Chapter 20 members enjoy a euchre party.

Chili/Crockpot Cookoff

Support Our Troops

Together Then...Together Now
Another busy month at the Chapter. I would like to start by thanking all those who helped in moving our office to Ira Jacobson Post. Chuck Macaluso and I put in many hours in prep to make the move and without those who helped it would never have happened. I would also like to thank Beth and Cindy for the help from the Thrift Store side and the use of the truck that our own Mickey Mouse drove to and from the post. The new address for the office is PO Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612. The phone numbers will remain the same. Please stop up to see the new office at our next meeting or at the times we will have volunteers manning the phone. I think you will be pleasantly pleased with it.

As we near the elections for officers of the chapter I encourage all to throw your hat in the ring. The pay is not good, but you will have an opportunity to help the chapter grow and make it better than it is today. Look in this issue for further details. Also, with the annual dinner coming this April as always we are looking for input as to the awards that are presented each year to recognize the members that worked so hard over the past year for the good of Chapter 20. Please nominate the ones you would like to see receive these awards.

In July the National Convention is going to be held in Springfield, IL, July 17–22. We are looking for volunteers to go as delegates. It is not only important that we have a voice in the proposed rule changes, but that we voice our vote in the election process. This year our own Fred Elliott will be running again as a Board member and will need our support so that he can continue all the hard work he has done. Fred is not only a National Board member but is the Region 2 Director, with the largest membership in National representing nearly 12,000 members out of the total 55,000. Also our brother veteran and Chapter President from Buffalo, Pat Welch, will be running for a board slot and will need our support. Lastly, John Rowan, our national President from New York, will be seeking re-election and again needs our support. Saying all that - I need your help as delegates to the convention.

In closing, thanks for your support and friendship. Till next month!

Together then together now  
Ken Moore, President

Membership Meeting Attendance
February 8, 2007

Tom Puff, Joe Harkness, Ray Melens, Gail Bologna-Melens, Tom Gleason, Kathy Gleason, Dave Hooker, Cecil Young, Joan & Chuck Macaluso, Gary Rhodas, Ken Moore, Dan Corona, Larry Schulman, Fred Elliott, Marie Davias, Nick DeLeo, Gary Redlinski, Steve Mros, Gorde Williams, Michael McHugh, Tom Meggison, Dick Oleksyn, Wally Gekoski, Skip Snell, Joe Peck, Bill Meminger, Nancy & Bruce VanApeldoorn, Rusty Kurtz

Treasurer's Report

VVA Chapter 20 Board Meeting Schedule

March 5, 2007
April 2, 2007
May 7, 2007
June 4, 2007
July 9, 2007
August 6, 2007
September 10, 2007
October 1, 2007
November 5, 2007
December 3, 2007

CHILI/CROCKPOT COOKOFF

Two categories:
CHILI (any variety)
CROCKPOT (e.g. - soup, stew, casserole)

Registration 5:30 P.M. (no entry fee)
Tasting begins at 6:15pm
Prizes to be awarded at conclusion of business meeting – then all dishes are available for mass consumption.
Marching Unit
Ray Melens, Commander

In January, members of the Honor Guard took part in the Military Honors funeral for Fred Ostrom. After the services were complete and while we were leaving, I was approached by a member of the Rochester St. Patrick’s Day Parade committee and asked if we would participate in the St. Patrick’s Day parade again this year, if this person was able to convince the rest of the committee to have us lead it off. My response was, “Yes, if they want us to lead off the parade, we would. Just let me know as soon as you can, so I can get the word out to the Unit.” Well, that was during the first week of January and I never got any response, either way, back from the committee. So as of this writing I will have to say that again this year, members of the Marching Unit and anyone wishing to join us will gather again on Saturday, March 17th at Gunny’s on N. Greece Road for our own little celebration and get together. We will start gathering at 11:00 A.M. Everyone will be responsible for taking care of their own food and drink tab. This is not something that the Chapter pays for. This is just a way for those of us that want to get together and enjoy each other’s company can. Hope to see many of you there on March 17th. Anyone needing directions, just e-mail or call me.

On Saturday, February 17th members of the Honor Guard were invited to partake in the opening ceremony for a photo shoot at the George Eastman House. This is a special show because all the photos were taken by a Marine Corps Vietnam vet. The photos were taken while he served there and then when he went back during the past year. There were then and now pictures and it was pretty interesting to see.

