

AT THE STATE LEVEL

On June 18th Greg Cain and I attended the New York State Council Meeting. Unfortunately, the attendance was low at just about 50%.

A lot of emphasis was put on the upcoming National Convention in August, this year.

President, Ned Foote was the 2010 recipient of the Veteran of the Year Award. This is the first time a Vietnam Veteran has been nominated for the award. It is a great honor for President Ned and for the Vietnam Veterans as a community.

I have been contacted by 2 Vietnam in country veterans recently regarding claims for exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Thailand. Both claims were reviewed and the board agrees that medical conditions they claim do exist; however the claims were denied because the veterans did not serve in Vietnam itself. In both cases the S.O. would not appeal and filed the claims until the climate changed with the VA. Thailand is considered to be part of the Vietnam Theatre in all respects and I advised the vets to get a new S.O. and appeal. Dee Garcia VVA's S.O. and I spoke of the issue and she said immediately to have them appeal. This is just another case of the VA and our elected employees in Washington screwing around with our lives to save pennies as compared to the BILLIONS they waste every day. **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!!**

If you move(change addresses) you are obligated to inform the VAMC as well as the chapter. The same applies for death of a spouse if you receive additional compensation for that spouse in your disability claim. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**

D.I.C. claims are no longer processed in the Buffalo Regional Office. They are being processed in Phila. Pa.

The VA is making Direct Deposit mandatory for all disabled vets receiving compensation or retirement benefits. By 2012 you will have to set up a DIRECT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT before then. If you have any questions call your S.O., speak with someone at the VA or go to www.godirect.org for more information

We need a chapter 77 volunteer to update the State weekly web site. This would only take 30 minutes of your time on a regular basis and keeps the New York (and other interested States) up to date on what Chapter 77 is doing for the community and the veteran population in our area. See me if you are interested and I'll give you more info.

There will be 9 resolutions voted on at the convention this year. In you are interested in what will currently reach the floor read your VETERAN MAGAZINE.

JPAC has been busy and has identified a number of MIA/POW remains recently. The number of MIA's still unaccounted for in Vietnam stands at 1,689. **REMEMBER!**

Chapter 77 is still the largest chapter in New York State, however Chapter 20 is breathing down our necks. We show membership of 551 with an increase of 19 members over the past quarter, chapter 20 shows 503 members with an increase of 42 members over the same period. Maybe YOU could help increase our membership.

That's what's going on with your NYSC this quarter.