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Meetings

The Chapter 120 membership meeting and elections are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, April 30 at 7:00pm. Call the Chapter office for any changes in schedule. Chapter members are welcomed to attend.

Notice

If you have moved or changed your address, PLEASE notify us immediately. Call the Chapter office at (860) 568-9212, mail us at the address on the back of this newsletter or e-mail the Newsletter editor at cchapter120@aol.com.

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Important Messages from VVA concerning COVID-19 Outbreak

A Message from the VVA National Office

The outbreak of COVID-19 is rapidly changing, creating a significant challenge for everyone. In light of this, our ultimate goal is to place the health and safety of all as our top priority. Having said that, this email is intended to update and notify everyone of current "temporary" changes affecting our organization. To diminish any unnecessary exposure, effective March 18, 2020, VVA's offices were closed to walk-ins. This will remain in effect for the near future.

We are currently working on setting staff up with the tools they need to work remotely from home, to effectively continue to serve you through the use of technology. Anyone who wishes to contact staff, please do so by means of email.

VVA's officers will continue to meet weekly to discuss any updates and reevaluate any changes that need to be implemented. Headquarters will continue to work in this capacity until further notice. Updates will be forthcoming to all as information becomes available.

There's no doubt everyone is experiencing the unexpected across the globe. We appreciate your patience, and know that you will support us during these difficult days ahead. We hope that you and your loved ones stay safe and well.

Thomas Burke
National Vice President

From Chapter 120

The Chapter membership meeting of April 2, 2020 is cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. At this time, we plan to hold the membership meeting and elections on May 7, 2020 unless further restrictions on social distancing and Connecticut government orders require us to cancel that meeting as well. We ask that you heed the safety guidelines prescribed by the Connecticut Governor and CDC, and please stay safe and well.

CHAPTER 120 OFFICE	568-9212
<u>Board of Directors</u>	
Paul Barry	569-3530
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Peter Galgano	828-1999
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Phil Morneault, Vice President	930-2122
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Gary Gazdzicki, Sr.	812-5703
<u>Vet Centers</u>	
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New Haven (Area Code 203)	932-9899
Norwich (Area Code 860)	887-1755
Danbury (Area Code 203)	790-4000
<i>All Telephone Numbers are Area Code 860 unless otherwise noted</i>	

Chapter/State News

Chapter Elections Postponed

Chapter elections for officers, directors and state council delegates are postponed until at least May 7, 2020. We again ask our members to offer their time and enthusiasm in order to continue the good works that Chapter 120 is known for in the veterans' community. We need our members to offer their support, expertise, their ideas and their leadership to guide our organization down the right path to attain our basic goals – and establish new goals for our future. We are asking you, our members, to seriously consider running for these important positions. We need your help – we need your leadership and ideas to guide Chapter 120 for the next two years.

Please contact our Election Committee (Leigh Lovering, Tim Siggia or Bill Chiodo) to submit your name for one of these positions. Help our Chapter continue our work to support all veterans and their families.

Positions open for candidacy:

Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

Board of Directors: Five positions

State Council Delegates: Five positions

Elections Committee: Three positions

Election Rules are posted here:

Connecticut Chapter 120 Election Rules

Revised November 2, 2006

Section 1. Annual Elections

- The Chapter officers will be elected on even numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term in office. They are the following: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- The Board of Directors will be elected on even numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term of office.
- The State Council Delegates will be elected on even numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term of office.
- The Delegates to the National Convention will be elected on odd numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term in office.
- The three (3) member Nominating Committee will be elected at the April meeting and will serve a one (1) year term.

Section 2. Candidates

- Candidates must have been a member for a minimum of fifteen (15) days prior to the election.
- Candidates must have on file with the Chapter, or present to the Nominating Committee their DD-214, or other proof of qualification for membership.
- Candidates may be nominated from the floor on the night of the election. Candidates must be present to accept the nomination or have submitted a letter of intent to the Nominating Committee.
- Candidates will be allowed space in the newsletter to campaign but not to defame or slander the other candidates. Space allowable will be at the discretion of the Newsletter Editor.
- Candidates will be allowed five (5) minutes to speak at the April meeting if desired.

Birthday Wishes

Birthday wishes go to our members born in April. May you have many more!