Sometime in April, the Marching Unit will again conduct their annual meeting. This is when we vote on the parades for the upcoming 2007 parade season. It is also when there is discussion on any matters pertaining to the Unit. All members of the Unit are asked to attend and spouses are more than welcome to attend as well. They just can’t vote for the parades. I will announce the date for this meeting in next month’s report. Yes, we will have pizza and wings again. This is a budgeted item so the chapter will be paying for it.

I received in the mail an invitation to a ham raffle at the American Legion Post in Spencerport. This is the same Post that brought the Moving Wall in several years back. Well, as I was considering this piece of mail as just being some more junk mail, I realized something different about this raffle invite. First, it is being conducted by the Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) of this post and secondly, they are going to donate all the proceeds to some not-for-profit groups and organizations. As I started to read the list of organizations, I noticed that the second one on the list was Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20. Considering our current financial status I felt that this was very thoughtful on the S.A.L.’s part and I am asking that as many of you as possible attend this ham raffle on Saturday, March 10th from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. The Post is located on Trimmer Road in Spencerport. I know Gail and I will be attending and also several members of the Marching Unit will also be there. So try and make some time to come out and have some fun and show our support in their effort to help out some organizations.

As always the Honor Guard continues to meet monthly at 7:00 P.M. before the monthly membership meetings, upstairs at IRA. Anyone that may be thinking about joining either the Marching Unit or Honor Guard is invited to attend, as well as anyone who may wish to address the Honor Guard as well. For the next couple of meetings after we are finished discussing whatever we may have to address, we will work again on flag folding. We don’t want to get rusty for this very important ceremony that takes place at Military Honors funerals.

Until next month……………….

AT EASE!!!!!!
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20
AWARD NOMINATION FORM

ROGER ROBACH AWARD

The Roger Robach Award is given to an individual who has spent a minimum of ten years working for the betterment of all veterans in New York State.

I feel ____________________________ should be considered for the Veterans Service Award because of his/her involvement in:

DON AND RORI MURRELL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Don and Rori Murrell Humanitarian Award is given to an individual who has accomplished an extraordinary effort on behalf of active duty military personnel and/or veterans and their families. All individuals are to be considered for this reward regardless of Chapter or veteran affiliation.

I feel ____________________________ should be considered for the Don and Rori Murrell Humanitarian Award because of his/her involvement in:

Nominations are due by March 16, 2007 so that the Awards Committee can make final decisions in time for the Annual Dinner.
Nomination forms are to be dropped off at the Chapter office or mailed to 1199 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14609, to arrive no later than March 16, 2007.
AWARD NOMINATION FORM

VETERANS SERVICE AWARD

The Veterans Service Award is given to the member or members who have demonstrated outstanding dedication in improving the condition of Vietnam Veterans and/or the community, and have been active in Chapter 20. Any member is eligible for this award.

I feel ______________________________ should be considered for the Veterans Service Award because of his/her involvement in:

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Community Service Award is given to the group or organization that has demonstrated a strong sense of community service and favorably recognizes and relates to Vietnam Veterans issues.

I feel ______________________________ should be considered for the Veterans Service Award because:

Nominations are due by March 16, 2007 so that the Awards Committee can make final decisions in time for the Annual Dinner. Nomination forms are to be dropped off at the Chapter office or mailed to 1199 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14609, to arrive no later than March 16, 2007.
At this time there are 1,788 U.S. personnel listed as missing and unaccounted for by the Department of Defense.

Recently, the identifications of three Americans previously missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War were announced.

They are:
- Lt. Colonel Paul E. Getchell, USAF, from Maine, MIA January 13, 1969 in Laos. Remains were returned December 16, 2005 and they were identified November 20, 2006.

Hopefully, these families have their long-awaited peace of mind.

With the science of DNA, so many more remains are being identified as we can see by the number of missing.

Vietnam has approved the use of U.S. Navy ships for underwater recovery. This will greatly help with identifying the location of planes that have gone down over water.

Please keep our POW/MIAs in your thoughts and prayers. If we don’t REMEMBER them, who will?

POW-MIA
Gail Bologna-Melens, Chairperson

ANNUAL ELECTION 2007

Reminder – The March Meeting is “Candidates Night.” Please attend and meet those individuals you will be voting for on April 12, 2007.

Members please note changes made to Chapter Policy Manual last year.

March 6, 2006 BOD Meeting
- Motion approved that you need to be a member for 30 days before you can vote in the Annual Election.
- Elections will take place on the second Thursday in April. Only paid members with a DD214 on file by 28 February of previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (28 February 2007 to vote April 2007)
- Quorum is defined as 10% of VVA 20 membership as of 28 February of the previous fiscal year.

