**January 2020**

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1st  Happy New Year Everyone!

**February 2020**

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3rd  Breakfast at the Chat-R-Box - Kellner

6th  Breakfast at Grace's - Wisc. Rapids

9th  NO VVA CHAPTER MEETING!

13th NO VVA CHAPTER MEETING!

16th VFW Post Meeting - 7 pm

20th VFW Post Meeting - 7 pm

25th Joint VVA / VFW Christmas Dinner

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**Monday, January 6, 2020**

Please note the location for breakfast today!!

Come and have breakfast with other chapter members at Grace's in Wisconsin Rapids. Breakfast starts at 9 a.m.

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**Chapter Membership Information**

Life memberships are now $50.00. There is no longer a yearly membership.

YOU MUST SUPPLY A COPY OF YOUR DD - 214 WHEN APPLYING. NO 214, NO MEMBERSHIP!

NATIONAL SAYS THE 214 IS DESTROYED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT.

Contact Ron Clark at 715-421-4615 if you have membership questions or need help.
Breakfast Note

Breakfast this month. Our breakfast meeting will be held at Grace’s in Wisc. Rapids. The date is Monday, January 6th. Breakfast starts at 9 a.m. Please come by and join us!

**************************************************************************

American Heroes Cafe' Activities
Crossview Church – Wisconsin Rapids

The cafe is open and coffee and donuts available for your enjoyment! Looking forward to seeing you there! Please note the closings coming up below.

**************************************************************************

The Cafe will re-open on January 8th. There will be regular hours until March when we take a Winter Break.

**************************************************************************

VVA / VFW Christmas Party

The joint VVA / VFW Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, January 25th, 2020 at the Ponderosa Pines, 287 State Route 73, Bancroft, Wisconsin. The events start at 5:30 pm with a cocktail hour, dinner to follow at 6:15 pm. $5 per person will cover Hall rental and tip.

Dinner & drinks will be off of a limited menu and is the responsibility of each individual / couple. Please sign up at the VFW post or at the American Heroes Café. We need to have a minimum of 40 people.

A list of limited menu items will be posted at the next VVA and VFW meeting. I do know that they will have at least 4 selections available: a beef selection, a chicken selection, a shrimp selection and a pasta selection.

Prices are very reasonable, I think their most expensive meal is less than $25.

For those attending the dinner please see Bill at the Cafe to give him their menu choice and to pay the $5 per person registration fee. Thank you.

**************************************************************************

Biblical Quotes

- For we all are sinners
- A Nun Grading First Grade Papers
  1. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
  2. Solomon, one of David’s sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Wood County Veterans Service Office

For help understanding or applying for your Veteran’s benefits
Office locations: The Courthouse in Wisconsin Rapids and Norwood Annex, 1600 Chestnut Street, Marshfield.
Wisconsin Rapids Phone: 715-421-8420
Marshfield Phone: 715-384-3773
E-mail: veterans@co.wood.wi.us

Current Chapter Officers

President - Bill Haack.
Vice-President - Dave Posey.
Secretary - Tom Heiser.
Treasurer - Bob Skerven.
Sgt-at-Arms - Allan Brown.

Meeting Night

The chapter meets each Second Thursday of the month except for January, February and August.

Meeting Location

All meetings are held at VFW Post 2534 which is located at 2711 Reddin Road, Wisconsin Rapids. Reddin Road is off of Hwy. 34 North as you are leaving Wisconsin Rapids.

We do have a July summer meeting at a different location which is our shelter located at Lyons Park. The park is located just off the west side of the Riverview Expressway bridge and can be accessed off of 2nd Avenue South.

All Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans are invited to join our chapter. The cost is $50 for a lifetime membership.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published monthly in print and electronic media. To save on costs it is preferable if you would receive it via e-mail. To receive the newsletter electronically send your e-mail address to: stack@wctc.net with “Newsletter” in the subject line and you will be added to the list. Thank you - Jim.
Looking Ahead

Jan. 1st - Happy New Year.
Jan. 6th - Breakfast at Grace's, Wisconsin Rapids.
Jan. 9th - **NO CHAPTER 101 MEETING TONIGHT!**
Jan. 16th - VFW Post Meeting - 7 pm.
Jan. 25th - Joint VVA/VFW Christmas Party.
Feb. 3rd - Breakfast at the Chat-R-Box.
Feb. 13th - **NO CHAPTER 101 MEETING TONIGHT!**
Feb. 20th - VFW Post Meeting - 7 pm.
Mar. 11th - First regular Chapter 101 Meeting of the New Year at the VFW Post - 7 pm.
Mar. 18th - VFW Post Meeting - 7 pm.

VVA Monthly Raffle

The "Monthly Drawing" is now being done among those who are present. The 50/50 Drawing continues to be done as before.

