

# V.V.A. Clermont County Chapter 649

## MAY NEWLETTER 2014



### Sick-Bay : Report :

*There were no Sick Bay reports submitted to make notice of. This must mean Spring is here and everyone is doing well. If this is the case, then why not come to our May 8 Membership Meeting and support our newly elected officers.*

### \* \* \* May BIRTHDAYS

05 / 03- Dan Arnie	05 / 11- Burgionne Fee	05 / 21- Dan Frazee
05 / 03- Gary Bryant	05 / 18- Tommy Brown	05 / 22- Francis Erne Jr.
05 / 07- David Miller	05 / 19- Eddie Sweet	05 / 23- Jim Haas
05 / 09- Victor Hogue	05 / 19- Jim Smith	05 / 23- Raymond Dixon
05 / 11- Bill Graybill	05 / 20- Sherry Hornberger	

### Guest Speaker : Caitlin Milo,

Caitlin, a lawyer with the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, works with low-income veterans in SW Ohio assisting primarily with VA benefits and housing matters.

### April ~ Chapter Election Results

April 10, Chapter 649 held its annual elections during our regularly scheduled membership meeting night. Approximately 75 voting members were in attendance. Congratulations to all our newly elected officers !

**President** - Mark Brandon, **1st Vice** - Ken Williamson, **2nd Vice** - Bob Wilms,  
**Secretary** - Jim Sullivan, **Treasurer** - Wayne Gregory

**Board Of Directors** : Don Sheppard / Steve Tam / Ben Joehnk / Bill Barker / Michael Newman

**Delegates** , Two Year Term : Don Sheppard / Steve Tam / Michael Newman / Gene Wilt / Jim Sullivan (Alt)

**A,V.V.A.** Elections were also held with only AVVA members in attendance permitted to vote for their Representative Candidate of Chapter 649, which now consist of a two year term.

**A.V.V.A Representative** : Joann Gregory

### April ~ 11, 2014



Photo by Linda Blankenship

### President Thomas R. Burke Buckeye State Council, Awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America Commendation Medal

*Vietnam Veterans of America life member Tom Burke, President of the Buckeye State Council and VVA National Public Affairs Chair, was recognized April 11, 2014, at the VVA National Board of Directors Meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland, for his work on behalf of America's veterans.*

*Tom Burke - pictured with VVA National President John Rowan - was presented with the VVA Commendation Medal, the organization's highest award, for his outstanding leadership, his selfless commitment to all veterans, and his exemplary service to his community.*

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday May 8**

**LOCATION**  
**Union Twp. Civic Center**  
**4350 Aicholtz Road**  
**Clermont County, Ohio**  
**Food @ 7:00 PM**  
**Business @ 7:30**

**Guest Speaker immediately**  
**after the pledge of allegiance**

**June Meeting Date**  
**Thursday - June 12**

### AVVA Membership

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of Am. Members actively participate and work in supporting VVA .  
If you have a friend or relative who is not eligible to join VVA, talk to them about joining AVVA.

For a \$20.00 annual dues fee you can become a member, and help further VVA programs.

Applications are available on Chapter 649 website or see Joann at the meeting.

**WELCOME HOME**



**MAY**

**\* \* \* V. V. A. OHIO - 2014 STATE CONVENTION**

**Friday, May 9, 2014**

Break-Out Sessions Provided By, V V A National Personal

**Saturday, May 10, 2014**

Opening Ceremony: - Begin at 9:00 A.M. / Election of State Council Officers / Break-Outs / Banquet

Note : All State Council Officer Positions are Open.