April 3, 2006 BOD Meeting
- The Chapter 20 Nominating Committee is to present a slate of candidates by February 15th of each election year to meet VVA Constitution’s minimum 30-day notice to the membership via names in the March BTL.
- Membership will be allowed to cast their vote at the office on Wednesday, prior to Annual Meeting. Office hours, for voting, will be in next issue.

July 10, 2006 BOD Meeting
- The VVA Constitution states “Additional persons may be nominated by any member at Annual Meeting.” These candidates will fall under the category of Floor Nominations.
- Floor nominated candidates can only receive votes from members present at Annual Meeting.

All candidates are encouraged to submit biographical information and/or a candidate’s statement for inclusion in the April Between the Lines. Please e-mail statements to Bruce McDaniel at bruceimcdaniel@earthlink.net by March 10.
We hope that you are withstanding the deep freeze we all are experiencing. It gives us some “hibernation” time to get things caught up.

We have experienced the VA process of proving service connection recently. It is not without its frustrations. Some important reminders follow to help in your process:

- The word of your doctor (whether VA or private) is what counts in this process. It is important for you to speak up about your symptoms and health issues so the doctor can accurately and thoroughly advocate for you. Strong and silent does not help at this time. Thorough records from your doctor to the VA will help them determine service connection. Ask for what you need.
  - Private health care physicians are only required by law to maintain medical records for seven years. Veterans need to maintain a complete copy of their own medical records so that as you age, medical issues which do not occur until later in life can then be substantiated with the proper medical documentation. The doctor’s word, not our word, is what will be heard. Ask for a copy of doctor’s records and test records each time you go. Keep your own notebook of records so you are well prepared.
  - Make sure to tell your doctor of your military service information and whether you were exposed to combat and/or any specific hazardous duty or chemicals.
  - Persevere. Do not stop if you are initially rejected. Based on your medical history and your doctor’s findings, keep submitting your paperwork with the veterans service rep if service connection is warranted.

Some other points of interest: We learned from an Army Times article (January 20, 2007) that DOD has laid off case workers for the Military Severely Injured Center who advocate for wounded service members. They help with questions or issues related to benefits, financial resources and successful return to duty or reintegration into civilian life—all forms of support other than medical care. Some sources said that officials with the Army’s Wounded Warrior program felt the DOD program was a duplication of efforts. Reports indicated that Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Lewis, Washington, and Fort Campbell, Kentucky were among the locations that were cut. We hope that all noble GIs have resources to turn to with their needs.

Good news. Congressman Bob Filner has been named Chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs in the House of Representatives. I know first hand that he is a fine man who is a strong advocate. He looks at truth and is not afraid to stand up strong to help with issues. FY 2007 finding is $ 3.6 billion more over FY 2006 levels—providing $ 32.3 billion for veterans’ health care. They now will thoroughly study the Bush Administration’s FY 2008 budget. They will see that budget levels are adequate to provide timely, quality health care to veterans and to improve the intolerable delays and backlogs faced by veterans seeking benefits they have earned.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is also an outstanding advocate who will stand strong for issues facing us all. This is very hopeful for veterans.

Please remember to contact Pat Pudetti and the outstanding people at the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency, 753-6040 or serviceofficer@yahoo.com if you need any assistance with veterans’ issues. God bless our troops, our noble veterans, their families and God bless America. Peace.

Can You Help?

The New York State Veterans’ Home at Batavia needs your help!

Chapter 20 is planning to help out at the Restaurant Nights on May 1 and 2, 2007, from 4:00 P.M. to approximately 7:00 P.M. Help will also be needed on June 23 for a picnic for the residents. For more information or to volunteer, contact Dick Oleksyn, 585-663-5255.

Vietnam Veterans of America
CHAPTER 20
Car Donation, LLC

Call 224-8484
Chapter 20 thanks the following sponsors of our 25th Anniversary Celebration:

Gold Sponsor: Dakota Restaurant
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Veterans Advocate
DEBRA SLOANE
Retail Office Assistant

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455 South Avenue • Rochester, NY 14620
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1199 East Main Street, Rochester, NY 14609

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Serving the area for 20 years.
Euchre Party

Chapter 20 AVVA members held their first ever Euchre Party/Tournament on Saturday, January 27 and it was a success. There were sixteen skilled players (okay, maybe not everybody was skilled – who knew Ronbo could play cards?) and even a few spectators.

Food, music, socializing, and prizes. What better way to spend a few hours on a snowy, cold, Saturday evening in January? Chapter 20 member Steve Barkley and his euchre partner, Ken Finch, took first place honors by only 4 points. Second place went to Bill Tisa and Barb Budwit, and Chapter 20 member Steve Mros and his wife Linda placed third. A good time was had by all!