<i>Robert Bagge</i>	<i>Arthur Bagnall</i>
<i>Stephen Clark</i>	<i>James J. Gavin</i>
<i>Steven Harris</i>	<i>Walter Korfel</i>
<i>William V. Loder</i>	<i>Nathaniel Milliner</i>
<i>David R. Motowidlak</i>	<i>William J. Neligon</i>
<i>John J. Orvis</i>	<i>John F. Panciera</i>
<i>Bruce E. Raccio</i>	<i>Gerald A. Sweeney</i>
<i>C. Daniel Thayer, Jr.</i>	

And a special birthday wish to Gary Cutler, oldest son of Chapter member John Cutler. Gary was born when his Dad was in Vietnam.

- F. Candidates may use the membership list for a mailing pursuant to the Chapter rules and Federal laws governing the membership list.

Section 3. Voters

- A. To be eligible to vote, you must have been a member for fifteen (15) days prior to the election. This would include new members or reinstated members that are not paid up for the prior year.
- B. Voting members must have on file with the Chapter, or present to the Nominating Committee, their DD-214 or proof of qualification for membership.
- C. Voting members must have paid their dues for the current fiscal year. Membership may be renewed the night of the election, but must be paid prior to casting their vote.

Section 4. Election Procedures

- A. The voting period will be from the close of nominations until 8:00 PM.
- B. The quorum required to hold the election should be 10 members.
- C. A candidate can request a recount of the ballots for his or her office if the margin between the candidates running for that office is 10% or less based on the number of total votes cast.
- D. The ballots will be kept for one (1) year in a sealed envelope signed by the Nominating Committee or their appointees.
- E. Results will be announced the night of the election.
- F. If a Nominating Committee member is running for an elected position, they shall appoint a volunteer vote counter from the floor.
- G. The vote will be taken by a secret paper ballot.

POW/MIA News



From National League of POW/MIA Families

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR:

The number missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is still 1,587. Of that number 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam’s wartime control: Vietnam-1,246 (VN-443, VS-803); Laos-286; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-

7. Since chartered in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains. The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 996. A breakdown by country of these 996 Americans is: Vietnam – 672, Laos – 279, Cambodia – 42, and the PRC – 3. In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, the formal end of the Vietnam War, for a grand total of 1,059. These 63 Americans, were accounted for by US-only efforts in accessible areas, not due to cooperation by post-war governments in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. A total of 287

have been accounted for from Laos, 727 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC. NO IDs have been announced since July 26, 2019.

VIETNAM WAR ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS: DPAA Deputy Director for Operations Rear Admiral Darius Banaji, USN, recently visited Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. His first visit included time with DPAA teams conducting field operations in Laos and Vietnam and personnel assigned to Detachment 2 in Hanoi and Detachment 3 in Vientiane. In addition, he met with US Embassy staff, as well as counterpart government officials in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

OPPORTUNITIES LOST DUE TO COVID 19 CORONA VIRUS: Along with further field operations in Laos and a DPAA-hosted Family Member Update (FMU), the US-ASEAN Special Summit, scheduled to be held in Las Vegas on March 14th, was cancelled. League Chairman/CEO Ann Mills-Griffiths was scheduled to meet with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on March 13th, and was awaiting confirmation from the Lao and Vietnamese Prime Ministers when the cancellation was announced.

Despite many challenges, including continuing structural dysfunction within DPAA, there is reason for cautious optimism. With sustained support from the families and our nation’s veterans, the League is determined to press for priority and answers on Vietnam War accounting, as pledged by DPAA Director Kelly McKeague. The League also supports field investigation and recovery of unaccounted-for personnel from WWII, the Korean War and the Cold War as a priority over disinterment and ID of remains buried as “unknowns” in US cemeteries at home and abroad, so long as Vietnam War accounting efforts remain DPAA’s operational priority.

At The Capitol



VA Committee Votes on Bills

More significant Connecticut Veterans Affairs Committee Bills voted upon and reported out of committee:

HB 5087 - AN ACT EXEMPTING VETERANS FROM THE PASSPORT TO THE PARKS MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE. To exempt veterans from payment of the Passport to the Parks fee.

HB 5262 - AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL REGISTRATION MARKER PLATES FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED IN PERIODS OF WAR. To create special registration marker plates available to veterans who served during certain periods of war.

HB 5264 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF BENEFITS TO VETERANS. To extend the deadline for the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs to compile data and submit the report of benefits to veterans to the Military Department and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to military and veterans' affairs.

HB 5266 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GREEN ALERT SYSTEM FOR MISSING VETERANS. To establish a Green Alert system for missing veterans.

