



Oakmont Vets Club

Vets Club News



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Though it may seem like just yesterday, it has now been over 20 years since Captain Ruis instituted the first **VETERANS APPRECIATION EVENTS** for Oakmont residents to have a day to celebrate our vets.

What's Ahead, for our club....

2025 kicks off to big plans!

Dates for the events ahead

Our support for Outreach! And Honor Flight

Club preview News

And more !

Issue 8 Volume 1
Welcome to the
Oakmont Vets Club
Monthly Newsletter

In this issue:

- A new year brings many new things and big club activities and dates
- Club News on Honor Flight

Birthdays
Web report
Year in Review
Looking ahead
Club dues for 2025 are due

And ever since, through ups and downs we have grown in stature to fill our current role in this community! And, now we are ready for the next phase of our mission. Ever since 2004 when Captain Ruis had a vision of what a vets club could become, we have striven to be worthy of the communities' appreciation, and now we have arrived!

For months now we have all been planning and dreaming about our course ahead, and giving all the possibilities careful consideration and extensive deliberation until finally the pieces began to fall into place. Over the last few months we imagined together how a great Veterans Day celebration might be done, and together we made it happen!

Then our tree was lit for all to see!



Finally our hope to send some Oakmont vets on an Honor Flight was rewarded when our January fundraiser proved a big success, and raised enough to be

able to send some of our very own to D.C. this April 28, and we can finally announce to you our Oakmont Vets that will be taking wing with the first ever plane-load to depart from our North Bay region!



Ron Holladay



Leonard Kemp



John DeGroot

We owe our members, and our whole community, a huge debt of thanks and our sincere gratitude and thanks for all of the support and contributions you have given to our hopes and plans to help them come true! FYI, this event raised over \$2,000 for the Flight.

And, our work in making our plans a reality still have more to come. We will be holding our next fundraising event for the Honor Flight on **April 18th**, just 10 days before the first flight departs. Mark your calendars now because we are having a second show with DEATH AND TAXES at the Berger. We expect to sell-out early for this show. Reserve your tickets early if you can. For this event the tickets will be a bit more so we can be sure to raise enough money for the flight, so stay tuned here for the announcement of the prices.

In case you missed them last time, or just need to be reminded of what a great show it was, check them out again here at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3RMZzZbWIY&feature=youtu.be>

But our discussion about announcements is just getting started!

On this past January 10th a meeting was called with the Leadership Team, and there were a few things that bear reporting here;



The discussions began with the notification to the team that DeGroot wants to step away from his position as Chair when we can agree on his replacement. There will be more on this topic in a bit. The next topic was a debrief of the Jan. 4 event that arrived at several decisions going forward on items related to the event planning for adjustments in planning

for the next event in April. We also heard reporting of the balance sheet for the event that determined our net profit to be over \$2,000.

While we are on the subject of the Jan. 4 event we would like to express our deepest thanks and appreciation to the great team of people that were central from the very start to helping us have such a special event that was exceptional in every way, from the promotions and materials, the decorations and the



planning for presentations, the lighting and sound, and the wrap-up and clean-up at the conclusion of the event. Special thanks and mentions for [Ron Holladay](#) (lights and sound), [Pat Hendricks and Karen DeGroot and Diane Soshnik](#) for all the many things you made happen and planned out, the [wonderful Flemings](#) for all their help and input (what a team!), [John DeGroot](#) for all the things you (did too many to list here), [Terry Whitten](#) for the fun dance class preceding the show, and all the help that the [OVA office](#) extended to us to help make this a big success.



Moving on from the event finances and planning discussions, the team took several crucial votes on other issues that significantly impacted the formulation of the leadership positions of the club, as well as the proposed changes in the fundamental business structure of the club going into the future. In light of the plans and visions for the development and growth of our organization, a vote was taken by the council members to install Paul Gowins as the Interim Treasurer (until a new candidate could be identified), and, for him to go on serving as Communications Director, and a vote was taken for John DeGroot to continue as interim Chairman, and also to fill the role as Secretary for the clubs recording and

documentation of the business conducted, and for keeping the minutes of our proceedings.



A vote was also taken to move our checking and savings accounts from the Redwood Credit Union to the Wells Fargo Bank that is here in Oakmont. Following those business matters, a vote was also taken to begin the formulation and filing of the documents required to form an official Non-Profit Veterans organization with the California Secretary of State, and the IRS,

designated by the title of 501c19.

Those documents and processes of filing are now underway. The establishment of an official Non-Profit business status is a crucial element to accommodate the success of pursuing the future plans for our club, and for the benefit of our members, community and partners going forward.



Now for an exclusive announcement to our readership, and also to finish a thought that was promised at the beginning of this segment to do with our current chairman, John DeGroot.

Earlier today he acknowledged his affirmative decision to run for an open seat on the OVA board of directors in the general election that will be held in April of this year. As a result, here and now we are asking for two things from our members. Your endorsement of his candidacy would be greatly appreciated at this time, and please also consider being a volunteer to canvas for his run by helping hand out brochures, placing signs, and knocking on doors to spread the word.

Spotlight on upcoming 2025 Events

But, before we dive into the 2025 kickoff of events, let me just say that our leadership group is already busy cooking up the menu for an even GREATER year ahead for all of us! We only need you all to come join us for the lineup.

While we are on the topic of joining us allow us to repeat our reminder to our whole roster that in this first month of the new year it is now time again to send in your club dues, which has increased this year to \$25. As our group grows and expands it's vision, goals and events it is now more important than ever for our whole roster to commit anew your support, engagement and pledge to contribute to the mission.

Just drop your check or cash in an envelope marked with your name and drop it off at the OVA office (6637 Oakmont Drive, Suite A) to be put in our club folder. The need for your support is real, and will be deeply appreciated. And, we will all benefit by your contributions.

On March 27th, 2025

For the first time in Oakmont our Vets Club will be hosting a very special event at the Berger

We have made an incredible connection with a group of therapists from an organization named the 6Foundation.

[General 5 — The 6 Foundation Clinic \(formerly BodyRx\)](#)

They were founded during the 2017 fires when they gave body work, massage and accupuncture to all the first responders for free. They have since been in service primarily to active and veteran military service members and all first responders in their clinic facilities at 808 Donahue St. in Santa Rosa. They were the first to accept a contract with the VA community Care desk in SF, and I was their first VA patient for accupuncture and body work therapy. They have not expressed an interest in bringing their healing arts and craft to benefit our Vets Club members for free as often as we arrange for them to have facilities to work in. Our first event with them will be on March 27th at the Berger (time TBA) to start with a introductory presentation from each of their team in attendance followed by breakout sessions of treatments in each of their specialties for free for our Club Members. If you are only on our roster, and are not yet a dues paying full member, now might be the time for you to consider officially joining our club members roster. If you are not yet a member by the March 27th event, we will ask for a \$5 donation at the door, which is still an incredible deal for the services they will offer to us!

THE SIX

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ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

BIRTHDAY BOX

It is our way of letting the membership know what fellow members are celebrating their birthday(s). Mazel tov to all!

There are 4 birthdays listed for the month of January in our Clubs birthday list.

Tom Fleming

celebrated his B'day on the 6th

and

Doug Griffin

got his presents on the 14th

while

Chuck Broward

had to wait till the 19th

but

Joe Black

still has to wait 4 more days till the 24th

to get his!

MANY HAPPY MORE TO SHARE WITH US Y"ALL

Send in your birthdays!

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