Support OUR TROOPS

We may be fondly wishing for heat, but our troops are in the desert – we’re collecting items to box and send to them. Please bring whatever you can from the list below to the March 8th General Membership meeting. We will announce a date shortly thereafter and ask help to prepare packages for shipment.

Likewise, if you know of someone stationed in the Middle East, give us their contact information and address so we can include them on our list. You can bring the information that evening, or email it to kathy14470@msn.com. Thanks for your help!

- Items include:
  - Soap (bars only)
  - Toothpaste
  - Toothbrushes
  - Shaving Cream
  - Razors
  - Deodorant
  - Movie DVDs
  - Cheez-it Crackers
  - Cream Savers (or hard candy) (no chocolate as it melts!)
  - Beef Jerky (a popular favorite!)
  - Single stick flavor packets for bottled water (e.g. – Crystal Light On the Go)
  - Chewing Gum
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20
Membership Application

Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214, to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, 1199 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY 14609

Name: ________________________________ Date of Birth: ________________ Sex: M / F

Address: ________________________________ Home Phone: (_____) __________________

City: ___________________________ Work Phone: (_____) __________________

Zip: ___________ Country: ___________ E-mail Address: __________________________ W / H

Chapter # _______ (if known) ____________________ Sponsor: ______________________

I am not a Vietnam veteran, but I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families.
Please accept my donation: ______________________ □ AVVA Membership

____ $10 ______ $20 ______ $50 ______ Other ($______) 


Term: ______ 1 year ($20) ______ 3 years ($50) ______ Life Membership: $250 (ages 49 and under)

$225 (ages 50-55) $200 (ages 56-60) $175 (ages 61-65)

$150 (ages 66 and over)

Payment Option: _______ Check _______ Money Order

VVA is a non-profit veterans service organization.
Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.

Between the Lines

Between the Lines is published monthly by Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Chapter 20, or the Vietnam Veterans of America, its officers, board of directors, or the general membership. No subscription fee is charged for this publication, and inclusion on the mailing list is available on request. Between the Lines can also be seen on the Chapter 20 website, www.vva20.org.

We welcome letters to the editor, poetry, original articles, and suggestions. Submissions can be sent to: Between the Lines, 1199 E. Main Street, Rochester, New York 14609. If you want to submit something on disk, call the office (585-482-7396) to check on compatibility. If you want your manuscript returned, include a self-addressed envelope with postage. We reserve the right not to use materials we think are not appropriate for the publication, and to edit for space and clarity. We’d also like to have a phone number as well as your name in case there are any questions.

The deadline for submissions intended for a particular month’s issue is the 5th of the preceding month. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the first business day following the 5th.

Between the Lines runs paid advertisements to help offset the cost of publication and as a convenience to our readers. Chapter 20 does not endorse any advertiser or guarantee satisfaction with goods or services provided.
Annual Dinner

Saturday, April 21, 2007
Barnard Exempt Hall
360 Maiden Lane
Rochester, NY 14616

Reception/Cash Bar 6:00pm
Welcome/Introductions 7:00pm
Buffet Dinner 7:30pm
Presentation of Awards 8:30pm
Dancing to follow with music
by Tom Roesler

Tickets $10.00 per person
Stand Up For Veterans:
Pledge Your 2007 United Way Dollars to the VOC

“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”
- President John F. Kennedy (Inaugural Address, 1961)

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, this famous quote by President Kennedy rang true in hearts of thousands of American men and women who responded by joining the military. Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly apparent that many of those who answered this call to duty are now suffering a war of a different sort—an internal war of nightmares and flashbacks related to their wartime experiences. Please make a contribution through the 2007 United Way Donor Choice Program so that we can continue Serving Those Who Serve U.S. Designate Veterans Outreach Center and include our ID number—1119. For more info, call 585.546.1081 or visit www.veteransoutreachcenter.org
Throughout the history of warfare, dogs have gone into combat at the side of their masters or have been used in direct support of combat operations.

In May 1942 the Army established the K-9 Corps. Throughout World War II, 595 dogs were trained for scouting duties…

The Army has employed various breeds of dog, and have determined the German Shepherd to be the most suitable for scouting. Its working ability, temperament, size, availability for procurement and adaptability to all types of climate and terrain are the reasons for the choice.

Today in Vietnam, various scout dog platoons are in wide use among infantry units…

Scout dogs differ in both temperament and training from tracking and sentry dogs. Tracker dogs are usually docile and sentry dogs are trained to kill. The scout dog, under ordinary conditions are neither docile or killers, but well trained, obedient and alert.

