



MAIL CALL

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 203

PO Box 23405 Chattanooga, TN 37422

May/June 2018

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CHAPTER 203 ELECTIONS

On Monday, April 16th, Chapter 203 held its election of officers. A President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer were elected to serve for two years. Two Board members were elected also. Chapter 203 has a total of five Board members; however, two are elected in even- numbered years and three are elected in odd-numbered years. Along with the five officers and five board members, the immediate past President also serves on the Board for the term. After the announcement of the winners, immediate past President, Bill Norton, administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board.

L-R: Chris Linville (BOD), Larry Johnson (BOD) Larry Gregory (2nd VP), Bob Brauch (Sec), Charlie Hobbs (Pres), Marsha Thibadoux (Treas), Denney Miller(BOD) , Bob Holloway (1st VP), Vance Elliott (BOD), Larry Anderson(BOD) , & Bill Norton (past Pres).



CHAPTER MEETINGS

- Monday, May 21st
- Monday, June 18th

American Legion Post 95
3329 Ringgold Rd
East Ridge, TN

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

It's been awhile since I have addressed the greatest Chapter in Vietnam Veterans of America. I want to express my appreciation for your support and to thank you for coming to our election meeting in April.

My goals this term include (1) improved communication, (2) increased membership, (3) and overhauling of our chapter website and newsletter. (I hope you have recognized that this newsletter has already been reformatted?). The Board has already begun working on bringing back our R & R Picnic and a possible trip to Washington DC.

Congratulations to our newly elected (or reelected) Board of Directors. I believe we will have a good working relationship and that will benefit the entire Chapter. If you have ideas, thoughts, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Be sure to read our Upcoming Events in this issue. Come out and help us in Kimball, TN.

I look forward to working with you these next two years. I hope to see you at the next two meetings.

Charlie



CONTACT US:

President: Charlie Hobbs
423-991-5858
nam67mp@aol.com

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1st VP: Bob Holloway
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2nd VP: Larry Gregory
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Secretary: Bob Brauch
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Treasurer: Marsha Thibadoux
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BOARD MEMBERS:

Larry Anderson
706-280-3618
larryandsue67@optilink.us

Vance Elliott
423-802-1892
welliottnam65@epbfi.com

Larry Johnson
423-718-9056
Larryjohnson9056@gmail.com

Chris Linville
423-667-8070
vitalcaretech@gmail.com

Denney Miller
423-227-7182
roadwarriortn@gmail.com

Past President: Bill Norton
423-593-6281
bill@metroservicesinc.com

**VA TAKES SIGNIFICANT STEP IN IMPROVING
CORRESPONDENCE WITH VETERANS**

WASHINGTON — As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) ongoing improvement of managing taxpayer dollars, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has deployed the Centralized Benefits Communications Management Program (CBCM) nationally. The program represents a new centralized printing and mailing process system designed to improve productivity and streamline correspondence with Veterans on compensation benefits and pension burial claims. “CBCM is one of many great examples of how VA continually explores ways to update outdated processes,” said Acting VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “With this program, we took proven industry practices and adapted them to our needs.” Prior to CBCM, which went into effect March 23, VBA’s 56 regional offices were responsible individually for their manual processing of outbound mail. Under CBCM, claims processors across the country now submit letters electronically to one central location for printing and distribution — allowing specialized employees to focus more time and energy assessing Veteran claims. In addition to improving productivity, CBCM also will help reduce maintenance requirements of hundreds of regional office printers, reduce the likelihood of returned mail through additional address verification and enhance the security and privacy of Veteran information through minimized handling of mail. Over the past five years, VA has improved the way it processes compensation and pension claims enabling the development of CBCM. In the future, VA will enhance CBCM’s design to improve further VBA’s methods of communication with Veterans by allowing them to choose between paper or digital correspondence. For more information or questions about CBCM, email VAPublicAffairs@va.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 4th: Armed Forces Day Parade. Meet at the old VFW 4848 (Riverside Dr.) 8:30am
- May 14th-19th: Mission BBQ. See flyer this issue (p. 4)
- May 18th -19th: Membership Drive & Fundraiser. Walmart - Kimball, TN. 10-5p
- May 21st: Chapter monthly meeting
- May 26th: Color Guard presents Colors. Chattanooga National Cemetery 8:00am
- May 28th: Memorial Day Ceremonies. Chattanooga National Cemetery 11:00am
- June 4th: AVVA monthly meeting. Best Western Hotel. 6710 Ringgold Rd. 7:00pm
- June 18th: Chapter monthly meeting
- July 24-28th: National Leadership & Education Conference. Palm Springs, CA