In December Bob Holtz won the 50/50 Drawing and Tom Sachs won the Monthly Drawing. Congratulations to both!

Kid’s Advice to Kids

“When your dad is mad and asks you, ‘Do I look stupid?’ don’t answer.”

Hannah, age 9.

Ritchay Funeral Home
715-423-1414
1950 12th St. S.
Wis Rapids, WI

Feldner/Ritchay Funeral Home
715-886-3161
615 1st St
Nekoosa, WI

“Family - to - Family Service”

1. Camping: Where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.
2. If my body is ever found on a jogging trail just know that I was murdered somewhere else and dumped there.
3. Some things are just better left unsaid and I usually realize it right after I say them.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

THANK GOD CALIFORNIA BANNED PLASTIC STRAWS

POW MIA
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN
Chapter Meeting Notes
(Courtesy of Tom Heiser)

VVA Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Haack.

There were 17 members present. The meeting opened according to ritual.

A motion was made by Harry Hilgers, seconded by Al Brown to approve the November meeting minutes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Posey, seconded by Harry Hilgers to approve the November Treasurer’s Report, motion carried.

Reminder that when you recruit a new member Chapter 101 needs to be put on the form or that recruit is listed as a member-at-large.

Thank you to all that participated as color guard in the local parades.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bill Haack gave an update of the events at the Heroes Café and dates they will be closed. Aspiring Acapellas 12/18/19. Bill is setting up other programs and speakers for 2020.

Quilts of Valor will be in May and the LHS band will perform.

Bill wrote a letter to The Highground about the status of their leadership. Bill read the letter to the group. We will be holding off on sending our 2020 donation to The Highground.

Bill will be checking on doing a winter brat fry.

Discussed raising our process to $3.00.

Gary Schoenborn is working on a Monsoon party. Survey for the dates to be sent out in the newsletter.

If anybody wants to order t-shirts see Dave Posey, price to remain the same. Minimum order is 12-24 shirts.

NEW BUSINESS:

January breakfast will be at Grace’s 1/6/20 and the February breakfast will be 2/3/20 at Chat-R-Box at 9:00 am.

Roger Sampson gave a report on the Wisconsin State Council meeting in Waupaca. Our Chapter is eligible to have 8 delegates.

A motion was made by Roger Sampson, seconded by Al Brown to pay current IRS rates for State Council Meetings, motion carried.

A motion was made by Al Brown, seconded by Jim Michels to order 24 stocking hats for the Color Guard. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Posey, seconded by Jim Michels to check on getting “Life Member” VVA patches, motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

A motion was made by Tom Sachs, seconded by Harry Hilgers, to adjourn at 8:10 pm, motion carried.

The next chapter meeting is March 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Monthly meeting drawing winner – Tom Sachs. 50/50 drawing winner – Bob Holtz.

Packers Beat Chiefs
January 15, 1967

On January 15, 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League (NFL) smash the American Football League (AFL)’s Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10, in the first-ever AFL-NFL World Championship, later known as Super Bowl I, at Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles.

Founded in 1960 as a rival to the NFL, the AFL was still finding its way in 1967, and the Packers had been heavily favored to win the game. As 60 million people tuned in to watch the action unfold on television, the Chiefs managed to keep it close for the first half, and by halftime Green Bay was ahead just 14-10. The Chiefs’ only touchdown came in the second quarter, on a seven-yard pass from quarterback Len Dawson to Curtis McClinton.

The Packers, however, proceeded to break the game wide open, after safety Willie Wood intercepted a Dawson pass and returned the ball 50 yards to set up a touchdown. Green Bay scored three more times in the second half, as Elijah Pitts ran in two touchdowns and backup end Max McGee—who came on the field after the starter Boyd Dowler was injured on the sixth play of the game—caught his second touchdown pass of the day. Prior to the game, McGee had made only four receptions all season; he made seven that night, for a total of 138 yards.

The Packers’ famed quarterback, Bryan Bartlett “Bart” Starr, completed 16 of 23 passes on the night. The score at game’s end stood at 35-10, and Starr was named Most Valuable Player. Asked to comment on the match-up after the game, Green Bay Coach Vince Lombardi expressed the common opinion that even the best of the AFL—the Chiefs—“doesn’t compare with the top NFL teams.”

Two years later, the AFL proved itself to doubters by winning its first championship, when Joe Namath led the New York Jets to an upset 16-7 victory over the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III.
PTSD Stamp

Proceeds from sales of a new postage stamp issued on December 2nd will go to support post-traumatic stress disorder research and education at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ National Center for PTSD. The PTSD center, based at the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, includes seven sites around the country that are focused on studying and treating PTSD, a mental health condition some people develop following a traumatic event such as combat, a natural disaster, sexual assault or a car accident. Symptoms may include reliving the event, avoidance of reminders of the event, negative thoughts and anxiety that linger long after the trauma.