The selection of handlers for the dogs is as important as the selection of the dogs themselves. Experience has shown that handlers must have a friendly attitude toward dogs, patience and perseverance, physical endurance and exercise common sense…

At Ft. Benning the dogs undergo 12 weeks of intensive training with these men, who remain with the dogs throughout the entire cycle… Bien Hoa Air Base is the next stop for both handler and dog… When the handlers reach Bien Hoa they receive another dog, which will be theirs for the rest of their Vietnam tour…

From Bien Hoa, the scout dog teams are assigned to a scout dog platoon. Teams designated for the 41st Infantry Scout Dog Platoon are sent to Lai Khe, where they will assist infantry units of the Big Red One in tactical operations against hostile forces. They are employed to detect ambush sites and enemy caches of weapons, food and ammunition…

If a dog picks up an unfamiliar scent while on patrol, he will give an alert, which the handler will pass on to the company commander or platoon leader. There is no special method by which all dogs alert. Each dog is an individual in his manner of alerting. Therefore, the handler must observe the dog’s behavior carefully so he does not miss its signal of alert…

The handlers take care of their dogs 24 hours a day. They do everything but sleep and eat with them to insure the animals’ well-being. As a result of this close association man and dog become quite attached to one another…

The life of a Scout Dog is a rough one, but as many units will testify—a scout dog can mean the difference between life and death.

Help Build The Veterans Walk at the Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Any past or present member of the United States Armed Services, Active or Reserve, is eligible for an engraved paver brick. For information and an order form, please contact the Chapter 20 office at 482-7396.
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20
P. O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612
(585) 482-7396 • Fax (585) 482-5513 • www.vva20.org

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2nd Vice President: Rich Isaman ........ 594-8022 (h)
Secretary: Chuck Macaluso ........... 225-8288 (h)
Treasurer: Ray Melens ................. 392-2079 (h)

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Ralph Pascale ........................................... 755-2560 (h)
Kathleen Ryan .......................................... 507-9855
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AVVA ................................................. 978-1331
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Membership, Chapter Gear .. Ralph Pascale 755-2560
POW/MIA ........................................... Gail Bologna-Melens 392-2079
Scholarship ........................................ Alice Popen 247-1024
Social Events ................................. Dick Oleksyn 663-5255
Speakers Bureau ......................... Geno Lenyk 423-0206
Veterans Affairs/Benefits .... Pat Pudetti 482-2387
Veterans Walk ......................... Chuck Macaluso 225-8288
Volunteer Coordinator ............ Kathy Gleason 978-1331

WEB SITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES
Veterans Widows International Network
members@aol.com/vetwindows

NYS Department Health:
www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets

Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park:
www.vietnammemorial.org

Operation Welcome Home:
www.operationwelcomehome.org

VVA New York State Council:
www.nyvietnamvets.org

Region 2 Director:
www.region2vva.com

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION
Ira Jacobson American Legion Post #474 ..... 663-7030
VA Clinic - 465 Westfall Road .............. 463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center .................. 546-1081
Vet Center ........................................... 232-5040
Veterans Administration .................... 800-827-1000
NYS Council ........................................ 888-678-VETS
Monroe County Veterans Service Agency .... 753-6040
e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com

Veterans Benefits Hotline .................. 800-827-1000
“Veterans Bill of Rights” ..................... 800-342-3358
VA Medical Center in Batavia ............. 585-297-1000
VA Hospital in Buffalo ....................... 716-834-9200
VA Medical Center in Canandaigua ....... 394-2000
VA Medical Center in Bath ................ 607-664-4000
V.V. of America in Washington ........... 800-VVA-1316
V.V. Memorial Fund “The Wall” .......... 202-393-0090
Nat.’l Lge. of Fam. MIA/POW Updates .. 202-223-6846
Richards House .................................. 506-9060
The Resource Center ......................... 546-4250
Stars & Stripes .................................. 546-3524
Persian Gulf Vets, Inc. ....................... 385-4097
Operation Welcome Home .................. 234-4694

MISCELLANEOUS
VVA 20 Thrift Store, LLC Mgmt., Beth Affeldt .... 482-8036
Donation Pick-up, Cindy Rowley .............. 482-8016
VVA Vehicle Donations, Cindy Rowley .......... 224-8484
VVA Chapter 20 .................................. 482-7396
bdivic0@vva20.org

VVA CH. 20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG. ATTENDANCE

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<th>NAME</th>
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X=Present  E=Excused  A=Absent