



The Vet Connection

In this Issue...

Volume 2 Issue 4

April 2018

From the President
Scott Duke
 Tvc.pres@zona.net



| | |
|--|---------|
| <i>From the President</i> | Page 1 |
| <i>Meet a Vet</i> | Pag 3 |
| <i>50th Anniversary Vietnam War Hike</i> | Pag 4 |
| <i>Adopt-A-Street Update</i> | Page 5 |
| <i>Membership Update</i> | Page 6 |
| <i>Operation Bright Idea</i> | Page 7 |
| <i>Who am I</i> | Page 8 |
| <i>Practice? This was a Match</i> | Page 10 |
| <i>Veterans Outreach Center Update</i> | Page 11 |
| <i>Letter from U.S. VETS</i> | Page 13 |
| <i>Bocce Tournament Schedule</i> | Page 14 |
| <i>Agenda</i> | Page 15 |

I could not be any prouder of this club! As the year progresses, we continue to be successful in our new missions, especially MANA House and Veterans Outreach Center. Mission Leaders, **Ron Gabaldon** and **Chris Salzer** have really embraced this mission and thanks to YOUR help, both programs are thriving! We also continue to grow our Adopt-A-Street program (**Bruce Murray**—Mission Leader), which has expanded the area that is now being cleaned. I am also excit-

ed about the start of another new ad-hoc mission in early June — Operation Homefront’s “Back-to-School” Brigade, led by our mission leader, **Bill Morse**. This month, we will hear directly from the mission organizer, **Teresa Herrera**. She is our guest speaker for April and my guess is Bill will get plenty of volunteers to support this new club mission for 2018.

Are you getting pumped for the first-ever Military Services Bocce Tournament yet? I sure

am! This is going to be a wonderful event and we are pulling out all the stops for the big tourney. We will have audio support to announce the games, we will have a large poster that shows the progress of each team through the tournament, and we will award Bocce dog tags for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. We will also be expecting LOTS of trash talking as

(Continued on page 2)

DATES FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS **(Meetings start at 4:00 pm!)**

“The Vet Connection” is a monthly newsletter for the members of the Trilogy Veteran’s Club. If you have an article that you would like published, please send to Scott Duke at tvc.pres@zona.net

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>January 30, 2018</i> | <i>June 26, 2018</i> |
| <i>February 27, 2018</i> | <i>July 31, 2018</i> |
| <i>March 27, 2018</i> | <i>August 28, 2018</i> |
| <i>April 24, 2018</i> | <i>September 25, 2018</i> |
| <i>May 29, 2018</i> | <i>October 30, 2018</i> |



(Continued from page 1)

each military service battles for bragging rights and being crowned victorious! We have 8 teams and nearly 40 club members competing, so come on out and cheer for your military service, even if you are not on a team. We will have plenty of water and even some snacks as each team tries to advance through their Group and play for the championship! Don't forget to wear your red-shirts (players and spectators), but feel free to wear a hat that represents your branch of service! See you there!

We continue to be successful in our membership drive. As many of you know, once a month, your Board of Directors staff a Veterans Club table at both Kiva and Mita clubs. Additionally, we advertise on MTL (My Trilogy Life) and **Bob Meizinger** does a great job for us at the weekly Coffee Talk. Word of mouth also plays a role in our efforts to increase membership. The numbers speak for themselves. One year ago (April 2017), our membership number was 133. This month (check out **Mark Grindle's** article on page 6) our membership number is 140. Of this number, we are 100% paid in full on dues for 2018. That is as remarkable as it is amazing. My thanks to all of you that talk about the great work the Veterans Club does to your friends and at social events around the community.

Finally, I just want to mention once again how wonderful and beautiful the Veterans Club Memorial Brick Display looks at the

Flagpole (Kiva Club). This idea was hatched several months ago by club member, **Bill Hohman**. Bill asked me to meet him at the flagpole and when I arrived, he presented an idea that would not only enhance the look of the bricks, but also update the display, rearrange some bricks so family members could be together, and to repair a few flaws in leveling and squaring off of the overall display. Bill had some help with the project; **Paul Bernard**, **Bob Prow**, and **Bruce Murray** took part in various tasks of the project that helped Bill put the whole thing together. The whole project only cost the club \$208.00, and now we have a brilliant tribute to our families that "wore/wear the uniform." Well done!



