

October 2017 AVVA Agent Orange Committee Report

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING...

First, we welcome our new members to the committee: John Birch, Willa Burgess, Mokie Porter, Marc McCabe, Tom Owen and Maynard Kaderlik. We look forward to working with these individuals and know they will bring us great ideas and future plans. If anyone wishes to join our committee, please do not hesitate to contact us.

August 19, 2017

Since our report from August 2017, Marc McCabe, Mokie Porter and I attended a Town Hall meeting just outside Dallas, Texas. VVA Chapter 1122 did an outstanding job coordinating this event with approximately 150 in attendance.

September 21, 2017

Agent Orange-Toxic Exposure presentation by Tom and Nadine Owen for a Linn County sponsored Stand Down at local community college. Well attended, they were not all surprised to find that many of the younger vets with health issues are also the offspring of Vietnam Vets.

September 7, 2017

Mokie Porter and Maynard Kaderlik was a presenter in Minnesota before the IOM/NASEM regarding the passage of the Toxic Exposure Research Act P.L. 114-315. This Act directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with NASEM to conduct an assessment of scientific research relating to the descendants of individuals with toxic exposure.

September 23, 2017 – Marc McCabe, Mokie Porter and I attended a Town Hall meeting in Chicago. VVA Chapter 242 did an outstanding job of coordinating this event with approximately 250 in attendance. Especially significant were presentations by the local Vet Center and Homeless Shelter.

IN THE WORKS....

Pro tour Spring of 2018: Last spring Tom and Nadine did two toxic exposure town halls with Samaritan Health Services (Samaritan has 5 hospitals and 102 clinics in the Willamette Valley). Samaritan, along with the administrator at the Portland VA Hospital, have asked that they put together a forum specifically geared toward the medical community, requesting that there be an MD on the panel. We are currently searching for an MD that would be interested in sitting on the panel informing and educating the medical practitioners of the potential effects of toxic exposures. Have reached out to National and past contacts for possible candidates.

Tom and Nadine have also been contacted by, and working with, Kalispell, Montana VVA Chapter 1087 to coordinate three Agent Orange-Toxic Exposure Town Halls in the spring of 2018. In doing so, plans for Town Halls in Idaho, Oregon and Washington are also being formulated to add to that series.

TWO YEAR GOALS...

To continue our work on the generational effects of Toxic Exposures through working on the web site, attending and presenting at Town Hall meetings, reviewing the policies and procedures for our committee (which somehow got deleted from the manual). Equally important is working on the toxic exposures that our women veterans experienced while serving at Fort McClelland, and of course, working with Sharon Hodge on any legislation that comes into play.