SB 220 - AN ACT EXPANDING CERTAIN VETERANS' ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. To exclude all veterans' pension benefits from income when determining eligibility for public assistance programs.

SJ 00018 - RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2019. To urge the United States Congress to enact the Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act of 2019.

Died in Committee:

SB 224 - AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF VETERANS' TAX ABATEMENTS. To study tax abatements available to veterans in this state.

On The Hill



Tester Leads Bill Directing VA to 'do its job' and Provide Benefits for Veterans Suffering from Agent Orange

After years of inaction from the Trump Administration, U.S. Senator Jon Tester (D-Mont.) is leading more than 30 Senate colleagues in introducing the bicameral Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2020 (S 3444), which would require the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide benefits for veterans suffering from four diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A similar bill (HR

5610) was introduced in the House in January 2020.

Currently, veterans with specific health conditions developed as a result of their exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War are eligible for benefits and health care from VA. However, the Trump Administration continues to deny coverage for approximately 190,000 veterans struggling with Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, Parkinsonism, and Hypertension—four conditions scientifically proven to have an association with exposure to the toxic herbicide. The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2020 would add these illnesses to VA's list of

service-connected presumptive conditions and provide essential benefits and care to Vietnam veterans.

“Justice is long overdue for the 190,000 aging veterans who are currently suffering—and dying— as a result of their exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam,” said Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “This bicameral bill is as straightforward as they come— since VA isn’t willing to do its job, Congress is stepping in and requiring them to do it by law. We won’t stop fighting until this Administration does right by thousands of veterans suffering from these illnesses, who have already waited far too long for the benefits and care they’ve earned.”

Veterans Affairs News



The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Offices closed to the public starting March 19

Regional offices will remain open, but will no longer accept walk-ins for claims assistance, scheduled appointments, counseling, and other in-person services. This decision protects our older Veterans and those with underlying conditions as well as our employees.

Veterans can continue to get information about benefits or file a claim for benefits by visiting our website at www.va.gov. Veterans with claims specific or other questions may request information via Inquiry Routing & Information System (IRIS) or telephone at 1-800-827-1000.

VBA benefits and services provided to Veterans, families, and survivors will continue to be delivered throughout the duration of COVID-19 impacts.

Please continue to check www.va.gov for updates. You also may follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Thank you,
Veterans Benefits Administration

From Federal News Network

VA will deploy reemployed annuitants for coronavirus response

The Department of Veterans Affairs can soon begin rehiring retired medical professionals to boost staffing levels in response to the growing coronavirus pandemic.

The Office of Personnel Management on Thursday quickly granted VA the authority to bring back former employees of the department as full time reemployed annuitants.

In addition, the authority allows VA’s chief human capital officer or another agency executive to waive the salary offset that’s usually necessary to reemploy a retired federal employee temporarily.

“This delegation of authority will assist VA in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic,” Brenda Roberts, OPM’s acting associate director of employee services, said Thursday in a letter to VA’s chief human capital officer. “VA must respond to patient needs at numerous medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, cemeteries, community living centers, spinal cord injury units, Veterans Benefits Administration offices, headquarters and miscellaneous VA program offices nationwide.”

Generally speaking, reemployed annuitants receive their Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) annuities and, at the same time, a paycheck as a federal employee, which is often offset by the amount of the annuity.

VA has 170 medical centers and more than 1,000 outpatient care centers across the United States. The department has been grappling with staffing shortages, especially among its medical professionals, for several years.

According to the most recently publicly available data, VHA had 40,985 vacancies within its medical facilities at the end of the first quarter in 2020.

These vacancies have always worried some members of Congress but are an even bigger concern today. During a global pandemic like the coronavirus, the Veterans Health Administration serves the nation’s backup hospital system.

With VA’s new dual compensation waiver, the department hires annuitants using any appropriate and existing authority, OPM said. The department must use USAJOBS.gov to post positions for VA reemployed annuitants.

“Agencies may adjust the work schedule of annuitants without advanced notice or procedures,” OPM said. “Annuitants with a salary off-set waiver may not make retirement contributions or participate in the Thrift Savings Plan. This delegation enables you to pay annuitants under a temporary time-limited or term appointment on a full-time work schedule up to 40 hours per week.”

Congress back in 2014 gave agency heads the authority to grant dual compensation waivers on their own to reemployed annuitants who work about 20 hours a week. The authority was due to expire at the end of 2019, but Congress extended it again until 2024.