Mountain View Magazine Highlights Trilogy Veterans Club

The **Mountain View Magazine**, which is a publication that is delivered to residents of Trilogy and the Vistancia community, will highlight the Trilogy Veterans Club in their June issue.

The article will feature several pictures of club members "in action" as well as explaining the mission of the club and how they support military veterans in need.

Make sure you look for this magazine (Mountain View) in June and read all about our club and the volunteer work being completed by members of the club. The magazine comes directly to your mail box.

Meet a Vet



Our “Meet a Vet” this month is the Navy’s **John Fritze** (pronounced fritz –e).

John was born in Anoka, Minnesota in 1953 (he’s just a kid compared to some of us). He spent the majority of his time growing up in the City of Minneapolis.

He joined the Navy in November 1971 and served just under four years, until September 1975. He started out in boot camp in San Diego – all part of his choice for enlisting. John attended Class A school for Operations Specialist in Great Lakes, Illinois. He served on the USS Providence



CLG-6 and participated in the first multi-cruiser strike force since World War II, raiding Haiphong harbor twice, during the night. He toured Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, and frequented Subic Bay, Philippines for replenishment. He served his second tour of duty on the USS Towers DDG-9.

Soon after John completed his service time, he returned to Minneapolis and started a family. He has a son Stephen, 40 years old, and a daughter Amy, 38. They have given him four grandkids: three girls and a boy, ages 14, 13, 9 and 5.

Shortly after his time in the service, he went to work for the United States Postal Service in Special Delivery. After 37 ½ years with the Post Office it was time to retire in July 2011.

John has been married to his wife Jan for 22 years. Jan spent most of her career as a teacher specializing in Early Childhood Special Education.

Jan and John discovered Trilogly and rented for two winters, then decided to buy a home here in June 2015.

If only he could be cloned, it would give him a better opportunity to enjoy all that is offered in this great community!



50th Anniversary of Vietnam War—Hike

It was a special day on March 29th as the Veterans Club started the morning off with a hike up the Vietnam Memorial Trail, located outside of Trilogy at Vistancia on Jomax Road.

Led by Mission Leader, **Scott Carty**, veterans took the 1,429 foot hill, which takes about 20 minutes to climb.

At the top of the trail, proudly stands the American Flag and a great view of the surrounding area.



Adopt-A-Street

Bruce Murray

Mtxtopaz@gmail.com



It was another successful outing for the Adopt-A-Street mission, lead by mission leader, Bruce Murray.

This mission goes out on the last Saturday of each month and picks up trash along El Mirage and N. Vistancia Blvd. LOTS of trash was hauled away and the area sure does look much cleaner.

Helping out on the March clean-up were club members: **Bruce Murray, Paul Bernard, Ken Johnson, Larry DiGiovanni, Bill Hohman, and Mike Wertheimer.** Supporting us from Luke AFB was **Mariah Blazicek-Dills** and **Jacob Raisenen.** Afterwards most headed over to the Bernard's for a home cooked

breakfast! Thanks to Anna for doing that for the volunteers!

Trash Trivia: The top two trash items that are picked up? 1) cigarette filters, and 2) water bottle caps!



Our own **Richard Brown** (member-at-large) continues to travel through Vietnam on his return since deployed in the 60's.

Richard noted, "Who woulda ever thunk I'd ever be drinking this?"

Richard and Patricia return home on April 24th and we wish them a safe return to Paradise!



Membership Update

Mark Grindle

jetsetter05@msn.com

Over the last several months, we have had some great activities. These events have not only helped veterans get back on their feet but allow our membership get to know each other better through social and fun activities. Your Board of Directors' focus over the past several months has not only been increasing out membership but more importantly members retention.