While Paula Schnurr, the PTSD center’s executive director, said she is glad to have the revenue stream to support the center’s work, she also hopes the stamp brings awareness to the condition, which will affect tens of millions people in the U.S. — both veterans and civilians — in their lifetimes. Schnurr said she hopes “people who have PTSD or family members see this and they might take some action.” She spoke in a phone interview from Charlotte, N.C., where she participated in an event to celebrate the stamp’s release on Monday. The stamp, which costs 65 cents, features a green plant sprouting from ground covered with fallen leaves that is intended to symbolize the PTSD healing process, according to a news release from the Postal Service. It was designed by Greg Breeding, the postal service’s art director, and includes original photography by Mark Laita, a Los Angeles-based commercial photographer.

Treatment for PTSD both through medication and therapy has improved in recent years, Schnurr said, noting that some of the center’s research is focused on the effectiveness of different treatments. Public awareness of PTSD has grown following the terrorist attacks on 9/11, which caused many first responders and others to develop the condition, she said. Subsequent events such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and numerous mass shootings — including one earlier this year at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, the city where Monday’s stamp ceremony took place — have kept the condition in the public eye.

In addition to Schnurr, speakers at Monday’s event at McGlohon Theater at Spirit Square also included representatives from the American Red Cross, The American Veteran Foundation, the Wounded Warriors Project and the Charlotte Chapter of National Alliance on Mental Illness. Among the speakers was Chuck Denny, the founder of The American Veteran Foundation based in North Carolina, who was a major proponent of the PTSD stamp, in honor of his father, Garland Denny, who served in the Navy in the Korean War and, before his death in 2015, advocated for a stamp to raise money for veteran services. “The Postal Service is honored to issue this semipostal stamp as a powerful symbol of the healing process, growth and hope for tens of millions of Americans who experience PTSD,” David C. Williams, vice chairman of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service, said in a news release. “Today, with the issuance of this stamp, the nation renews its commitment to raise funds to help treat soldiers, veterans, first responders, health care providers and other individuals dealing with this condition.”

The price of the stamp includes the cost of a first-class stamp at the time of purchase — which is 55 cents currently — and an amount to fund PTSD research. They are available at post offices around the country, through an online shop at www.usps.com/shop or by calling 800-STAMP24. Sheets of 20 can be purchased for $13. Congress, through the Semipostal Authorization Act, allows the Postal Service to issue and sell “semipostal” stamps to benefit causes that are “in the national public interest and appropriate.” Revenue from sales of the Healing PTSD stamp — less the cost of postage and reasonable costs incurred by the Postal Service — will go to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

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Idle Thoughts - from Tom Heiser

The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".

Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
VA Blue Water Claims

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) begins deciding Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 claims, Jan. 1, 2020, extending the presumption of herbicide exposure that includes toxins such as Agent Orange, to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Prior to the measure, only Vietnam War Veterans who served on the ground in Vietnam or within Vietnam’s inland waterways were eligible to receive disability compensation and other benefits based on a presumption of herbicide exposure.

Signed into law on June 25th, the law specifically affects Blue Water Navy (BWN) Veterans who served as far as 12 nautical miles offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 6, 1962 and May 7, 1975, as well as Veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between Jan. 1, 1967 and Aug. 31, 1971. These Veterans can apply for disability compensation and other benefits if they have since developed one of 14 conditions that are presumed to be related to exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange. Veterans do not need to prove that they were exposed to herbicides. The specific conditions can be found by searching Agent Orange on www.va.gov.

“‘For six months VA worked diligently to gather and digitize records from the Naval History and Heritage Command in order to support faster claims decisions,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “These efforts will positively impact the claims process for Veterans filing for these benefits” Qualifying recipients, in addition to affected Veterans still living, are certain survivors of deceased BWN and Korean DMZ Veterans.

Survivors can file claims for benefits based on the Veteran's service if the Veteran died from at least one of the 114 presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange. The law also provides benefits for children born with spina bifida if their parent is or was a Veteran with certain verified service in Thailand during a specific period. The Blue Water Navy Act also includes provisions affecting the VA Home Loan Program. The law creates more access for Veterans to obtain no-down payment home loans, regardless of loan amount, and the home loan funding fee is reduced for eligible Reservists and National Guard borrowers who use their home loan benefits for the first time. Certain Purple Heart recipients do not pay a funding fee at all. VA’s website describes these and other benefits.

Veterans who want to file an initial claim for an herbicide-related disability can use VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits or work with a VA-recognized Veterans Service Organization to assist with the application process. Veterans may also contact their state Veterans Affairs Office. BWN Veterans who previously filed a claim seeking service connection for one of the 14 presumptive conditions that was denied by VA may provide or identify any new and relevant information regarding their claim when reapplying. To re-apply, Veterans may use VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim. As a result of the new law, VA will automatically review claims that are currently in the VA review process or under appeal.

