



# Vietnam Veterans of America | Chapter 218 | Santa Barbara

# RECON REPORT

*"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another"*

**JANUARY 2017**

**"Together then,  
Together now"**



**Chapter 218**

P.O. Box 4862  
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**Officers & Board Of Directors**

President: Peter Bie  
1st Vice President: John Blankenship  
2nd Vice President: Hap DeSimone  
Recording Secretary: Tom Elliott  
Treasurer: Mike Mauro  
Chris Galbraith  
Don Matter  
Steve Penner  
Pat Rumpza  
Fred Golin

CA State Council Rep:  
Membership Director: Chris Galbraith  
Chaplain: Pattie Murdy

**Vance Memorial Fund**

The Chapter's Vance Committee distributes funds to qualified American veterans.  
Fred Golin (Chair) Chris Galbraith  
Mike Mauro Pattie Murdy

**Next Regular Chapter Meeting**

January 11, 2017 | 6:00 pm  
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge  
150 N. Kellogg Ave., Goleta  
Dinner Available  
\$8.00 per person

To the Membership of VVA Chapter 218, Santa Barbara:

Happy New Year! I do hope that this year will be one filled with good health, joy and a fair amount of outright happiness!

Our first meeting of the year takes place on Wednesday, January 11 at 6pm at the Elks Lodge, 150 N. Kellogg in Santa Barbara (upstairs meeting room).

This is an important meeting for all concerned as we are beginning a transition stage for the chapter. The Board of Directors has recommended for approval the following change in the make up of the officers of the chapter: That there will be four elected officers, rather than five. They would be: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. (We would eliminate the offices of 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President). Each of those elected would serve for a two-year term, and could be re-elected to those position(s) if they so desired. This is being done so as to encourage as many of our members as possible to consider a role in serving the chapter in an official capacity and to provide for continuity. And I urge you to consider taking on one of these roles!

Secondly, the board is making recommendations that the number of monthly meetings over a year's period of time be reduced to every other month and become much more of a social gathering that would include invited guests, spouses, family members and Veterans of other eras (Afghanistan and Iraq especially). A minimum of business would be presented at the meetings. Meanwhile, the officers and board of directors would still meet on a monthly basis to conduct the business of the chapter. And we would continue to issue the monthly Recon Report to keep the membership up to date.

There will be a discussion on these issues at the January meeting. Further discussion on the matters will be followed by a formal vote at the February 8th meeting. Our nominating committee is drawing up a list of potential nominees and I encourage you to put your name in the running for whatever position interests you.

It is vital that you attend our upcoming meetings in order to voice your opinion and to prepare for the change when we conduct our mandated election of officers and additional board members at the April meeting.

As I have mentioned, I do not intend to run for president again this year. It's time to turn over the reins to another member of the chapter who can bring new ideas and leadership energy to the position. I will, however, work closely with the new president to provide guidance and assurance.

Again, I strongly urge you to consider this position.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Wednesday.

Yours in service to Veterans everywhere,

*Peter Bie*