Currently, we have 140 members representing all U.S. services as well as members from Canada and England. Our community not only recognizes the TVC by our red shirts and white hats but as well as the good deeds we do in the Trilogy community and the Phoenix valley. There has been a few changes we are trying to keep our members better informed. First, when a new member joins the club, they receive an e-mail with a welcome letter from our President, Scot Duke, and a TVC brochure of our BODs and mission leaders. Second, we are constantly updating our TVC website, tvveteranclub.weebly.com, with information and pictures of our activities, and most importantly listening to your input on how we can better the Club and your experience.





“We exceeded our expectations,” Those were the words of club president, Scott Duke as they finished collecting used/new light bulbs from Trilogy residents.

Led by project officer, **Dave Wagie**, both men stood tall at their station in the parking lot of the Kiva Club as car after car drove by, dropping off light bulbs for the Club’s support of U.S. VETS. Dubbed, **“OPERATION BRIGHT IDEA,”** the plan was to collect a few light bulbs and present them to the Grand Veterans Village (GVV) in Phoenix, who use those light bulbs for the rooms that help military veterans in need. The GVV provides transitional housing for homeless military veterans.

Both veterans were shocked when the final count was over 1,100 light bulbs!

All light bulbs were packed into the truck of the GVV manager, **Calvin Jackson** (retired Command Sergeant Major from the Army), who was overwhelmed with the support of the Veterans Club. He was also given \$40 by two generous residence, who didn’t have any light bulbs, but wanted to help!



Scott Duke (L), Dave Wagie (C), and Calvin Jackson pose for a picture after filling both the inside and outside of his truck with light bulbs.

Thirsty Troop Thursday brings out the Group!

Thanks to all the veterans that came out for Triple T (Thirsty Troop Thursday). It was a terrific event that included LOTS of talk about the upcoming Bocce tournament, Vietnam, and movies stars that served in the military! Love attending this event!



Mission Leader, **Chris Salzer** will be sending out a link to Sign-up Genius for May's menu (Veterans Outreach Center). Items fill up quickly, so as soon as you get the link, I recommend you head over to the site and see what is available to provide. This mission provides a home-cooked (Crock-pot) meal to homeless military veterans at the Veterans Outreach Center in Phoenix. Chris released the link on April 11th.



Stu Bernstein for May



Do you know who I am?

I am a member of the Trilogy Veterans Club and served in the United States Army.

Answer can be found on page 15

The Board



PRESIDENT
Scott Duke
tvc.pres@zona.net



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SECRETARY
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Member-at-Large
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Member-at-Large
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mtxtopaz@gmail.com



Member-at-Large
Joe Ingalls
jingalls15@cox.net



Congratulations to **John Fowler!** John was the winner of the club’s monthly raffle. He won dinner for two at V’s Taproom.

This month the raffle will be a *Gift card from IHOP.* Future raffles will include gift cards from Home Depot, Village Inn, Lowe’s, Haymakers, Lowes, Harkins, and Stevie’s Pizza.

Will you be the next winner? Who know, but you do have to present to win, so make plans to attend this month’s club meeting at 4:00 on April 24th.



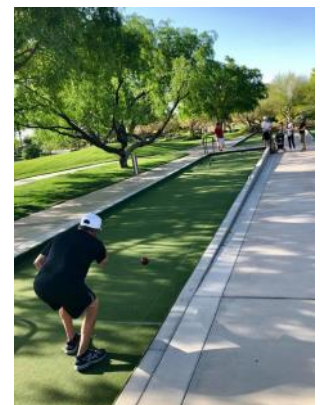
PRACTICE???
This was a match!

unless they advance victorious from their respected Groups (BOD is in Group 1 and Luke Airmen are Group 2) into the championship round. Here are some pictures of the “just for fun” match. By the way, the Board of Directors won the 2 out 3 match, 12-2 and 12-3

As mentioned in the President’s article on page 1, we are expecting lots of good competition during the April 20th Bocce Tournament, but for two teams, they just couldn’t wait and turned “practice” into an actual match.

