



# V.V.A. Clermont County Chapter 649 JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2017

**HAPPY - NEW YEAR, 2017**

## **January 12 - Guest Speaker**

Our guest speaker for January is Dietrich Stallsworth, SSG (ret) US Army and Chief - Operating Officer of Summit For Soldiers. **Summit or Soldiers** will be climbing to each of the 50 State highpoints (loftier goals - TBA!) and along the way we will be working hard to make some changes for the better for the veterans who participate.

Their mission is *to utilize outdoor adventure programs to provide camaraderie, support, education, encouragement as a therapeutic approach to healing and recovery for veterans, service-members and family members who are living with or suffering from service-related mental health injuries or loss to suicide.*

## **2017 Budget and Chapter Activities**

The VVA 649 Finance committee met in December to recommend the 2017 budget. Following a line item discussion, the Board passed the budget at their December meeting for presentation to the membership at the January 12th meeting.

A list of Chapter activities will also be presented to the membership at the January meeting.

*Please call Ken Williamson if you have a suggestion for an activity or other questions.*

## **Dec. 8 - Christmas Dinner & - And AR-15 Winning Ticket**

Our annual Christmas party was held on Thursday, December 8th at the Clermont County Fairgrounds. Turkeys and hams were donated by the chapter and guests brought side dishes and desserts. Two members, Wayne Gregory and Cliff Riley were recognized with a plaque for their longtime service to Chapter 649, Wayne, for his 20 years service as Treasurer and work on the website and newsletter, and Cliff for his extraordinary accomplishment in the area of membership - responsible for signing up well over 100 members as past president and membership chairman.

Chapter 649 also held a Split -The Pot collection at our Christmas Dinner. Half of the proceeds would go the winner, while the other half would go to, V.F.W. Post 72 - Clermont County Neediest Kids Program. The winner donated the money back to the chapter. Chapter 649 then added \$200 to the \$230 raised, as is our tradition, the \$430 will be donated to the Neediest Kids program.

**AR-15 Fundraiser** - The winning ticket was drawn at the Christmas dinner. **Ticket # 0097.**

The ticket has now been claimed, and we have a winner.  
"Thank You" to all who purchased tickets, and supported our Chapter 649 Fundraiser !  
Congratulations to Ticket Holder # 0097 !!

## **Dec. 17 - Christmas Gifts for our Veterans in Need**

A group of Chapter 649 volunteers assembled at Union Township Civic Center at noon on Sunday, December 15th to begin our annual gift distribution to local veterans. This year Chapter 649 gave a total of \$4900, allowing us to assist 14 veterans and their families, including two 649 members. Each family received a \$150 Kroger gift card for food and a \$200 Visa gift card. Names of the recipients are confidential. Thanks to all chapter 649 members who helped with our fundraising activities in 2016 and to all those who gave part of their Sunday to deliver the gifts.

## **OUR NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday Jan. 12**

### **LOCATION**

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

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

**February Meeting Date  
Thursday - February 9**

### **AVVA Membership**

Associates of Vietnam Veterans  
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



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## Membership - New Members

VVA National has informed all VVA Ohio Chapters that we can no longer offer New Member cost for \$ 9.00. Beginning January 1, 2017, New Members Dues for one year membership, will again cost \$ 20.00 per year. Over the past few years State Council & Ohio Chapters were allowed to Waive their cost, to lower the New Member cost to only be \$ 9.00, as an incentive for new members to join their home-town chapter, to view their meetings, and learn more about what his or her chapter does to help local area veterans within their community, who may not be aware of the benefits entitled to them and their families, or become a Officer, or Delegate within said Chapter. Yes, all VVA monthly membership meetings are still open to the public to attend, but the Dues to become a member will now cost \$20.00

## Chapter 649 Membership Count

As of November 30, 2016 - **V.V.A.** Chapter 649 now has 278 members.  
Chapter 649 - **A.V.V.A.** - Now has 38 members.

Chapter 649 set a goal to have 300 members by January 31. We are now 22 members short of our goal. By obtaining 300 members, as a chapter, we will meet the quota to elect two more Delegates to attend the 2017 Convention, to be held in New Orleans.  
Chapter 649 also has a few members who have not paid their yearly dues, and soon will drop-off as a member of 649. We only have 31 days left to fulfill our goal of 300. Please consider helping chapter 649 reach its goal, by signing up, eligible Veterans whom you may know, as a new member of Chapter 649

**VVA Chapter 649 - Board Of Directors, Wishes All Veterans, Wherever You May Be,  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01 / 02- Richard Walsh	01 / 20- Robert Lehmkuhl
01 / 03- Jim Wilson	01 / 24- Dennis Bauer
01 / 03- Richard Willenbrink	01 / 24- Robert Flanders
01 / 05- Eddie R. Brierly	01 / 24- Wayne Hilton
01 / 09- Neda Nutley Avva	01 / 25- John Moemound
01 / 10- Leonard Muller	01 / 25- Louis Akers Jr.
01 / 10- Ralph Keller	01 / 25- Richard Hebenstreit
01 / 12- Daniel Bauer	01 / 26- Don Chandler
01 / 18- David Snider	01 / 28- Wally Clark
01 / 19- Ralph Walters	01 / 29- Thomas Mabry
01 / 20- Calvin Sheap	01 / 30- Richard Ballard

## Chapter 649 - Board Of Directors 2016

Ken Williamson	President	Don Sheppard	B.O.D.	Don Sheppard	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Michael Newman	1st Vice	Steve Tam	B.O.D.	Steve Tam	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Mark Brandon	2nd Vice	Gene Wilt	B.O.D.	Michael Newman	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Dan Schulte	Secretary	Bill Barker	B.O.D.	Gene Wilt	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term
Wayne Gregory	Treasurer	Thomas Olenick	B.O.D.	Tom Bixler	Delegate - 2 Yr. Term

**A.V.V.A. - Chapter 649 - Elected Representative - Joann Gregory**

To all of our New Members, & subscribers, who may not be aware of;  
Other VVA Websites Links, that you may wish to "Save", for easy access.

VVA - Chapter 649 Website - <http://www.vva649.org/index.html>  
VVA - Buckeye State Council Website - <http://www.vvaohio.com/index.htm>  
VVA - National Website - <http://www.vva.org/>