VA and Urgent Care

Have a sore throat, earache, or strained muscle? Then consider contacting your VA facility or using the community urgent care benefit available to eligible Veterans under the MISSION Act. VA facilities across the country offer same-day primary care and mental health services, and many offer additional services as well. With the new community urgent care benefit, eligible Veterans can also visit a local walk-in retail health clinic or urgent care center that is part of VA’s contracted network. Urgent care providers treat non-emergent symptoms or conditions such as ear infections, minor burns, and mild skin infections. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away!

To be eligible for the urgent care benefit, you must be enrolled in the VA health care system and have received care from VA (either in a VA facility or a community provider) within the past 24 months. To check eligibility, contact your local VA medical facility or call 1-833-4VETNOW (1-833-483-8669). Eligible Veterans can receive urgent care from an urgent care provider in VA’s contracted network without prior authorization from VA. Following are ten frequently asked questions by vets regarding this program:

1. How do I find the nearest in-network community urgent care provider?

Use the VA’s Facility Locator which can be found online at https://www.va.gov/find-locations/ and click on the VA-approved urgent care locations and pharmacies near you. There are currently two types of urgent care network locations: walk-in retail health clinics and urgent care centers. Seek care at a retail location for an uncomplicated illness such as a sore throat. Visit an urgent location for more pressing illnesses or injuries requiring services such as splinting, casting, or wound treatment.

2. What do I do when I arrive at an urgent care location? What type of identification will I be asked to show?

(Continued on next page)
There is no identification card needed for VA’s urgent care benefit. When you arrive, verify they are part of VA’s contracted network, complete the intake form, and tell the provider you would like to use your VA urgent care benefit. The provider will check your eligibility. Both Veterans and providers can call 1-833-4VETNOW (1-833-483-8669) to confirm eligibility. Veterans can call 1-866-620-2071 for other issues related to the urgent care benefit.

3. Does urgent care cost anything?

No, you do not have to pay anything at the time of the visit. If you owe a co-payment, VA will send you a bill. Co-payments are $30, but your liability will depend on your assigned priority group and the number of times you have used your urgent care benefit in a calendar year. Learn more about urgent care co-payments.

4. How does prescription medication work for urgent care?

VA will pay for or fill prescriptions for urgent care. For routine prescription medication longer than a 14-day supply, the prescription must be submitted to VA to be filled. Before filling the prescription, VA will verify the urgent care visit. If there are issues with filling your prescription, call 1-866-620-2071.

5. There are no urgent care clinics in my area. What do I do?

Contact your local VA medical facility to discuss options. Same-day primary and mental health services are available at all VA medical centers. In addition, VA continues to expand its contracted network of urgent care providers so that most Veterans are within a 30-minute drive time from their home to a network urgent care/retail location.

6. If there are no in-network urgent care facilities nearby, can I visit an Emergency Department (ED) instead?

If you are having difficulties receiving urgent care services, contact your local VA medical facility. Same-day primary and mental health services are available at all VA medical centers. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department immediately. Please note that VA can only pay for a Veteran’s emergency care under certain conditions.

7. Can I use the in-network urgent care provider at my local pharmacy as my primary care provider (PCP)?

No. Urgent care is not a replacement for services your PCP offers. Use urgent care for treating minor, non-emergent illnesses and injuries. The urgent care benefit does not cover preventive health care offered by your primary care physician. Always consider talking with or seeing your PCP if you are concerned that the urgent care provider will not understand the complexities of your medical history or medications.

8. How do I know if I need urgent care or emergency care?

Urgent care is for non-life-threatening illnesses or injuries such as strep throat, pink eye, or a strained muscle. Emergency care is for an injury, illness, or symptom so severe that a prudent layperson reasonably believes that delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be hazardous to life or health. Such life-threatening major illnesses or injuries could include severe chest pain, seizures, loss of awareness, heavy uncontrollable breathing, or severe burns. For emergency care, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away. Please note that VA can only pay for a Veteran’s emergency care under certain conditions.

9. What if I arrive at an in-network urgent care location and have difficulty receiving care?

Contact 866-620-2071 or your local VA medical facility.

10. How do I get a free flu shot?

Veterans can receive a flu shot at their local VA medical facility or from any Walgreens location, paid for by VA. Veterans can also receive a flu shot, paid for by VA, at an in-network urgent care location, but it must be administered in conjunction with a condition requiring urgent care.

(Source: Vantage Point - December 1, 2019)
Upcoming Events / Articles

1. Page 1 - Calendar.
2. Page 2 - Next Breakfast Date.
3. Page 3 - Raffles / Looking Ahead.
4. Page 4 - Chapter Meetings Notes.
5. Page 5 - PTSD Stamp.