CHAPTER RECEIVES \$500 DONATION

Recently, one of our members called and told me about a homeless vet sleeping in his car close my house. I found him and it turned out we had worked together at a company many years ago. He was found unconscious in his car and EMT's took him to Memorial Hospital. He had health problems plus all of his toes had been amputated and his foot was badly infected. He was later transferred to a Life Care facility.

I spend an hour most afternoons at my favorite hangout *BiBa's* Restaurant chatting with friends and other veterans. After discharge I took him to *BiBa's* several times to eat so the staff and others got to meet him and know his story. He is now married and living in the Philippines.

One lady, Karen Skolfield, was at the restaurant on more than one occasion when I would give updates; she ask the staff my name and said that she would like to meet me and make a donation to his organization.

I called her and we met; I explained our chapter mission and that all our funds stayed in the local community to assist those in need. The result of the meeting was a \$500 donation.

-Chris Linville



L-R: Past President, Bill Norton, accepting a check from member, Chris Linville.

During the April meeting, newly elected President, Charlie Hobbs presented immediate past President, Bill Norton, with a "thank you for your service" gift.





During the March meeting, Chapter 203 donated \$500 to the Hixson High School ROTC.

L-R: Sgt. Doug Burhan, Assistant Director of Hixson ROTC, accepting the check from past President, Bill Norton.

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Armory Sergeant:
Wayne Walker
423-718-6099

Chapter Chaplain
George Woodruff, Jr
423-488-9599
attorneygeorge@hotmail.com

Honor Guard Coordinator:
Denney Miller
423-227-7182
roadwarrior1n@gmail.com

Membership Chair:
Dan Taylor
423-991-5628
danjrann@bellsouth.net

Missing Man Ceremony Chair:
Bob Holloway
423-802-8681
bobrob241@gmail.com

Product Sales Co-Chairs:
Chris Linville,
423-667-8070
vitalcaretech@gmail.com

"Waterdog" Bunch
423-488-5613

Social Event Coordinator:
Susan Price, AVVA President
423-596-1219
susan_price_2454@msn.com

Vets Helping Vets, Chair:
Larry Anderson
706-280-3618
larryandsue67@optilink.us

TN Memorial Wall Team Chair:
Charlie Hobbs
423-991-5858
nam67mp@aol.com

AVVA MISSION STATEMENT

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

AVVA VISION STATEMENT

To create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families

www.avva.org

AVVA HOLDS CHAPTER ELECTIONS

On Monday, April 2nd, AVVA members elected officers for the upcoming 2018-2020 term. AVVA meets the first Monday of each month at the Best Western in East Ridge. AVVA Chapter 203 has been an incorporated chapter since 2010. We invite you to join us as a member and to our meetings. AVVA publishes a bimonthly newsletter; if you would like to receive a copy contact our new President.



L-R:

Susan Price, President
Joyce Simpson, VP
Kevan Harriss, Treasurer
Secretary: Vacant

CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Susan Price 423-596-1219 susan_price_2454@msn.com

VP: Joyce Simpson 423-987-6851 jsimpson203avva@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kevan Harriss 706-375-8689 Kevanharriss@msn.com

Appointed:

Membership Chair: Janice Brauch 423-316-5599 lbianice13@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Sharon Hobbs 423-364-6385 blondyhobbs@aol.com

MEET OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS

Member, Ben Connor, was the recipient of the *National Achievement Medal* due to his service up-and-beyond toward a needy veteran while volunteering at the VA Chattanooga Outpatient Clinic.

Excerpt of a message from Bo Cox, VA Outpatient Clinic Volunteer Coordinator.....

A Veteran arrived at the TVHS Chattanooga clinic uncertain, with no one to call for help. As he walked through the door, he immediately found Voluntary Service Specialist Bo Cox and explained his dilemma. "My car is tore up. I was headed here and I think the alternator went down on it. I looked behind me and someone was trying to push my car out of the road and into a parking spot," he said. "Can you believe someone did that -- and he was a veteran! He asked me where I was going and I told him to the VA. So was he, so he brought me here," he said. "Can you fix my car?" he asked Cox. "I need it towed to Walmart."



