



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 437

Chapter 437 report

June 15, 2019

In March our chapter donated to the UW Oshkosh Veterans Resource Center Cornhole Tournament. Later, they gave us a Certificate of Appreciation for our donation.

One of our members, Bruce Williams had an accident and he needed surgery on both of his knees and was laid up for a month. He is doing better but not completely healed yet.

We started to get the 4th of July parade organized for this year as we have been doing this since 1991.

Our AVVA provided meals for the Day by Day Warming Shelter for the homeless again as they do this once a month. Some of our VVA members also help.

In April our chapter donated to the Artists for the Humanities which helps veterans through art therapy.

We also updated our bi-laws and our AVVA provided meals for the Day by Day Warming Shelter.

In May we had a guest speaker at our meeting, BJ Elliott Prior, a retired flight attendant. She is the author for her book, "Behind My Wings." She worked for the Continental Airlines (MAC) Operations, transporting soldiers during the Vietnam War. She was also the guest speaker for the Oshkosh Memorial Day Program. She spoke the next day at Oshkosh West High School to some of the students and our president, Duane Canon also spoke briefly on his experience in the Vietnam War. Then Dave Steinert spoke briefly about his experience in the Gulf War.

We had an Orange Blossom Drive on May 17th and 18th at two of the Kwik Trips in Oshkosh. We did pretty good for donations. This year there will not be Sawdust Days in Oshkosh as the city canceled the event. This event was one of our biggest fund raiser for the year. Now we had to depend on the Orange Blossom Drives for funds this year unless something else comes up.

One of our members passed away last Oct. and he lived in South Carolina. His wife wanted to have a memorial service for him in Oshkosh in May. Some of our members were on the Honor Guard rifle detail for him.

The American Legion, Post 234 of Omro was having a golf tournament and our chapter sponsor a hole again.

For June so far, we participated in the Flag Day Parade in Appleton and a Flag day program at the Elks Club in Oshkosh.

Our Chapter is getting a letter make up to send out to the different veteran organizations and their Auxiliary, to different businesses, and to the public for donations to the Old Glory Honor Flight in Appleton. We usually did this at the Sawdust Days event, but the event was cancelled by the City of Oshkosh. Last year we raised over \$4600 and some of the money went to "Return to Nam". We are hoping to raise \$5000 this year.

Duane T. Canon

Duane T. Canon, President

Chapter 437, Oshkosh