The Luke AFB team (led by their captain, **Justice Tarburton**) took on the Veterans Club’s Board of Directors team (led by their captain, **Les Kessler**) in a best two out of three Bocce match.

Both teams met on the courts, Sunday April 8th at 0800 (way too early for **Bob Meizinger**, but he managed to get out of bed and take part). It was a fun time for both teams that won’t play each other during the tournament



Feeding Homeless Veterans at the Veterans Outreach Center

It was another successful mission for the club's support of the Veterans Outreach Center (VOC). Thanks to those club members that donated food/beverages, or worked as a driver or server, mission leader, **Chris Salzer** and his volunteers were able to feed over 25 homeless military veterans.

The main course this month was a hearty beef (London broil) stew, along with dinner rolls, fruit, cookies, and drinks. It was a complete success and with the help of our Luke AFB volunteers, everyone was served, ate well, and lots of fellowship occurred between all.

Special thanks to all volunteers that went to the VOC to serve the food to homeless veterans: Club members **Chris Salzer**, **Bill Morse**, and **Seth Easley**. Additionally, two Airmen from Luke AFB volunteered their time to make sure meals were served; **Sidney Middaugh** and **Dylan Hoog**.

Here are a couple of pictures that show the beef stew that was served and **Bill Morse** serving it up!



**HOMELESS
VETERANS**

SHOP

Trilogy Veterans Club (TVC) shirts, hats, bricks, and coins are for sale. Prices are below. Please fill out the form (website) and send or hand to Mark Grindle (Secretary) during our monthly meeting.



Polo Shirt

\$45



Tee Shirt

\$30



Customized Brick

\$40



Club Coin

\$10



\$30



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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29 March 2018

Trilogy Veteran's Club
c/o Scott Duke
28700 N 127th Lane
Peoria, AZ 85383

Dear Scott Duke,

On behalf of U.S.VETS, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$40 and light bulbs to support the veterans we serve. Your commitment to our veterans and their families is sincerely appreciated.

Each year, U.S.VETS continues to advance its mission of ensuring that no man or woman who has worn the uniform of our country is living on the street. As the nation's largest nonprofit provider of comprehensive services to homeless and at-risk veterans, U.S.VETS provides vital services such as case management, employment assistance, job training, counseling, and supportive housing to almost 4,000 veterans each day through our eleven sites in six states and the District of Columbia.

Your investment in our mission will help us maintain and grow our ability to serve and protect those who have served and protected our nation.

Again, thank you for your generous donation. We welcome you to visit our sites, to see our programs first hand. Please contact me at 602-501-5548 to arrange a visit. *Please retain this letter for tax purposes; Federal ID # 95-4382752.*

Sincerely,

Michelle Jameson
Executive Director

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Tax ID# 95-4382752

BOCCCE

TOURNAMENT

April 20th



10:00 AM

Game on!! This month we will finally find out what Branch of Service has the best Bocce Team! Looking forward to seeing everyone on the courts, playing or supporting! See you there! Here is the schedule.

Group One

| Round 1 | Round 2 | Round 3 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Army #1 vs Army#2 (Court 1) | BOD vs Army #2 (Court 1) | BOD vs Army #1 (Court 1) |
| Navy vs BOD (Court 2) | Army #1 vs Navy (Court 2) | Army #2 vs Navy (Court 2) |

Group TWO

| Round 1 | Round 2 | Round 3 |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| USAF #1 vs USAF #2 (Court 3) | Marines vs Air Force #2 (Court 3) | Marines vs USAF #1 (Court 3) |
| Luke Airmen vs Marines (Court 4) | Air Force #1 vs Luke Airmen (Court 4) | USAF #2 vs Luke Airmen (Court 4) |

Here is a look at the agenda for this month's meeting of the Veterans Club. We hope to see you there!

Meeting comes to order at 1600

Pledge of Allegiance

Membership Update

Guest speaker: Teresa Herrera

Old business

New business

Good of the Club

Adjourn



If you thought it was **Roger Francis**, you would be correct!