Cox told him she couldn't fix his car. However, Ben Conner, AKA Superhero Volunteer, immediately came to her mind as someone who could probably help the Veteran. Cox found Connor, who patiently waited for the Veteran to finish his appointment, then had a short discussion with him. They then both disappeared.



"Ben returned several hours later very wet, dirty, and wearing auto mechanic shop clothes," said Cox. "Throughout the stormy and wet weather, Ben diagnosed the problem, took the Veteran to the auto parts store to purchase an alternator, made a trip to his home to change clothes and located his tool box," she said. "They worked in the rain while the Veteran held the umbrella and Ben swapped out the old alternator. As they started the car, Ben noticed the check engine light was still on and repaired something else on the car that made the engine light go off." Cox said she was simply amazed. Volunteers like this make her proud to serve with such caring people.

COME CELEBRATE

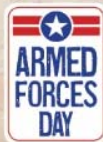
ARMED FORCES WEEK

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAYS

FREE SANDWICH for all active duty service members and veterans.
Thank You For Your Service.

	ARMY	MON, 5/14
	MARINE CORPS	TUE, 5/15
	NAVY	WED, 5/16
	AIR FORCE	THU, 5/17
	COAST GUARD	FRI, 5/18

AN INVITATION FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & VETERANS



**LUNCH WITH
THE HEROES**

11:00AM-2:00PM

SAT, 5/19

Join us for a **FREE SANDWICH** and be sure to arrive
before Noon for our live National Anthem.

MISSION BBQ
The American Way.



MISSION BBQ

1926 Gunbarrel Rd
Chattanooga, TN

"As the founders of MISSION BBQ, we strive every day to remind everyone what makes our Country great- its heroes." Bill & Newt - <https://mission-bbq.com/our-story>

Note: Each day at noon, all service stops while the National Anthem is played. Be sure to plan your visit at noon.

VVA NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TOP PRIORITIES

- Gaining the Fullest Possible Accounting of our POW/MIAs
- Addressing the Legacy of Toxic Exposures
- Fixing the VA
- Organizational Reform of the VA

There are 21.5 million veterans in the United State, of which almost 2/3 never interact with the VA. Most are ignorant of the array of benefits which they have earned by virtue of the military service. Even in the 1/3 of vets who do interact with the VA's healthcare system and/or its benefits administration are not familiar with most of what is available to them, to their families, and to their survivors.

www.vva.org/what-we-do/veterans-advocacy

CHAPLAINS MESSAGE:

I would like to thank each Chapter Member as well as the outgoing President and outgoing Board Members for their service. I also would like to thank the incoming President as well as the incoming Board Members for your willingness to serve. I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for allowing me to be your Chaplain. It is certainly a privilege to serve each of you.

Brothers and Sisters of Vietnam Veteran of America Chapter 203, let us remember to be yet steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

May God Bless You.

George E. Woodruff, Jr.
423-488-9599
attorneygeorge@hotmail.com

Today be thankful and think how rich you are:

- Your family is priceless
- Your time is gold
- Your health is wealth

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

As of March 31st

1-Year: 54
3-Year: 93
Life: 693
TOTAL: 840

RENEWALS DUE BY MONTH

March 4
April 14
May 10
June 6



Twenty-eight renewal notices were sent out to those delinquent in February. Membership responsibilities require vigilant oversight. I will continue to contact those members who are past due, giving them a reminder and an opportunity to stay active. Remember that paying a 3-year membership through the Chapter PO Box reducing the fee to \$30. ***DON'T FORGET TO NOTIFY ME OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, OR EMAIL.***

-Dan Taylor, Chair
423-991-5628

danjrann@bellsouth.net

VVA'S MOTTO

"NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER"

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Make your check payable to **VVA Chapter 203**
Mail to: PO Box 23405 • Chattanooga • TN • 37422

Name: _____ Sex: F M

Mailing Address: _____

Phone (H): _____ Phone (C): _____

E-Mail: _____

Yearly Membership Dues:

1 Year: \$20

Life Membership \$100

3 Years: \$30

NOTE: A copy of your DD214 must accompany this application

PO Box 23405
Chattanooga, TN 37422