There will also be a Buckeye State Council Membership held Saturday ( Time : TBA)

*( A minimum of One Delegate Must Attend the Four (4) Yearly Membership Meetings, ...  
OR Substitute one missed meeting, by attending One (1) District Directors Meeting, to be eligible  
for HGSP funds.*

**Saturday May 10, 2014 - AVVA**

*There will be a separate room provided for an AVVA Membership Meeting and also voting for Ohio State  
AVVA Representative. AVVA members welcome to Attend.*

*Come in and meet your AVVA National President, Sharon Hobbs.*

*Time and room, (TBA)*

**Sunday, May 11, 2014**

Town Hall Meeting : - Agent Orange "The Faces Of Agent Orange"

( what's effecting our children & grandchildren )

Where - - Holiday Inn - East Gate - Clermont County

**Friday May 9th - CONVENTION BREAK - OUTS**

**Room #**

- 1:00pm - 1:45pm - (A) - Veterans Health Issues - Dr. Tom Berger
- 2:00pm - 2:45pm - (A) - Veterans Service Foundation - Keith King
- 3:00pm - 3:45pm - (A) - Ohio Veterans Home - Mike Michalski
- 4:00pm - 4:45pm - (A) - Chapter Leadership - Sandy Wilson

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**Saturday May 10th - CONVENTION BREAK - OUTS**

**Room #**

- 1:00pm - 1:45pm** (A) - My Healthy Vet - Cincinnati VA  
(B) - Chapter Management - Sandy Wilson
- 2:00pm - 2:45pm** (B) - Senior Fraud - Attorney Generals Office  
(A) - Benefits & Claims - Cincinnati VA
- 3:00pm - 3:45pm** (A) - Veterans Health Council - Dr. Tom Berger  
(B) - Veterans Court - Bob Wallace

**SUNDAY - MAY 11**

**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Town Hall Meeting :  
Agent Orange**

**"The Faces Of Agent Orange"  
What's Affecting  
Our Children  
& Grandchildren**

**Public Welcome,  
And Encouraged  
To Attend**

**Admission:  
FREE**



**\* \* \* Chapter 649 - Meet & Greet**

Chapter 649 will hold its Spring *Meet & Greet*, making all local veterans, and their families, aware of the veteran benefits entitled to them.

When - - May 10, and May 11,

Where - - Sam's Club - East-Gate (*Clermont County*)

Time - - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**Sub. H.B. 85**

130th General Assembly  
(As Passed by the House)

**BILL SUMMARY**

Increases, from \$25,000 to \$50,000, the amount of the homestead exemption available to veterans who are permanently and totally disabled. Exempts these veterans from the existing \$30,000 income threshold for homestead eligibility.

**CONTENT AND OPERATION - Increased homestead exemption for disabled veterans**

The homestead exemption is a property tax credit equal to the taxes that would be charged on up to \$25,000 of the true value of a home owned by a qualified elderly or disabled homeowner. ("True value" is the appraised fair market value.) The credit essentially exempts \$25,000 of the value of a homestead from taxation. It also applies to manufactured and mobile homes regardless of whether they are taxed as real property or taxed under the manufactured homes tax (except that manufactured and mobile homes are assessed at 40% of cost or market value and are depreciated). The amount of the tax reduction for a homestead depends on the local tax rate: the higher the tax rate, the greater the tax reduction.

To learn more visit :<http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses130/h0085-ph-130.pdf>

To write Ohio, Senator Joseph W. Uecker to voice your concerns toward HB 85, view a pre-made letter to Senator Uecker, for you to print-out and sign.

Click <http://www.vva649.org/newsletters/2014/05may/hr85.pdf>



## UPCOMING CHAPTER 649 EVENTS

### MAY

- **May 8, Chapter 649 Membership Meeting 7:00 PM ( Food Served @ 6:30 PM )**
- **May 9, 10, 11 - V V A State Convention - East Gate - Holiday Inn**
- **May 10 / 11 - MEET & GREET - Sam's Club - East Gate - 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM**
- **May 17 - "Take A Warrior Fishing Day"**
- **May 26 - Memorial Day - Union Township Park - Remembering Our Fallen**

### JUNE

- **June 8 - Flag Retirement Ceremony - Union Township Civic Center**
- **June 25 - V A Hospital - Cincinnati - Bingo Night**

### SEPTEMBER

- **SEPTEMBER 6 - Golf Outing - Fundraiser - Elk's Run Golf Club - Batavia**

### OCTOBER

### NOVEMBER

### DECEMBER

- **DECEMBER 2 - Chapter 649 - Bingo Night- V A Hospital**