ANNUAL FEES OF \$ 20.00 FOR INDIVIDUAL OR ASSOCIATED MEMBERSHIP OR MAKE A PAYMENT OF 50.00 FOR A THREE YEAR MEMBERSHIP AND SAVE \$ 10.00.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CURRENT AGE:

49 AND UNDER.....	\$ 250.00
50 TO 55.....	\$ 225.00
56 TO 60.....	\$ 200.00
61 TO 65.....	\$ 175.00
66 AND OVER.....	\$ 150.00

PLEASE NOTE:

- ★ PROOF OF AGE MUST BE SUBMITTED ON ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ COPY OF FORM DD 214 MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR VIET-NAM ERA VETERANS.

* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION *

- I AM A VIET-NAM VETERAN / FEE: \$20.00 of 50.00 / Copy of DD 214 is Required
- I AM A NON-VIET-NAM VETERAN AND PLEASE ENROL ME AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF VVA / FEE: \$20.00 or 50.00
- RENEWAL of MEMBERSHIP / FEE: \$20.00 or \$50.00
- I Wish to Contribute and be kept informed
(Enclosed is my Annual Contribution) \$ _____
- ADDRESS CHANGE (Indicate Chages Below)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: _____

VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

* see note above

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ DATE of BIRTH _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Please make Cheque or Money Order Payable to: V.V.A Chapter #49
To: Membership Chair, V.V.A. Chapter #49 PO Box 224, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Questions?: Call the Chapter. Phone/Fax (914) 682-4949
Meetings of the Viet-Nam Veterans of America, Chapter #49
are held the first Thursday of each Month @ 7:30pm.

Please check current Newsletter for Location.



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Bagpiper

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Rick Burns
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