VA announces change to urgent care in Community Care Network Region 1



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is transitioning its urgent care network manager, effective March 18, from TriWest Healthcare Alliance to Optum Public Sector Solutions, Inc. (Optum), which is part of UnitedHealth Group, Inc., in Community Care Network Region 1.

The change will result in new urgent care providers being added to VA’s contracted network, while others will be removed.

These changes in Veterans’ urgent care are part of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Outside Networks Act of 2018 or MISSION Act. Veterans have the option for urgent care treatment of minor injuries and illnesses such as colds, sore throats and minor skin infections at in-network non-VA urgent care providers. Additionally, Veterans can receive same-day urgent care treatment at VA medical centers.

“VA is working to ensure Veterans in Region 1 understand how this change will affect them,” said VA Secretary Robert L. Wilkie. “The goal is to provide Veterans a seamless transition when seeking urgent care in their communities.”

Not all urgent care providers currently in the Region 1 network will be authorized to provide care after March 18. Conversely, new providers who are not currently authorized through the TriWest network will be available through Optum’s network beginning March 18. VA can only pay for urgent care if the provider is part of VA’s contracted network. If Veterans go to an out-of-network urgent care provider, they will be required to pay the full cost of care.

The change in network management will also affect pharmacies. Veterans who require urgent care prescriptions of 14 days or less can find an authorized in-network provider or contact their local VA medical facility to identify a VA network pharmacy to avoid paying out-of-pocket costs.

Community providers within Region 1 who want to provide urgent care services to Veterans after March 18 must establish a contract with Optum.

The change will impact Veterans in the following locations: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia. Veterans in these states who need urgent care should use VA's facility locator or contact their local VA medical facility for help identifying in-network urgent care providers.

For details, go to:
https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/Urgent_Care.asp

From Government Executive

Mass Telework Causes Operational Strains for Agencies

Federal agencies across government are beginning to feel the strain of an unprecedented number of employees working remotely as networks are pushed to the limits of their capacities.

The White House in recent days has instructed agencies to ensure all employees in the Washington, D.C., area and others with large outbreaks of the novel coronavirus to work remotely in an effort to limit its spread. Agencies are now dealing with newfound pressures on their systems as employees access virtual private networks (VPN) and other software to conduct their daily work outside of their normal office settings.

The Transportation Department last week sent out a memorandum to employees explaining its VPN could handle only 20,000 concurrent users, while its virtual desktop infrastructure could accommodate an additional 1,200. Transportation has 55,000 employees, and while some—such as air traffic controllers—cannot work remotely, it created a potential strain on the department. A spokesperson subsequently said the department could support a 100% remote workforce due to interagency coordination and support from vendor partners. One department employee told Government Executive that problems still persisted on Monday, as they attempted to join a conference call but all circuits were “totally overloaded.”

Defense also said it is working with its vendors to support additional telework capacity. The department has “limited inventory” for MobiKeys, laptops and classified devices, and it was “determining prioritization” for giving those out. Miller said the Pentagon was working with vendors to see where it could increase its devices on hand, but the process would “take time.”

The Veterans Affairs Department also hit a snag in its telework rollout last week, after multiple regional offices in the Veterans Benefits Administration told employees to telework full time. VBA's central office in Washington later told those offices to undo that directive, citing concerns with network operationality. VA's Office of Information and Technology ran a series of tests to "gauge the remote access capacity," according to an internal

email reviewed by Government Executive, which said the testing would continue through this week. A VA spokesperson said regional office directors were “encouraged to make decisions regarding workplace flexibilities based on the circumstances in their communities,” while noting they were asked to “discuss plans with VBA central office leadership to ensure coordination across the country.”

VA national cemeteries to adjust operations in response to COVID-19

All U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries are open and will continue to provide interments for Veterans and eligible individuals. However, effective March 23 — as part of the agency's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) — committal services and the rendering of military funeral honors will discontinue until further notice.

Immediate family members (limited to no more than 10 individuals) of the deceased may witness the interment if requested.

“We are committed to the safety of our Veterans, their families and employees, and have implemented an aggressive public health response to COVID-19,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “At the same time, we continue to take steps to provide flexibility to Veterans and their loved ones, where possible.”

Families choosing to continue with interment may schedule a committal service for a later date. Families wishing to postpone an already scheduled interment to a later date should contact the cemetery as soon as possible to convey their wishes.

Although VA national cemeteries remain open to visitors, guests are strongly urged to obey local travel restrictions and avoid unnecessary travel. Certain portions of a cemetery typically open to the public, such as public information centers or chapels, may be closed to the public. Contact your local cemetery for updates regarding closures.

For more information, contact NCA at 202-891-9987. Veterans can call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117 or schedule a burial arrangement online (<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/schedule-a-burial/>).

Receive “The Connection” by E-Mail

The monthly Chapter 120 newsletter, *The Connection*, is available by e-mail. Currently, 100 members receive the newsletter by e-mail, saving the Chapter over \$1,600 in printing and postal fees annually. The newsletter is available in Adobe format (.pdf), attached to your e-mail. If you wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail the newsletter editor at ctchapter120@aol.com



From the Service Rep's Desk



In light of the current risks associated with COVID-19, VVA National Veterans Benefits Program staff has encouraged their VSOs to implement the following practices:

We recommend implementing all CGC guidelines, including frequent hand washing, social distancing, and limiting travel.

- Please discourage clients from meeting with a VSO in person – many of our clients are older and immunocompromised, so they are at a higher risk of getting seriously ill.
- Please hold all meetings over phone
- Rather than having clients sign paperwork in person, please send forms for them to sign
- VA notified us that Claimants will not be penalized for canceling C&P exams due to coronavirus fears.
- As of right now, VA is not planning on being lenient on deadlines. If there is an appeal deadline coming up please submit the appeal form ASAP, or notify our National Office if you are not able to.
- Travel Board and video conference hearings are going to be rescheduled.

From Vietnam Magazine

North Vietnam's Flame Thrower

On May 8, 1967, North Vietnamese Army commandos attacked the Marine Corps base at Con Thien, using flamethrowers for the first time in the war. The Marines, forced out of their positions by streams of burning fuel, came under machine gun and mortar fire. Although the attack failed, the Chinese-built Type 74 flamethrowers' appearance was a harbinger of unpleasant things to come for those on the receiving end.



The Type 74 was a license-built copy of the Soviet LPO-50 that entered service in 1953. It had three tanks, each containing a pressure cartridge and about a gallon of special diesel fuel. The tanks were topped by a pressure relief valve and a filling

aperture with screw cap. They were mounted in a canvas backpack-style harness.

Each tank connected to a manifold via a fuel line with a one-way valve to prevent "flare back." A hose connected the manifold to the "flame gun," which contained four 1.5-volt batteries. The trigger was near the muzzle and had a safety catch to prevent accidental discharge. Squeezing the trigger sent an electric current to the tanks' release valves and the ignition cartridge in the muzzle, creating a 1,200-degree Fahrenheit stream of burning fuel. With its three tanks, the LPO-50/Type 74 could fire three "shots" lasting 2 to 3 seconds.

Two-man NVA teams employed flamethrowers against key enemy positions during an assault. The flamethrowers were also used to drive enemy soldiers from cover in a firefight. The NVA's integration of flamethrowers, machine guns and mortar fire was a rare but deadly combination. NVA flamethrower teams figured prominently in attacks on firebases during the communist offensives in 1972 and 1975. The Type 74 remains in service with Chinese and Vietnamese forces to this day.

Time for a little humor to keep your mind off all the bad news

The Darwin Awards

Yes, it's that magical time of year again when the Darwin Awards are bestowed, honoring the least evolved among us. Here is the glorious winner:

1. When his .38 caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.

And now, the honorable mentions:

2. The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and after a little shopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company expecting negligence sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger... The chef's claim was approved.

3. A man who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

4. After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies... The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.

5. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

6. A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer \$15. If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?

7. Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cylinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cylinder block and heaved it over his head at the window. The cylinder block bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.

8. As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

9. The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 5 A.M., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away. [*A 5-STAR STUPIDITY AWARD WINNER]

10. When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street by sucking on a hose, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline, but he plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.



Newsletter articles/ stories/photos

Any articles, stories and/or photos submitted for the newsletter must be received by the "cut off" date for any given month. Photos must be accompanied by text which describes the event, names, dates and any other pertinent facts so our readers understand the story behind the photo(s). The newsletter editor will announce the "cut off" dates at each Chapter meeting. The "cut off" date for our May 2020 newsletter is 24 April 2020. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

This newsletter printed by



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